Constitutional Amendment: Regional Name Change

A paper from PPTA Hawke's Bay Region



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Overview

“This document outlines the cultural, historical, and educational rationale for adopting the name Te Matau a Māui within the Hawke’s Bay PPTA region, with the aim of strengthening identity, honouring tangata whenua, and embedding te ao Māori within our professional practice.”

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That rule 20 (i) be changed from:

   20.(i)Any group of Branch Sub-Committees in the same geographical area may by notice to the Secretary apply to be part of a Regional Sub-Committee of the Association and the following Regions shall be the Regional Sub-Committees of the Association. (See Rule 58 for definition of electoral areas.)

   Aoraki
   Bay of Plenty
   Central Plateau
   Counties/Manukau
   East Coast
   Hauraki Coromandel
   Hawkes Bay
   Manawatu/Whanganui
   Marlborough
   Nelson
   Northland Central
   Northland Lower
   Northland Upper
   Ōtākou
   Southland
   Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. including the 4 wards established as electoral areas in terms of rule 58 hereof
   Taranaki
   Te Awa Kairangi
   Waikato
   Waitaha Canterbury
   Wairarapa
   Wellington
   Te Tai o Poutini West Coast
   Western Bay of Plenty

   TO:

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Te Matau a Māui
Waikato
Waitaha Canterbury
Wairarapa
Wellington
Te Tai o Poutini West Coast
Western Bay of Plenty

3. That rule 58(i) be changed from:

58.(i)For the purpose of these Rules the following Electoral Areas are hereby constituted: (see rule 20 for definition of Regions)

(a) Northland Upper, Central and Lower
(b) Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland: the 4 Wards of the Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Region subject to the boundaries for those Wards being ratified by the Executive
(c) Counties/Manukau
(d) Waikato
(e) Hauraki Coromandel/Western Bay of Plenty
(f) Bay of Plenty/Central Plateau
(g) Manawatu-Whanganui
(h) Taranaki
(i) Hawkes Bay/East Coast
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(f) Bay of Plenty/Central Plateau

(g) Manawatu-Whanganui

(h) Taranaki

(i) Te Matau a Māui

(j) Te Awa Kairangi/Wairarapa

(k) Wellington/Marlborough

(l) Nelson/Te Tai o PoutiniWest Coast

(m) Waitaha Canterbury

(n) Aoraki

(o) Ōtākou

(p) Southland

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1 Kōrero Tuku Iho - Background

1.1 The name *Te Matau a Māui*, which translates to "The Fishhook of Māui," originates from traditional Māori narratives that existed long before European settlement in Aotearoa. It refers to the eastern coastline of the North Island, including the region now called Hawke's Bay.

1.2 According to koroua Ngahiwi Tomoana, former Chairman of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi incorporated, the curved formation of Cape Kidnappers is known as *Te Kauwae ā Māui* – the jawbone of Māui's grandmother, Murirangawhenua, which he used to create his fishhook. This geographical feature holds deep ancestral importance, representing the physical form of the fishhook itself.

"We acknowledge the guidance and whakairo of mana whenua, particularly Ngāti Kahungunu, in informing this kaupapa."

1.3 The fishhook is more than a tool. Tomoana attested it symbols the active, entrepreneurial part of Māui's knowledge – the power and ingenuity that have been passed down through generations. It represents the source of innovation, leadership, and cultural wisdom that has been implanted in the people of Te Matau a Māui.

1.4 This enduring legacy highlights the strength, resilience, and creativity of the iwi within this rohe, particularly Ngāti Kahungunu, whose whakapapa is deeply connected to Māui's story and to this whenua. For mana whenua, Te Matau-a- Māui is far more than a place name; it reflects whakapapa, mātauranga Māori, and the enduring relationship between people and their environment. The use of this name honours the identity and narratives that have been embedded in the region across generations.

1.5 Prior to European naming and colonisation, Māori place names such as *Te Matau a Māui* served as the primary means of understanding, navigating, and honouring the environment, including its spiritual significance.

1.6 The adoption of this name supports the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and helps promote the ongoing revitalisation of te reo Māori within our education sector.

1.7 The Hawke's Bay PPTA region has worked alongside local iwi representatives and acknowledges their endorsement of *Te Matau a Māui* as a meaningful and fitting name for the region.

"Embedding this name within our region supports culturally responsive teaching practices and affirms the identity, language, and culture of ākonga Māori, contributing to improved engagement and achievement."

2 Pūtake - Rationale

2.1 The name *Te Matau a Māui* reconnects the region with its indigenous heritage, recognising the sacred geography of Cape Kidnappers (*Te Kauwae ā Māui*) as part of Māui's fishhook. It also reflects the strong coastal identity of the area, reinforcing its connection to the ocean within the narrative of Māui.

2.2 It reflects the enterprising spirit and knowledge inherited from Māui, encouraging educators and learners to uphold and extend this legacy of innovation and leadership.

2.3 Acknowledging this name enhances our shared understanding of the cultural importance of the land and strengthens respect for mana whenua and their histories.

2.4 This change reflects PPTA's dedication to partnership and respect, recognising tangata whenua within the region while also supporting the continued revitalisation of te reo Māori and Māori culture in education.

"Adopting Te Matau a Māui is not only a recognition of the past, but a commitment to shaping an inclusive and culturally grounded future for education in our region."