

**Subject:** Place Name Change – Canvassing Community Views

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**Meeting Date:** 20 March 2014

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## Report to FUTURE TAIRAWHITI for noting

### SUMMARY

At the 25 July 2013 Council meeting Kaiti School staff and children outlined the background to a petition they presented to Mayor Foon seeking Council support for changing the name for Poverty Bay to Turanganui a Kiwa. Since that time this matter has not been progressed further.

His Worship the Mayor has requested that staff put this matter to the Future Tairawhiti Committee to determine if Council should canvass as part of the 2014/15 draft Annual Plan process.

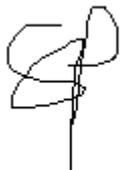
Report 13/334 provided to Council in September 2013 outlining the process to change place names is repeated (in part) here.

The New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB) is responsible for official place names on behalf of the Crown. This report briefly outlines the process required to formally change a place name. The process involves detailed historical research and public consultation by the applicant, followed by validation by the NZGB. In relation to the proposal of a Maori place name, the NZGB will engage Te Puni Kokiri/the Ministry of Maori Development to consult with local Iwi. The proposed name is officiated at the time of gazettal.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee

1. receives the report



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## 1. DISCUSSION

Proposals to assign new place names, change existing place names, or restore historical/original place names requires a formal application to the New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB).

The process involves detailed historical research and public consultation by the applicant, followed by validation by the NZGB. In relation to the proposal of a Maori place name, the NZGB can engage Te Puni Kokiri/the Ministry of Maori Development to consult with local Iwi. The proposed name is officiated at the time of gazettal. Some name changes have taken place through Treaty of Waitangi Settlement such as Wharekahika/Hicks Bay.

A copy of the Proposal Form is attached (Appendix 1).

### Poverty Bay

The NZGB consider the name Poverty Bay (for the Bay feature type) as a *collected or regarded* name, rather than an official name (it has not been officiated through gazettal). Regardless of the status of the name the process, to apply a new name or to change the name, are the same.

### Name Change Process

The NZGB Guide for applicants is attached (Appendix 2). The Guide encourages applicants to undertake consultation, recognising that more weight is given to applications which have been well consulted, have support, and give recognition to tangata whenua as well as any cultural aspects.

While applicants are encouraged to consult with Council on a proposal, they do not need to have Council endorsement to make an application.

The NZGB has specific protocol for Maori place names including dual names, where usual practice is that the Maori name is first, to reflect the rights of first discovery.

Proposals are considered following a defined process. A diagram of the full process is attached (Appendix 3). The process endeavours to ensure that the views of affected people and groups are taken into account. The general process of a successful proposal to change the name of a geographic feature or place is:

1. The applicant making the proposal undertakes research and consultation and completes the proposal form.
2. The proposal is received by the NZGB Secretariat.
3. Research, investigation and validation (potentially including public consultation) is carried out by the Secretariat.
4. The NZGB considers the proposal and weighs it against the 'naming rules'.
5. If supported, the NZGB publicly notifies the proposed name and calls for submissions. Members of the public may make submissions to object to or support the proposal.
6. Submissions are collated.
7. The NZGB makes a decision to uphold or reject any objections.

8. If the objections are not upheld, then the Minister for Land Information makes final determination.
9. If the objections are upheld, or if there are no objections, then the NZGB makes the final determination.
10. The official name is published in the NZ Gazette and is publicly notified.

## **2. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Dual names, Maori/English are preferred by NZGB for coastal features (to provide certainty where a name has been used on coastal maps, international shipping routes, and by Coastguard and emergency services etc).

## **3. SIGNIFICANCE**

This is a significant decision for the community as it will invoke wide public interest, therefore it is appropriate that consultation on this issue is carried out through an Annual Plan consultation process.

## **4. COMMUNITY OUTCOMES**

This decision will contribute to the following:

Vibrant Tairāwhiti – a district that is vibrant and values our unique art, culture and heritage.

Empowered Tairāwhiti – a district that leads and advocates for itself, enabling and encouraging all citizens to be actively involved in community life and participate in democratic processes.

## **5. STRATEGIC CHALLENGES**

Initiated by Kaiti School children, this decision will contribute to addressing the following strategic challenge:

Customer need – contributes to understanding and addressing current and future needs and addressing them in a way that creates value.

## **6. POLICY**

This decision will not contradict Council's current policies.

## **7. LEVELS OF SERVICE**

Not relevant to this report.

## **8. FINANCIAL**

No financial implications.

## **9. LEGAL**

Not relevant to this report.

## **10. CONSULTATION**

The views and preferences of persons likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the matter will be ascertained through 2014/15 draft Annual Plan consultation.