

Fix pronunciation of Māori names in Christchurch Bus Interchange

This petition respectfully asks that Environment Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council work with Metro Info to correct the pronunciation of the te reo Māori names in the automatic announcement system in the Ōtautahi/ Christchurch Bus Interchange.

The current pronunciation of names such as Rangiora, Hei Hei and Ara is very audibly incorrect. Rangiora should have rolled 'r's, a long 'a' and a soft 'ng', more like the te reo Pākehā word 'rung'. At the moment it sounds like 'Ran-gee-or-ah' and it is really painful to the ear of anyone aware of how it should sound.

We acknowledge that this will not be an easy task and that reprogramming the electronic voice may have some flow-on effects. However,

A) Te reo Māori is recognised as a taonga protected under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and therefore it is worth the extra effort and commitment to get this correct,

B) considering the context, within a building designed around the Kāi Tahu migration journey, it is particularly desirable to have the reo rangatira respected, and

C) the flow-on effects of hundreds of people on a daily basis hearing these kupu said incorrectly is actually undoing a lot of the good work done by TV news, radio, Air NZ, etc, to have correct pronunciation. Tourists travelling by bus think this is how the names are said. Bus drivers repeat the incorrect pronunciation because they hear it all day as they come in and out of the interchange. Passengers use the incorrect pronunciation because it is normalised and reinforced every 15 minutes or so when we hear "Blue Line to Ran-gee-or-aah at Door 15". And the human announcers who step in when the computer system has a glitch can regularly be heard mispronouncing the name, exactly as it is said by

the automated voice. The announcers and bus drivers can hardly be held to blame for their poor pronunciation since they are constantly hearing the names said incorrectly all day long. Let's tautoko them by letting them hear how it should be said, not how it shouldn't.

D) Finally, consider the effect on our tamariki and rangatahi who make up a large proportion of bus interchange users as they move to and from school. Those who are speakers of, or beginning to learn te reo, cannot fail to notice how wrong the kupu sound. Even though the interchange itself was carefully designed as a space that acknowledges te ao Māori, the mispronounced kupu devalue the language and culture of our rangatahi and make the space a less welcoming one for them.

This may not be an easy thing to rectify, but nevertheless, it does need rectifying.

Ko tōku reo, ko tōku ohoooho. Ko tōku reo, ko tōku mātapihī maurea.

My language is my awakening, my language is my treasure.

4,344 have signed. Let's get to 5,000!



<https://www.change.org/p/christchurch-city-council-fix-pronunciation-of-m%C4%81ori-names-in-christchurch-bus-interchange>

Ko te tino hira o te reo Māori/ The importance of te reo Māori

Te reo Māori and te ao Māori are seen as important within our hapori (community).

- Maori culture is important!
- This is a very important issue
- It is important that Te Reo is pronounced correctly as it supports its inherent mana by doing so
- We are a better nation for having Maori place names ... & using Te reo
- Te reo maori is the official language of this country.
- They need to learn proper names.
- Te reo Māori is recognised as a taonga protected under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and therefore it is worth the extra effort and commitment to get this correct,
- Māori matters
- Kia ora, it is very important to keep te reo Māori alive and used correctly so it doesn't get lost
Nga mihi
- Kia tika ai te reo!
- Ko te reo Māori te reo tuturu o Aotearoa
- Tino rangatiratanga
- Ko te reo maui o tōku mana Māori
- Ae te reo māori is a tāonga use it properly
- Place names and their correct pronunciation are important to our individual and collective place identity
- I believe that correct pronunciation is the first step in acknowledging Te Reo Maori and its rightful place in Aotearoa
- Te Reo Māori needs to be pronounced correctly.
- Ko tōku reo, ko tōku ohoho. Ko tōku reo, ko tōku mātapahi maurea. My language is my awakening, my language is my treasure. Kia Kaha
- I believe that as a country we should be making every effort to pronounce te reo Maori correctly
- I want te reo names pronounced correctly
- When Te Reo Maori is pronounced correctly it is music to my ears! Ngā mihi
- Its important!
- Such an Important thing to get right.
- It's our language and our culture ♥
- We need to keep Te Reo alive
- I believe this will add to the integrity to the manawhenua of Ōtautahi!
- In 2020 correct pronunciation is a vital part of New Zealand's way forward
- he mea tino nui tenei
- It's important
- It is important to our identity as New Zealanders to embrace te reo Maori, and it needs to be pronounced correctly.
- He taonga te reo Māori - me koorero tika
- Ahakoa he iti, he pounamu.
- Te reo Māori is a taonga to be protected, not bastardised to fit into what Pākehā can understand!
- We need to make sure the Maori language is correct

- Te reo Māori is a taonga that the Treaty promised to protect, so change needs to happen. Re-record all the messages please. It's horrid to the ears when it is so wrong.
- This is important
- Te reo is my language and should be used appropriately.
- Pronouncing Maori names is important to me.
- I am signing because this is important to us as Nz res. We didn't get to learn this at school in my day. We need to recognise this now.
- Ko te reo te mana me te mauri o te tangata. Plus I was a regular bus user when I lived in Christchurch and that voice over butchered pretty much all foreign names
- The Maori language is a treasure and needs to be treated as such. This needs to happen immediately
- This is a must for us in 2020!
- I believe te reo Maori names should be spoken and pronounced correctly, otherwise what is the point?
- I believe that Māori names should be pronounced properly not only in Christchurch but the whole country
- Correct pronunciation of Maori name places
- To protect our Reo
- I believe it shouldn't even be a issue. We are after all in NZ where Māori is a national language.
- I'm māori and I want simple place names pronounced correctly!
- For places like Hei Hei, Waimairi Rd, Wairakei Rd, Papanui, Rangiora to be pronounced as they should be.
- To fix the pronounceation on maori names!
- How amazing and appropriate it would be for everyone to hear te reo Māori and especially Kai Tahu dialect in this space.
- It's important. The names have a whakapapa.
- It's vital that we hear our Maori place names pronounced correctly in everyday situations.
- Kia kaha te kōrero Māori!
- Language is the key to Understanding
- This makes sense for the longevity of te reo.
- Tautokongia te mita o te reo maori
- Because a language is communication. If we can't communicate properly then we will always be distance between you and who cannot communicate properly. Names hold mana. Give names the dignity they deserve and say them properly!
- Ko te reo te mauri o te mana Māori. Ōtautahi we know better, do better!
- Ko te reo kia Māori, ko te reo kia rere, ko te reo kia tika!
- Kia Ora
As a Council we must lead by ensuring correct pronunciation and use of Te Reo. Thankyou for drawing attention to this.
Anne Galloway
- Because it matters - how would you feel if your name was said incorrectly?
- Aroha mai koutou ki te kōrero tika o Te Reo Māori
- He aha te kai o te rangatira? He korero, he korero, he korero.
- Important to see it & hear te reo pronounced correctly

- Its music to my ears hearing te reo names being spoken correctly. TV presenters do an amazing job with their pronunciation of maori names of places. PLUS over the years in the North Island of NZ names of places have been corrected. Awesome to see this is happening down in the South Island. Kapai
- Te reo Māori is beautiful
- It would be great to hear the rest of Aotearoa pronouncing these names the way they were named. There would definitely be heaps of support to help teach the pronunciation, and i'm sure that there would be lots of fun in doing so too.
- Te Reo is a taonga that needs to be treated with respect as the indigenous language of Aotearoa
- Kia tika tō reo, kia hiki tō mana.
Kia piki te kaha, kia piki te māramataka, kia piki te ora.
- My cousins from Ōtautahi should be able to hear the names from their whenua pronounced correctly.
- Our official languages should be used correctly in public places
- Te Reo should be pronounced properly whenever it is used.

Me whakamana tātou i te reo Māori/ We should respect te reo Māori

Pronouncing te reo Māori place names correctly is a sign of respect and is seen by the community as the right/ just thing to do

- Correct pronunciation is respect.
- Correct pronunciation is the least we can do to honour and respect te Reo Māori.
- It's common respect!
- Efforts should be made to pronounce words correctly
- We should do our very best to pronounce Te Reo Maori correctly. So that our we can role model for our tamariki.
- Our language and names need to be respected and the first step is pronunciation.
- I'm signing because I feel strongly about correct pronunciation spoken in respect for the Maori language.
- Te reo is a treasure we need to respect
- To be respectful
- It is a no brainer , pronounce words correctly as they are meant to be .
- You wouldn't disrespect a person by repeatedly and knowingly saying their name wrong, why disrespect a group of people by mispronouncing their language and the name of their whenua.
- This is important! Please dignify these names by ensuring they are correct
- An essential sign of respect
- It matters
- It's one of our official languages let's give it the respect it deserves and be proud
- Still a Kiwi & respect Aotearoa's traditional custodians. This is an opportunity to show that respect, to learn & use a national language in its correct way. Fair request.
- It's respectful to pronounce names correctly, and it's especially important to get it right in public when it will be repeated over and over again the same way.
- We need to respect the Taonga that is Māori Language and show that respect through correct pronunciation.

- Correct pronunciation is a sign of respect.
Te Reo is one of NZ's three official languages and therefore should be spoken correctly within our community- especially when in public areas that have large numbers of people listening.
- Because pronouncing a name correctly is being respectful to that name and the history of it
- Respect is necessary. How do we learn unless we hear the words correctly.
- It is time that Maori names are respected and pronounced correctly to give reverence to their meaning. Attention to detail is absolute. This is the right thing to do to uphold the partnership between Maori and the crown.
- Names are important. Te Reo deserves respect. It enriches all of our lives.
- It is the right thing to do. Simple. Respect the beautiful language that it is.
- It's only right .
- Maori place names should be treated with respect by pronouncing them correctly
- If you are going to use a Maori name it is respectful to say it correctly.
- Because it's what should be done.
- Because it is the right thing to do, Te Reo is recognised as 1 of 2 of our languages
- If you're going to include te reo or any other written language get it right. If you don't, then the respectful thing to do is fix it.
- It is the right thing to do. To support cultural awareness & perspectives.
- I think it is important that all languages are spoken and pronounced correctly as a matter of respect.
- Because it's right.
- It's the right thing to do
- because it's right
- These names deserve to be honoured and respected.
- Uphold the Treaty. Respect tangata whenua and indigenous languages
- We need to have respect for the language of this land. It is disrespectful to mispronounce someone's name
- Correct pronunciation is an important mark of respect. I make an effort to do so in my own life and I would like to feel proud that my city is making a similar effort
- We need to respect the language of our indigenous people, the most simple courtesy is correct pronunciation of place names.
- It's the right thing to do.
- The bus exchange service is provided by the Christchurch City Council, which is an institution of New Zealand. The Council must uphold their commitment to not only tangata whenua as Treaty partners, but also to the rest of Aotearoa to ensure our national language Te Reo Māori receives the respect it inherently deserves.
Pronounce Māori names correctly, just like you would expect anyone to pronounce your given name correctly. Kia ora!
- It is a sign of respect to pronounce any language accurately. Kia Ora.
- Let us get it right
- It is the right thing to do
- It's the right thing to do!!!!
- Pronunciation is key!!! Do it right
- I consider it a sign of disrespect to Maori if Pakeha are not actively working towards correctly pronouncing these words. We need to do better and this is another step in the right direction.

- Correct pronunciation of Māori words is part of respecting Tangata Whenua and Treaty partnership
- I want to see Te Reo treated with respect - stop butchering this beautiful language
- Pronunciation should be correct. It is very insulting. English would not like us pronouncing phone with a P!
- people should show respect for a language by the use of correct pronunciation
- Because it is the right thing to do. Easy fix. Employ a Māori announcer fluent in Te Reo Māori.
- I'm signing because the Te Reo language should be respected and pronounced correctly for locals and visitors to Ōtautahi.
- It is the right thing to do. It is the respectful thing to do.
- It is respectful, it is right, it is correct and we should ALWAYS be in support of correct pronunciation
- Because it's the right thing to do.
- Correction of names is important. So that we get them right. Who likes their names pronounced wrongly?
- It's the right thing to do.
- We live in an incredibly vibrant and changing city. We've had opportunity to process Ōtautahi in a way that respects and upholds the Mana of the tangata whenua. Let's carry this on and get all our reo pronunciation correct.
- We need to protect te reo Māori and give it the dignity (mana) it deserves by pronouncing it correctly for a start.

Kei te hōhā ētahi tāngata ki te roa o te hē/ Some people are frustrated this hasn't already happened

There is a general frustration that kupu Māori are still being pronounced incorrectly in a public space

- We should always do our best to pronounce words correctly in whatever language, in my opinion. But especially in a public forum.
- because places should be pronounced properly
- Unacceptable to not have the correct pronunciation.
- This is easy to fix and completely insane that the pronunciation is not correct!!
- Mispronunciations drive me nuts
- How is it possible to design a place so well and then fail at the ultimate step by using it disrespectfully?
- This is a no brainier. Get with the times! It shows some long overdue respect to Maori.
- It's both embarrassing and disrespectful that these are mispronounced in an interchange used not just by local residents, Maori and non-Maori alike, but by international visitors. What does it say about us if we can't make the effort to get it right? Our country's culture and heritage is worth more than this.
- Mispronunciation is horrendously bad. It perpetuates an attitude that it does not matter if Maori language is pronounced rightly or wrongly.
- It's a bare minimum

- It's a no brainer! Being respectful of the nation's indigenous culture and language should be inherent. The fact a petition has to be set up to point it out is mind blowing.
- It would be nice to to be stuck in the 1970s.
- I frequently travel through there.its just horrible to hear . When I asked one of the staff she said people wouldn't recognize the moeery pronunciation!!.
Staff need some testing as well
- It is about time te reo Maori is pronounced properly.
- It only makes sense for place names to be pronounced correctly.
- Pronounce our place names correctly!
- It's appalling and unacceptable that this is happening. Maori to our national language.
- While many English names are also mispronounced by automated systems it's mispronounced Maori names that grate most as this fundamentally disrespects our heritage and treaty. Please correct it.
- A small fix in the big scheme of things. Just do it!
- It should not be an 'effort' to pronounce Māori words. It is simple respect to make an attempt when pronouncing any language
- Why is Te Reo Māori NOT being pronounced correctly? In 2020, 250 years since Cook's arrival, what excuse is there for NOT pronouncing the Indigenous language correctly? There isn't one
- Bad pronunciation of te reo Maori is painful to the ear, and there is no excuse for it in publicly owned community places.
- Time to catch up Ōtautahi.
- Maori Names deserve better!
- It's important for cultural enrichment and I'm just plain tired of people saying "what" when I correctly pronounce Te Reo in general.
- This needs updating. Keep up!
- Moving into a new generation...
- This is sad that was not done correctly in the first place.
- Because I hate hearing te reo aataahua mangled.
- It is an insult to Maori for the incorrect pronunciation to continue.
- We can do better with pronunciation of Maori name places.
- It is a simple issue to fix!
- Because te reo Māori is the first language of this country, and an official language of this country, this should be accorded the respect of accurate pronunciation. The current pronunciation is a depiction of the bus exchanges relationship to and respect of, Māori culture. Change these announcement recordings please, and while you're at it please educate your staff to uphold respect for Mana Whenua through correct use of te reo Māori across the board as they've serve the public and thus role model behaviour to many.
- COME ON CCC WE ARE IN 2020, FIX YOUR SELF!!
- Its time
- sort it out
- Kua hōhā tatou
- PLEASE get this right!
- I'm signing because the least you can do is pronounce the names correctly. It isn't that hard if you practice
- Butchering names pronunciation is disrespectful towards your clients, models and reinforces racist behaviour. ECAN you must do better than this.

- There is no reason at all that it should be mispronounced so badly. We would never let that pass for the English place names.
- It's not good enough. Step up.
- Listening to mispronunciation of te reo is like listening to nails scratching down a blackboard!!!
- We had same issue here...no hear...eg.
Kaipara
Kiiiiiyyy Parr arrrr
An old friends fav peeve
Manukau....he used to say " no cows here man"
- Get it right!!! It's 2020!!!
- It needs to be righted!
- There is no need for further ignorance in Aotearoa, sign it off already.
- It needs to be corrected
- Disrespectful to have it said wrong.
- Hanlon's Razor states "Never ascribe to malice that which is adequately explained by incompetence" but Grey's law states "Any sufficiently advanced incompetence is indistinguishable from malice". Therefore, once the error of your ways is pointed out, a decision not to change is malicious.
- I grew up in Christchurch in the 1960s and 70s, hearing Maori words pronounced incorrectly. I didn't know how wrongly we were saying them until later, when I moved to Wellington (a more diverse city then and now), and the renaissance of Maori and our better understanding, which for me i note started around 1984 and Te Maori exhibition of taonga that toured The US and returned with great mana to NZ. I would sincerely hope that Christchurch, along with other parts of NZ learns, corrects mistakes, does better. I'm ashamed to hear of incorrectly said names, broadcast in public in Christchurch. Please do better
- No brainer really... come on NZ sort it out
- Pronouncing words incorrectly is wrong. I'm not sure why that is even a debate.
- It's time say the words right
- This is ridiculous. It shouldn't need a petition that politely and respectfully lays out the reasons, taking up energy and time in an effort to be heard. The mistake should not have been made... and then once made should have immediately been rectified.
- The very very least Pākehā can do is pronounce Māori names correctly. It's. Not. Hard.
- Get it right
- I can't believe this petition is even necessary! This should never have happened.
- 2020 time they're pronounced our names cor
- Its 2020 people its long outstanding to give correct pronunciation to te reo maori place names
- There's no excuse really if somebody has this job. Please employ somebody who is able to pronounce kupu Māori, or provide support for learning the basics.
- It is ridiculous to use such poor pronunciation in this day and age!
- I get annoyed when people don't pronounce names properly
- Kia kaha Christchurch transport, you know better
- The pronunciation is wrong. Correct it!!
- It is pretty easy to ask for help with pronunciation or hire someone who already knows how to pronounce things. They need to do better.

- I cannot believe that the pronunciation was not considered when these were originally programmed/recorded! It really is unacceptable
- Honour our reo! It's the national language of NZ. Given Chch is the 'gateway to the south' it is bizarre that we would be so slack in not correctly pronouncing our names properly. Even our tourists pronounce these names better than what you've recorded - Shame! Get with the times and stand out!
- He mana tō te reo, ko te reo te mauri o te mana Māori. An official language of New Zealand, it's not that hard to pronounce names correctly in te reo Māori. To not even attempt to do so shows absolute ignorance and disrespect, if not racism. In the year 2020, this is unacceptable. Our place names, the names of our ancestors and tamariki have been bastardised for too long. All automated voice recordings should be resourced using competent speakers of te reo Māori as exemplars. All staff who lack proficiency should be enabled to pronounce te reo Māori names correctly through professional development. Kia kaha rā koutou, you can do better than this!

Kei te tautoko te whakahua tika i te akoranga/ Correct pronunciation supports learning

Many people want to see correct pronunciation to support those learning the language.

- Having the correct pronunciation means learning the correct way for those of us learning this beautiful language
- If we are going to use Maori words need to be correct or how will our future generations learn
- Because words should be pronounced correctly for those who know how it is meant to be pronounced and for people to learn how to pronounce Māori words
- Get a Maori to do the pronunciation of our Maori place names, if everyone hears it properly they will pronounce it properly, win win situation.
- It is so important that an effort is made to pronounce these names properly. And this is a great opportunity to support the learning of one of our national languages!
- Incorrect pronunciation is learnt. In order to disrupt the problem, the language must be pronounced correctly in public settings.
- Because I don't want the language to be lost I know what why she needs you to learn it and become fluent to make my family proud and be able to teach The Young Ones
- If language - in all languages, but especially te reo, is not pronounced properly, it can take someone right off course and in another direction. It is very important that this is made right and corrected.
- Because it is disrespectful to have things pronounced wrong especially in a public system, it is a lot easier for us to learn if we hear the words/names consistently spoken correctly.
- Education is key, as is the way it is written and displayed. Correct spelling and pronunciation reflects and protects our historic culture and respects our youth and their rising future

Ngā kōrero tautoko/ Supportive statements

General statements supporting the intention of the petition

- I agree wholeheartedly with this kaupapa
- I totally agreed with this need to change it and fellow the right spelling.
- Please fix the pronunciation of Maori names in Chirstchurch's bus interchange!
- I support the kaupapa
- tautoko
- I fully support the intent and rationale
- I'm behind this 100%
- Tika
- I agree with the Petition!
- Kei te tautoko au i te kaupapa o te tāpaetanga nei. I support all of the reasons given in this submission.
- Hoping signing this gets a result
- Tautoko
- I totally agree!!!
- Yes indeed...
- I believe in this cause
- Kei te tautoko au i te kaupapa nei. Ko te reo kia tika!
- Tautoko
- Kua tautoko katoatia au i te whakaaro nei, kia tika te reo!!!
- Tautoko
- Seems appropriate. Not asking a great deal.
- Ngā mihi. Pai te whakaaro. Ae, tautoko

Other thoughts/ Ētahi atu whakaaro

- Decolonialism
- Counteract racism
- I am Maori
- It's a priority in this country to address any form of complicit or explicit racism!
- This is an example of how we are loving on the part of our colonial heritage. Time to acknowledge that we are not going ourselves any favours by thinking we are being inclusive when we don't even take the time to learn or implement basic pronunciation of Te Reo.
- I wanna spread cultural appropriations such as pronouncing the correct Maori words and trying to learn New Zealand's language
- you think this is worse, try driving around hawkes bay and listening to Siri on google maps! thats even more terrible than this. And what is te taura whiri doing about this? KORE!- This is the job of te taura whiri instead of going down to courtney place and having cream doughnuts and coffee...
- Step up Chch. Rednecks at the bus exchange - pack them away with the neanderthals from your museum - not necessarily talking about the figurines.
- my son said our name experienced much brutal attack ...he tried to laugh it off as the dominate culture lacked respect....

- An article of the Tairāwhiti Pīpīwharaurōa... Has been pushing for proper pronunciation of place names through out New Zealand... Glad there are others with the same ambition...
- I am not a native speaker or for that matter a fluent speaker of Māori. I have always had an interest and with the limited experience as a primary school teacher, I did endeavour to integrate te reo Māori into my everyday classroom programmes. I have had a great interest in things Māori especially through archaeology.