

Report 15.48
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Committee Council
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Name change of Te Marua storage lakes from “Stuart Macaskill Lakes” to “Macaskill Lakes”

1. Purpose

For Council to agree to amend the name of the storage lakes at Te Marua from “Stuart Macaskill Lakes” to “Macaskill Lakes.”

This name change will form part of a proposal to the New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB) for this name to be officially assigned to the geographic feature made up of the two water storage lakes near Te Marua, Upper Hutt, which are used to assure continuity of drinking water supply to the four cities of the Wellington region.

2. Background

In October 2001, the Wellington Regional Council voted to name the water storage lakes near Te Marua after Stuart Macaskill, the then retiring Council Chair, in recognition of his contribution to the region. Mr Macaskill had a central political role in the creation of the lakes from 1974, when they were first suggested, through to their completion in the mid-1980s. Mr Macaskill also made a significant contribution to the Wellington Regional Council, becoming an elected member of the Council when it was first formed in 1980 and later serving as Chair for five consecutive terms from 1986, until his retirement in 2001. At the time of Mr Macaskill’s retirement, an application was made to the NZGB for his name to be officially assigned to the two water storage lakes. However, this application was declined on the basis that the name could not be recommended to the NZBG until 2 years after Mr Macaskill’s death.

As a result, although Greater Wellington Regional Council’s staff practice has been to refer to the lakes using the name “Stuart Macaskill Lakes” in both official documents and general use, the name is not officially recognised and does not appear on LINZ topographic maps.

Mr Macaskill died in December 2012. The first opportunity to apply to the NZGB for official recognition of the name is by 6 March 2015.

3. Comment

3.1 Requirement for Council to amend the name of the lakes

The NZGB has recently stated that, if a personal name is used it may only be either the first or last name, not the full name. As an example they cited “Hillary Ridge” on Aorangi / Mt Cook, named after Sir Edmund Hilary.

Given the NZGB’s rules negating use of a person’s full name for a geographic feature, it is necessary for Council to amend the name of the storage lakes from the “Stuart Macaskill Lakes,” to the “Macaskill Lakes.” This name will then be recommended to the NZGB to be assigned as the official name.

4. Communication

If the Council agrees to the proposed name change, this will be communicated to the NZGB.

5. The decision-making process and significance

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

5.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term ‘significance’ has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council’s significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

5.2 Engagement

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Agrees** that the name for the water storage lakes near Te Marua be amended from “Stuart Macaskill Lakes” to “Macaskill Lakes” and that this name be used in Greater Wellington Regional Council communications.
4. **Agrees** that the name “Macaskill Lakes” be submitted to the New Zealand Geographic Board as the official name for the geographic feature consisting of these two lakes, so that it appears on LINZ topographic maps.

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