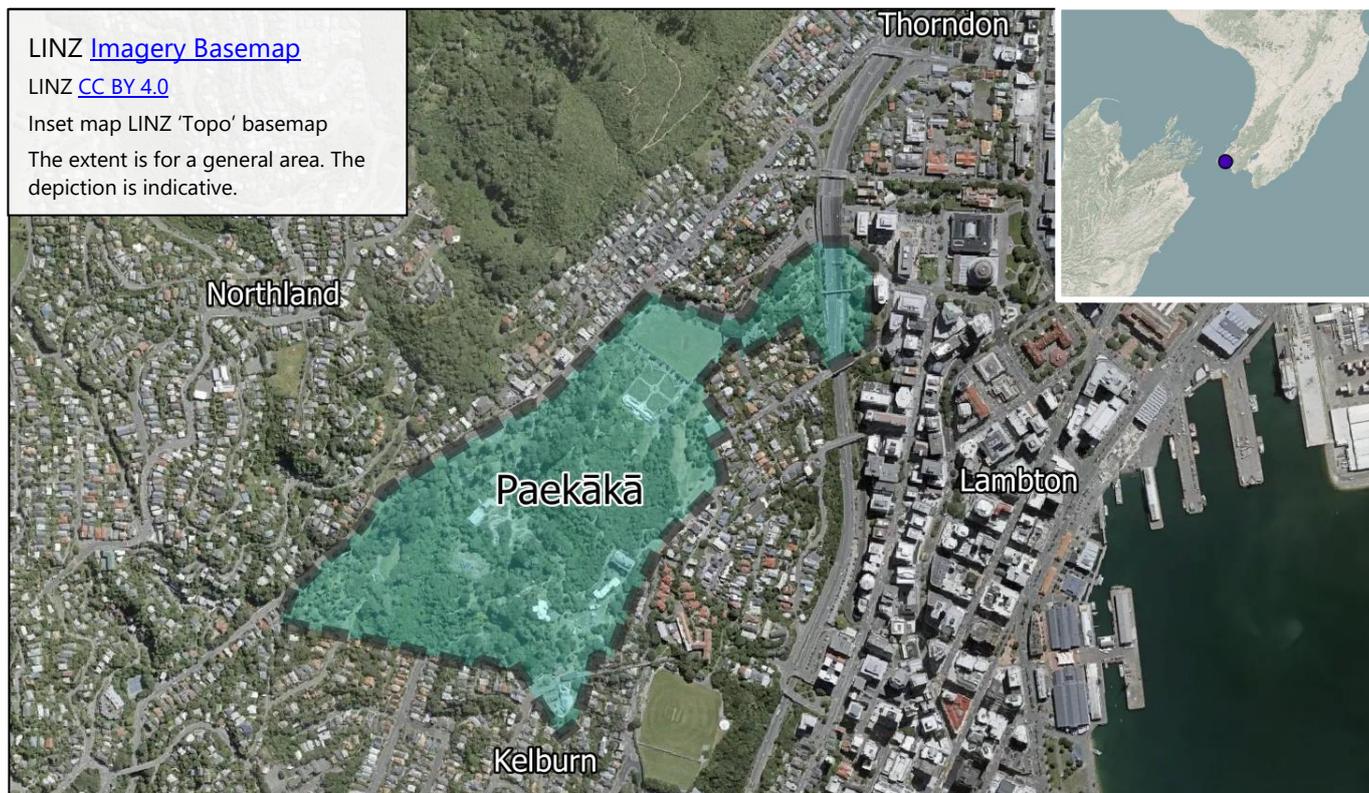


Proposal considered by the Board on 20 April 2021 for: **Paekākā** [new name for an unnamed inner-city area that is not a suburb/locality]



Summary

The proposal is to assign **Paekākā** as the official name of an inner-city area in Wellington generally covering the Botanic Garden precinct, Anderson Park, and Bolton Street Memorial Park. It is not a suburb or locality.

The proposer is Wellington City Council (WCC), who formally resolved to use the name on 13 August 2020. WCC considers that the name meets its Māori language strategy by increasing the presence of te reo Māori on the Wellington landscape. WCC replaced signs at the reserve spaces in 2020, for example, to show 'Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā'.

Taranaki Whānui, who are mana whenua, gifted the name to WCC. Taranaki Whānui advise that Paekākā was the name of the Pipitea Marae gardens in the vicinity of Molesworth Street, Thorndon. Other sources record Paekākā specifically for a bird snaring tree in the same area and Waipaekākā for a nearby stream and Te Waipaekākā for a native reserve at its mouth. Paekākā is therefore being translocated from its original location to a new location nearby.

The proposed extent for Paekākā has reduced from the much wider area that WCC first described in 2019, which would have extended to the stream Waipaekākā. This means there is outdated information in circulation. While 'area' names need not be defined with precise boundaries, if the Board accepts this proposal it should clearly communicate what Paekākā is proposed to apply to, even if only describing 'generally bounded by ...'.

Secretariat recommendations

At its 20 April 2021 hui the Board resolved these recommendations, changing the recommendation consultation for the Waipaekākā option from one to three months:

Recommendation 1 **Accept** the proposal to **assign** a new name **Paekākā**, based on the Board's function to encourage the use of original Māori names (noting a contemporary use of a traditional name in another location), for an inner-city area generally covering the Botanic Garden precinct, Anderson Park, and Bolton Street Memorial Park, and being an appropriate name in terms of the Board's legislation and *Standard for New Zealand Place Names*,
and
Noting that the inner-city area is not a suburb or locality name,
and
Noting that the term Pae describes the generic 'area' term,
and
Notify as a proposal to assign for one month,
and
Consider a media release on the day of Gazette notification to help with public awareness of the proposal, the reasons for the proposal, and to clearly communicate its extent.

Recommendation 2 **Agree** to add a new definition for 'Pae' to the Board's Geographic Features website, ie area, realm or vicinity.

Option

Option 3 **Accept** a Board proposal to **assign** a new name **Waipaekākā**, to the unnamed stream (locally known as Pakuao Stream), flowing generally southeast from the northeast side of Te Ahumairangi Hill to Grosvenor Terrace, then piped to the original shoreline near the intersection of Tinakori Road and Thorndon Quay, based on the NZGB's function to encourage the use of original Māori name, noting orthographic advice Waipaekākā would be correct with [Te] not forming part of the name.
Subject to support from mana whenua,
and
Subject to the Secretariat completing a pro-forma proposal,
and
Notify as a proposal to assign for ~~one month~~ **three months**, preferably with Paekākā.

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal The proposal is to assign a new name **Paekākā** to an inner-city area in Wellington generally covering the '*area of Wellington Botanic Garden, Anderson Park, and Bolton Street Cemetery*'. The Secretariat has confirmed

with WCC the intended extent includes Carter Observatory, the MetService buildings, and through to the top of the Cable Car facilities.

The proposers, WCC, consider that the name would:

- support the goals of its *Te Tauihu – Te Reo Māori Policy*, by increasing the presence of te reo Māori in the Wellington landscape,
- meet the Board’s statutory function to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names,
- be an appropriate name that recognises Māori history and traditional resource use in the area, and
- make a connection to the recovery of kākā¹ in Wellington, now once again found in the area.

WCC first approached Taranaki Whānui for a name in 2018. Taranaki Whānui gifted Paekākā in a ceremony at Wellington Botanic Garden during Te Wiki o te Reo Māori in September 2019.

On 13 August 2020, WCC resolved unanimously to adopt the name Paekākā ‘for the area that includes Wellington Botanic Garden, Anderson Park, and Bolton Street Cemetery’². The Board Secretary was consulted, and the Board Secretariat reviewed the report to the Council for accuracy in terms of the NZGB Act 2008.

WCC advise that organisations such as Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden were engaged in the process, and that MetService, Experience Wellington, and Wellington Cable Car supported the concept.

WCC’s intent is to use Paekākā together with existing names and addresses of places by describing them ‘ki Paekākā’ – at Paekākā. The proposal and earlier WCC communications stress the name is not a change to suburb and locality names³, nor to the names of the reserves within. A FAQ following the gifting event on 13 September 2019 stated ‘Is the Botanic Garden being renamed? No.’⁴ and the WCC minutes of 13 August 2020 stated ‘The name is not...intended to change an open space or reserve name’.

WCC has not officially altered any of the reserve names (by Gazette) in terms of the Reserves Act 1977 or other legislation⁵. However, some council media content has been ambiguous, eg, a recent release states ‘we renamed...the Botanic Gardens becoming Botanic Gardens ki Paekākā’⁶.

Names shown on plans and maps

Paekākā is not used on official maps and plans for the area proposed to be named but has been used for associated/nearby features.

The reserves and facilities in the area are named/described on maps but are not geographic names or Crown Protected Area names under the NZGB Act 2008.

¹ *Nestor meridionalis*

² [Minutes of Strategy and Policy Committee](#) - 13 August 2020, Wellington City Council – last accessed 10 March 2021

³ noting the NZGB [approved Wellington suburb names in July 2020](#)

⁴ [New te reo name gifted for Wellington Botanic Garden precinct](#) – 13 September 2019

⁵ The gazetted names of the various reserves and utilities remain: Bolton Street Memorial Park (*NZ Gazette* 1980 (140) p.3765; [1993 p.3527](#)), Anderson Park (*NZ Gazette* 1980 (146) p.4060), Wellington Botanic Garden (*NZ Gazette* 1995 (131) p.4324), Carter Observatory (*NZ Gazette* [2017-ln2475](#))

⁶ [The year that was 2020 in social media](#) 31 December 2020 – last accessed 4 March 2021

Survey plans and maps of Māori place names in Wellington name depict the original names (in various forms) in Thorndon. Maps and plans more frequently name the stream Pakuao or Pakauo, rather than Waipaekākā.

Plans/maps	Date	Name
Plan of the city of Wellington, Port Nicholson	1841	Te Wai Paikaka [intersection of Tinakori [sic] Road and Thorndon Quay]
Plan of Wellington NR 22	18??	Te Wai Paikaka [the native reserve]
ML 3137; Māori Land Court title Pakuao No.1	1867	Pakuao Stream [instead of Waipaekākā]
SO 10298	1881	Pakuao Stream [instead of Waipaekākā]
Map of Wellington and environs	1915	PUKEHINAU [text parallel to Salamanca Road] Pakuao Stream [instead of Waipaekākā]
Sketch plan[s] showing the original sections sold by ballot in London, July 29th 1839...	1925	Te Wai Paikaka [intersection of Tinakori Road and Thorndon Quay]
NZGB collection, map of Wellington region with Maori place names	c.1950	Paekaka tree [between Molesworth Street and Murphy Street] Wai-paekaka Stream [beside Pakuao kāinga].

Location and extent of the feature

The map provided with the proposal names Paekākā at Wellington Botanic Garden but does not show an extent. WCC described the extent generally as the *'area of Wellington Botanic Garden, Anderson Park, and Bolton Cemetery'*. This overlaps the official suburb of [Kelburn](#) and extends slightly beyond

WCC later clarified the intended extent includes Carter Observatory, the top of the cable car area, and the MetService buildings. 'Botanic Gardens' or 'Botanic Garden precinct' as per some WCC material⁷⁸ appears to be used as shorthand for the contiguous area of city reserves and utilities.

This is a smaller area than what WCC first described for Paekākā in 2019, as *'the area from the top of the Cable Car around the Pukehinau area, down to the Waipaekākā (stream) and Pakuao Kāinga in Thorndon (located above the end of Tinakori Road)*⁹.

'Pukehīnau ridge' is the whole ridge west of The Terrace, north of Aro Valley, through to Wellington Botanic Garden. Waipaekākā Stream flowed from the northeast of Te Ahumairangi Hill to the corner of Tinakori Road and Thorndon Quay (the former coast). Pakuao Kāinga was adjacent to the stream.

WCC confirmed at a meeting on 27 October 2020 that:

- the feature would not extend further southwest to cover all of 'Pukehīnau ridge', nor further northeast through Thorndon to the stream Waipaekākā as per the earliest media releases.

⁷ [Minutes of Strategy and Policy Committee](#) - Wednesday, 16 December 2020, Wellington City Council – last accessed 4 March 2021

⁸ [New te reo name gifted for Wellington Botanic Garden precinct](#), 13 September 2019

⁹ Ibid

- the name should also not be interpreted to apply to an exact extent, ie exactly the parcels comprising the reserved areas.

The Board has made the names of many areas, localities, suburbs, and etc official without defining an extent exactly. However, the changed extent and some ambiguous messaging needs to be addressed, at least with generalised descriptions of what bounds the area and what 'places' are included.

Geographic feature type and generic term

The proposed name is for a general inner-city area and does not include an English generic term. 'Pae' which forms part of the name means 'area', 'realm', 'vicinity'. Consideration should be given to adding this definition to Board's Geographic Features website.

An additional generic term in English or te reo Māori is unnecessary. Some area names can give an impression of the feature without using a generic term, for example, [The Zoo](#). Paekākā does the same in te reo Māori, describing where kākā are found. The Board has also assigned some traditional area names without a generic term in English or te reo Māori, for example, [Ōtāneāniwa](#).

Only two names (other than Crown Protected Area names) use 'Area' as a generic term: [Hipaua Thermal Area](#) and a (former) [Kakapo Study Area](#) at Stewart Island/Rakiura.

New Zealand Gazetteer, duplication

The area is not named in the Gazetteer. However, it is mostly within the suburb of Kelburn.

There are some partial duplications of the name in the Gazetteer:

- [Paekākāpō](#), a collected name for Precipice Cove at Kaikiekie / Bradshaw Sound, Fiordland.
- [Paekākāriki](#) (town), [Paekākāriki Hill](#), [Paekākāriki Hill](#) (locality), [Paekākāriki Railway Station](#), approximately 35km northeast of the proposed name. Paekākāriki translates to the perching place of the green parrot, the kakariki [noting the different meaning of pae]

The Paekākāriki names could cause confusion based on their similarity and relative proximity, being well known names. It might be assumed Paekākāriki is meant by people unfamiliar with 'Paekākā', eg an abbreviation or an error. However, this might not outweigh preference to restore the original Māori name, Paekākā.

Associative names, research, history, and references to the name/feature

Taranaki Whānui advises that Paekākā is the original name of the Pipitea Marae gardens and record a position for the name at Molesworth Street, Thorndon. In the media, Taranaki Whānui representatives have noted that the Paekākā name migrated from Taranaki with Ngāti Mutunga¹⁰.

James Cowan wrote that '*Pae-kaka and Kopae-parawai are two old names of localities in the Thorndon end of the town above Pipi-tea. Pae-kaka means a tree-perch used in the snaring of kaka parrots...from what Rangī te Puni¹¹ tells me...*'¹²

¹⁰ Tema Hemi, [Wellingtonian wants "A Māori name for everything"](#), *Te Ao Māori News* 20 September 2019

¹¹ Daughter in law of Te Puni

¹² James Cowan, [Old Wellington](#) *Evening Post*, Volume LXXXIII, Issue 136, 8 June 1912, Page 10

Wellington Native Reserve No.22¹³ 'Te Wai Paikaka' was at the intersection of Thorndon Quay and Tinakori Road. Waipaekākā appears to be an original name for the stream flowing from the northeast side of Te Ahumarangi Hill to this reserve at the former coastline. This stream is currently piped into stormwater from near Grosvenor Terrace.

George Leslie Atkins described and mapped Wai-paekaka [stream], and Paekaka in *The Great Harbour of Tara*¹⁴.

The proposal states that Pipitea Stream flows from the proposed Paekākā to Waipaekākā (stream), suggesting an association. This does not appear to be the case as another stream, Tiakiwai, flowed between Pipitea and Waipaekākā, and modern drainage appears to follow similar courses.

The Board could consider also officially assigning Waipaekākā to the stream which is currently not named in the Gazetteer, noting it is partially piped in stormwater. This would be similar to the original Ngāi Tahu name [Toitū](#), for a stream now almost entirely piped in stormwater. However, the Secretariat has received some advice that the feature is still known as Pakuao Stream by residents. It is not known if Taranaki Whānui would consider one name or the other preferable.

Consultation with iwi and others

Taranaki Whānui, who are mana whenua, gifted the name to WCC. WCC's consultation is summarised above under the heading 'The proposal'.

Te Puni Kōkiri were requested to confirm if there are any other relevant groups in terms of the *Kaupapa for Māori Place Names*, and the Secretariat wrote to Ngāti Toa Rangatira Inc to request any views on the proposal. To date, no responses have been received.

Advice on orthography¹⁵

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licenced translator has confirmed that Paekākā is correct, based on the meaning 'realm of the kākā'.

[Standard for New Zealand place names](#) criteria

1.1 Acceptable names

a) The NZGB encourages the restoration of original Māori place names

The proposal would restore an original Māori place name to the Wellington landscape, noting it would be used for a nearby area.

(e) Names of native flora and fauna associated with a place.

The proposed name connects with traditional resource use in the area and current conservation efforts, both relating to the presence of the kākā (bird).

[NZGB Act 2008](#)

Section 4

geographic feature and **feature** mean (c) a place

place (a) means a means a city, town, village, site, [area], or similar place;

Section 8 Extent of Board's Jurisdiction

¹³ Town section 659 and 660

¹⁴ G.L. Adkin (1959), [The Great Harbour of Tara: traditional Maori place names and sites of Wellington Harbour and environs](#), Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd, pp.60, 95

¹⁵ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

The Board has jurisdiction to exercise its powers and to carry out its functions and duties under this Act or any other enactment in relation to geographic features

Concerns or issues for emergency services The name is unlikely to be used by the public for identification to emergency services, given the existing well-known suburb and reserve names. Other than possible confusion with the town Paekākāriki 36km north-northeast, there are no concerns.

Media When WCC considered the name in 2019, some controversy was reported as some councillors questioned the significance/appropriateness of adding the name, whether it was a priority, and the strength of consultation¹⁶.

The name is now regularly used by WCC in its documents and in relation to events at the reserves. Some media attention is likely. Therefore a media release is advised.

Supporting information

1. Proposal for Paekākā – 2020-10-12
2. Media articles for Paekākā

¹⁶ [Gift of 'Paekākā' to Wellington Botanic Garden triggers councillor stoush over 'unreasonable' te reo use](#), *Dominion Post*, 12 September 2019