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'Zealandia' – A Hidden Continent

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THE LOST CONTINENT

New Zealand sits atop a previously unknown continent – mostly submerged beneath the South Pacific – that should be recognised with the name Zealandia, scientists said



Zealandia considered by geologists to be a massive, mostly submerged continent



It meets all criteria applied to the Earth's 7 continents, according to scientists

- Elevation above surrounding area
- Distinctive geology
- Well-defined area
- Crust much thicker than that found on the ocean floor

NOT A NEW DISCOVERY

Lead author Nick

Mortimer said scientists have been gathering data to make the case for Zealandia for more than 20 years. But their efforts had been frustrated because most of it was hidden beneath the waves.

MOST OF IT SUBMERGED UNDER WATER

In a paper published in the Geological Society of America's Journal, GSA Today, they said Zealandia measured five million sqkm and was 94% underwater

The paper's authors said it had only three major landmasses, New Zealand's North and South Islands to the south, and New Caledonia to the north

Broke Away 100 Million Yrs Ago

The scientists said Zealandia was once part of the Gondwana super-continent, but broke away about 100 million years ago