Constitutional Amendment: Regional Name Change

A paper from PPTA Central Northland Region - Ngā wai o Tokerau e hora nei!!!



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Recommendations

1. That the report be received.

2. That Rule 20 (i) be amended from:

20(i) Any group of Branches in the same geographical area may by notice to the Secretary apply for registration as a Regional Organisation of the Association and the following Regions shall be the Regions of the Association. (See rule 62 for definition of electoral areas.)

Aoraki
Bay of Plenty
Canterbury
Central Plateau
Counties/Manukau
East Coast
Hauraki Coromandel
Hawkes Bay
Hutt Valley
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 62 hereof
Taranaki
Te Awa Kairangi
Waikato
Wairarapa
Wellington
Te Tai o Poutini West Coast
Western Bay of Plenty

TO:

20(i) Any group of Branches in the same geographical area may by notice to the Secretary apply for registration as a Regional Organisation of the Association and the following Regions shall be the Regions of the Association. (See rule 62 for definition of electoral areas.)

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Bay of Plenty
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Te Haumi o Te Tai Tokerau > **Te Ihu o Te Tai Tokerau** > **Te Kei o Te Tai Tokerau** >
Ōtākou
Southland
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Taranaki
Te Awa Kairangi
Waikato
Wairarapa
Wellington
Te Tai o Poutini West Coast
Western Bay of Plenty

3. That Rule 58 (i) be amended from:

58(i) For the purpose of these Rules the following Electoral Areas are hereby constituted: (see rule 21 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
(j) Te Awa Kairangi/Wairarapa
(k) Wellington/Marlborough
(l) Nelson/Te Tai o Poutini West Coast
(m) Canterbury
(n) Aoraki
(o) Ōtākou
(p) Southland

TO:

58(i) For the purpose of these Rules the following Electoral Areas are hereby constituted:
(see rule 21 for definition of Regions)
(a) Te Kei, Te Haumi, and Te Ihu o Te Tai Tokerau
(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
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(j) Te Awa Kairangi/Wairarapa
(k) Wellington/Marlborough
(l) Nelson/Te Tai o Poutini West Coast
(m) Canterbury
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1 Background & Executive Summary

1.1 The current PPTA regional names—Northland Central, Northland Upper, and Northland Lower—reflect colonial naming conventions that historically overlook the deep Māori history, identity, and mana whenua of Te Tai Tokerau.

1.2 Following extensive regional consultation with mana whenua, regional leadership including TROTT (Te Reo o Te Tai Tokerau) kaiako reo Māori association concluded in March 2026, a definitive decision was reached to replace the colonial regional designations entirely. The region has resolved to adopt names based on the structural components of a waka, symbolizing unity, collective alignment, and navigating forward together as a unified region.

- **Upper Northland:** Te Kei (o Te Tai Tokerau) — *The Stern*
- **Central Northland:** Te Haumi (o Te Tai Tokerau) — *The Joining Piece*
- **Lower Northland:** Te Ihu (o Te Tai Tokerau) — *The Prow*

1.3 The full cultural narrative (kōrero), historical precedents, whakapapa connections, and records of the consultation process supporting this constitutional change are detailed in Appendix A of this paper.

APPENDIX A: KŌRERO AND CONSULTATION REPORT

A1.1 Colonial Naming in Northland

Northland (Māori: Te Tai Tokerau) is the northernmost region of Aotearoa New Zealand, stretching from North Cape (Ngāti Kuri) in the far north, south-west to Pouto (Ngāti Whātua), and eastward to Mangawhai (Ngātiwai). The region is home to a significant Māori population and is rich in both Māori and Pākehā history. The continuing use of Northland Central, Upper, and Lower within PPTA structures overlooks the traditional authority and heritage of this landscape.

A1.2 Recent Bicultural Name Changes

There is strong precedent for adopting Māori names within PPTA regional structures to affirm and advance Te Tiriti o Waitangi as embodied in the First Schedule of the PPTA Constitution:

- **2016:** Thames Valley became *Hauraki Coromandel*.
- **2018:** Auckland was renamed *Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland*.
- **2023:** Otago region transitioned to *Ōtākou*.
- **2024:** Hutt Valley adopted *Te Awa Kairangi* following iwi consultation.
- **2024:** West Coast region became *Te Tai o Poutini West Coast*.
- **2024:** Canterbury region was renamed *Waitaha Canterbury*.

A1.3 Te Tai Tokerau: The Māori Name for Northland

Te Tai Tokerau ("The Northern Tide") is the customary Māori name for the region. The rohe encompasses the tribal areas of Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kuri, Ngāti Wai, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kahu, and others.

As noted by Papa Hone Sadler (Ko Tautoro te pito o tōku ao), the story of Māui fishing up the North Island is a metaphor for discovery and naming. For Ngāpuhi, naming was not about ownership or dominion over the land; instead, the land has dominion over the people. Restoring the name Te Tai Tokerau is a return—giving the name back to the whenua itself.

Significance of the Name "Tokerau"

In traditional oratory and whakataukī, Tokerau identifies both the northern direction and its people:

"E te Tokerau, e te Tonga, e te Tai Rāwhiti, e te Hauāuru, hui mai ki te marae nei." (TTT 1/2/1922:5)

Alignment with Haimona Snowden's Whaikōrero

Haimona Snowden, in his opening tauparapara recorded in *Whaikōrero* (p. 184), references looking upon the waters of the north:

"Ka nukunuku, ka nekeneke, ka titaha, ka titiro ki ngā wai o Tokerau e hora nei..."

This imagery situates the speaker within the landscape, demonstrating that Tokerau is a living, spiritual, and cultural presence rather than a mere geographic label.

A1.4 Whakapapa and Cultural Heritage

The tauparapara *Te Whare Tapu o Ngāpuhi* (the sacred house of Ngāpuhi) serves as an oral map, circumnavigating territory from mountain to mountain (*A Fire in the Belly of Hineāmaru*). Each mountain acts as a sentinel watching over its hapū.

This deep sense of structural connection inspired the region's final design: utilizing the structural components of the waka (**Te Kei** / The Stern, **Te Haumi** / The Joining Piece, and **Te Ihu** / The Prow) to link the three PPTA regions into a singular, unified entity moving together.

A1.5 Consultation and Hui Process

The proposal progressed through a rigorous consultation pathway across 2025 and 2026:

1. **Initial Consultation (May 2025):** PPTA Hāpai ō Te Aomihia Taua-Glassie consulted with Ngātiwai leader and kaumātua Papa Taipari Munro, followed by engagement with Houpeke Piripi of Ngātiwai.
2. **Strategic Shift:** Dialogue with regional leadership highlighted that seeking individual hapū/iwi names for each sub-region would be an expansive undertaking. It was determined that the rohe should not

alter names in piecemeal stages, but rather make a complete, unified transition. The evolving draft reflecting this shift was tabled and progressed at the 2025 PPTA Central Northland regional meetings to maintain local alignment.

3. **Hui Deferral:** In alignment with national guidance, the formal regional change papers were deferred to 2026 to ensure structural consistency.
4. **Ongoing Regional Review** (Early 2026): As the framework neared completion, the draft continued to be tabled and progressed through the 2026 PPTA Central Northland regional meetings to ensure robust collective oversight leading up to the final vote.
5. **Definitive Agreement (March 6, 2026):** Te Aomihia Taua-Glassie presented the finalized proposal to the TROTT hui at Kaitaia College, where the full waka structural naming framework was formally voted upon and adopted.

TROTT Motion (6 March 2026): That the Tai Tokerau PPTA region rename as follows: Upper Northland = Te Kei (o Te Tai Tokerau), Central = Te Haumi (o Te Tai Tokerau), Lower = Te Ihu (o Te Tai Tokerau).

- **Mover:** Te Aomihia
- **Seconder:** Hemi
- **Passed:** Āe

Kura Attendance and Endorsement (March 2026 Hui)

- **Present (Schools):** Pompallier Catholic College, Kaitaia College, Whangārei Boys' High School, Kerikeri High School, Te Kamo High School, Te Kura o Te Kao, TKKM o Te Rangi Āniwaniwa, Broadwood Area School (Manganui-ō-wae), Tikipunga High School, TKKM o Pukemiro, Pēowhairangi College and Ministry of Education.
- **Online (Schools):** Ruawai College, Mangakahia Area School, TKKM o Taumārere, Mahurangi College, Rodney College/Otamatea High School, Huanui College, Te Kura o Waikare, Te Kāpehu Whetū.
- **Apologies (Schools):** Opononi Area School, Ōkaihau College, Whangārei Girls' High School.

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