

Political perspectives (2022)

Aotearoa or New Zealand: has the moment come to change the country's name?

—The Guardian

‘Aotearoa is on our passports, in our nation’s anthem, it’s te reo Māori and reflects a Pacific nation with tangata whenua.’

‘There is more appetite for change, there is more maturing over the need to have a conversation about who we are and how we identify as a nation.’

—Debbie Ngarewa-Packer (Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāruahine and Ngā Rauru), co-leader of Te Pāti Māori

māori

‘It should go to [a] referendum and it should be a decision that they [the voting public] get to make.’

—Christopher Luxon, National Party leader

National

‘I believe in free speech. People choose to call it New Zealand, people choose to call it Aotearoa; Aotearoa is on the currency, on the passports, put there by the previous National Government.’

—David Seymour, ACT Party leader

act/

‘Whether or not we change it in law I don’t think changes the fact New Zealanders do increasingly refer to Aotearoa, and I think that’s a transition that has been welcomed.’

—Jacinda Ardern, former Prime Minister

 **Labour**

Teaching activity



Use the following questions:

- 1) Whose perspective do you identify most strongly with, and why?
- 2) To what extent do you agree that a name change is ‘not a matter of if, but when’?