Place Naming Legislation in New Zealand

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Dr Don GRANT
Surveyor-General of New Zealand and Chairperson of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB)

Mrs Wendy SHAW
Secretary for the NZGB

Presentation Overview

• Background to NZ Place Naming
• Government Outcomes
• Why Legislate?
• Conclusion
Background to New Zealand Place Naming

- 800-950 AD Māori arrived
- 1642 Abel Tasman circumnavigation
- 1769 Captain James Cook
- 1790 sealers
- Missionaries, then colonial settlers
- 1840 Treaty of Waitangi

Background to New Zealand Place Naming – Official Naming

- Royal Society of London
- Designation of Districts Act 1894
- Honorary Geographic Board 1924
- NZ Geographic Board Act 1946
- 1956 Cabinet directive for Antarctic naming
- Review ⇒ NZ Geographic Board Act 2008
Government Outcomes

- Features and places within New Zealand’s jurisdiction are identifiable by name so that people can effectively communicate information about location
- Place names preserve New Zealand’s heritage and culture

Why Legislate?

- Sovereignty
- Indigenous rights
- Heritage, culture
- Consistency
- International
- High public interest
Need For Consistency

- Safety
- Emergency & disaster response
- Travellers & tourists
- Efficient government administration
- Communications

International Consistency

- Antarctica
- Continental shelf
- Global spatial data
- Tourists and travellers
- GPS navigation
Compliance

- Ensure consistency
- Standards
- Government leadership
- Authoritative data
- Public change over time
- Legislative backing

Public Consultation

- Not just about mapping
- High interest
- Careful decision making
- Good information
- Expert advice
- Best practice
- Public acceptance
Why Legislate?

- Public good
- Clear scope
- Clear authority
- Accepted processes
- Decisions at right level
- Subject to challenge

Conclusion

The review of the Act confirmed the need for:

- Legislation for place names
- Extending over a wider area of New Zealand
- Public participation
- Modernised processes
- Encouraging compliance

For further information see http://www.linz.govt.nz/placenames/index.aspx