

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

Using the forward slash to separate dual geographic feature names

New Zealand Geographic Board

Summary

- A dual name is one name in two parts (Māori and English), which are separated by a forward slash (/) with a space either side. Both parts are the full name of the feature, and both parts have equal status.
- The forward slash (/) is shorthand for 'and', it does not mean 'or'
- The New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB), New Zealand's national place naming authority, is required by law (the [NZGB Act 2008](#)) to collect and encourage the use of Māori names, and dual names help to meet this requirement.
- The NZGB has used the forward slash to separate the parts of official dual names since 1997 (almost 20 years).
- A dual name recognises the culture and history of each part of the name. Māori is an official language, and English is a quasi-official language in New Zealand.
- A number of other countries also have official dual names separated by the forward slash – see the examples below.

What is a dual geographic or undersea feature name?

- It is one name in two parts and each part is usually from a different language
- The two parts are joined by a solidus, commonly known as a forward slash (/) with a space either side
- Both parts of the name are the full name of the feature or place
- The first New Zealand dual name to use this modern formatting became official in 1997 and the NZGB has accepted that convention since then

Why does New Zealand have dual geographic and undersea feature names?

- Dual names recognise the culture and history of each part of the name and acknowledge the Māori and non-Māori connections to New Zealand
- The Māori and non-Māori parts of names have equal status and commemorate their associated stories
- The Māori name is usually first to reflect rights of first discovery. Māori is an official language of New Zealand
- Dual names give a sense of identity and a greater understanding of New Zealand's history, and they have existed in various forms since the start of European settlement
- Dual names help the New Zealand Geographic Board to meet its function to collect and encourage the use of Māori names

What does a forward slash do?

- It indicates the separation between the two names from two different languages

- It expresses that both parts of the name have equal status and a different story
- The forward slash (/) is shorthand for 'and', it does not mean 'or'

Why does New Zealand use a forward slash instead of a hyphen to separate dual names?

- A hyphen is used in New Zealand's indigenous language, Māori, to clarify parts of words: Te Aroaro-o-Kupe (translates to the presence of Kupe)
- It would be confusing to use hyphens in the Māori name and a hyphen to join the two languages of a dual name
- Using a forward slash clearly shows the two parts of the name from two separate languages that have equal status: Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island

Examples of where else a forward slash is used in dual names

Ireland:	Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis
Canada:	Grand Falls/Grand Sault
Australia:	Uluru / Ayers Rock
Switzerland:	Biel/Bienne
Norway:	Anár/Inari
Wales:	Merioneth / Montgomeryshire

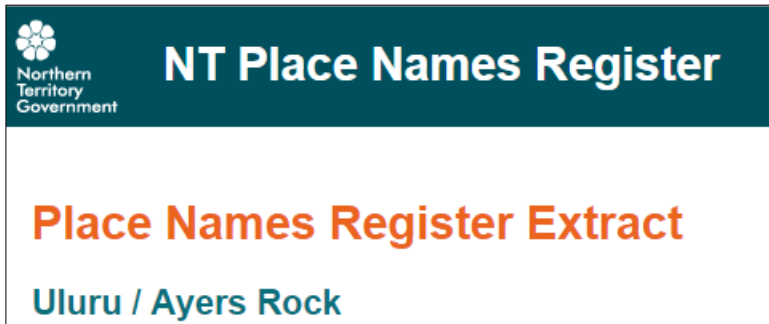
Why should SCUFN accept dual names?

- Dual naming aligns with UNGEGN's principles that:
 - the geographic names of indigenous groups are a significant part of the naming traditions of many countries
 - it is an important part of national identity that indigenous people have their geographic names recognised
- Dual naming overcomes problems that complete replacement of a name can cause, such as loss of identity and confusion of location

Why should SCUFN accept New Zealand's dual names that are separated by a forward slash?

- For consistency with New Zealand's official maps and charts – see Chart NZ 14600 (Int No: 600)

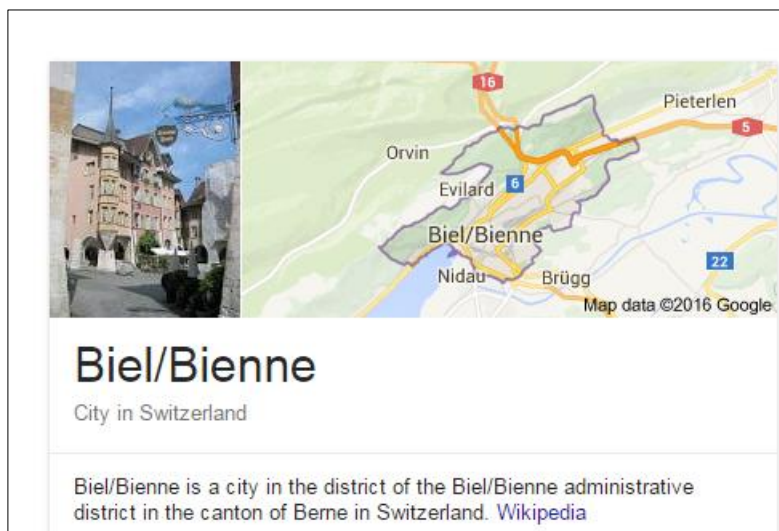
Examples of other countries that use dual names:



Source: [Northern Territory Place Names Register](#)

Aberangell SH8409 Merioneth / Montgomeryshire

Source: [National Gazetteer of Wales – Place Name Index](#)



Source: Wikipedia [Biel/Bienne](#)

Welcome to Dingle / Daingean Uí Chúis

Source: www.gokerry.ie

The correct Irish language town name is Daingean Uí Chúis and the bilingual name for the town as Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis has appeared in documents dating as far back as the thirteenth century.

Source: M. Moriarty (2012). Language Ideological Debates in the Linguistic Landscape of an Irish Town. In *Minority Languages in the Linguistic Landscape*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.