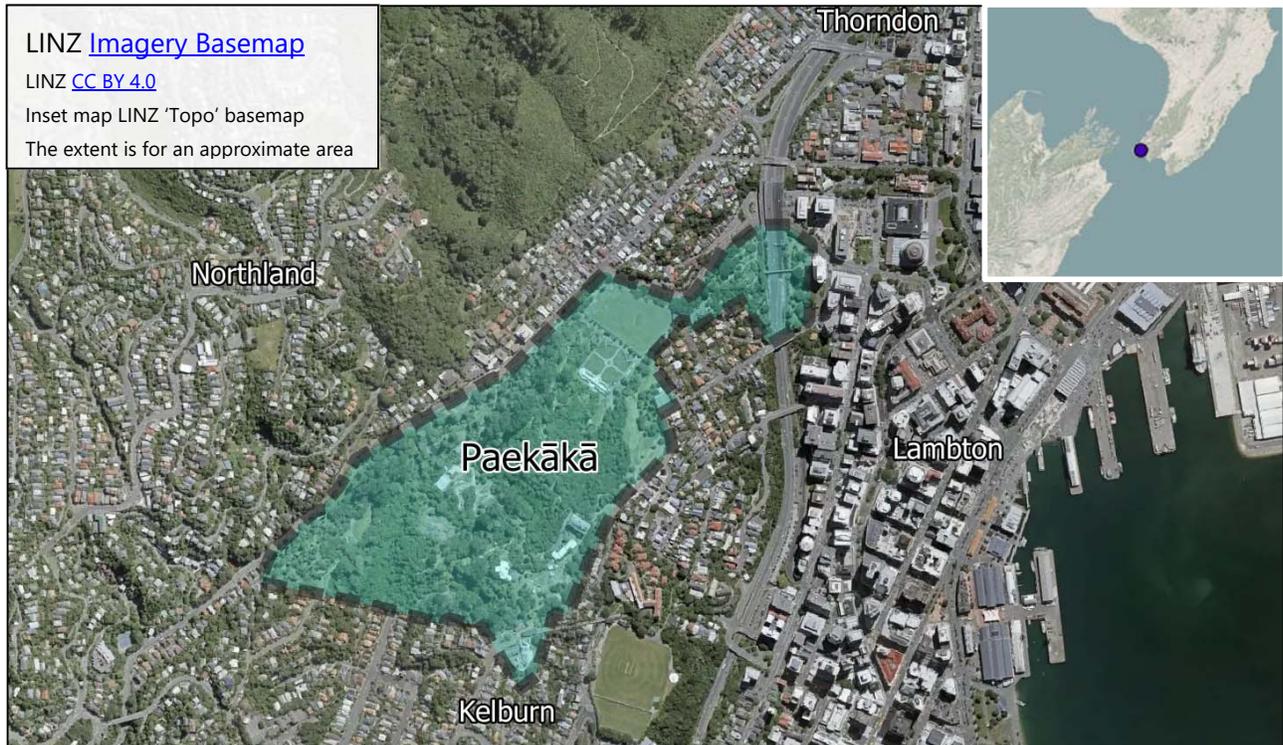


Submissions for Paekākā

[an area that is not a suburb/locality]

Considered by the Board on 22 July 2021



Summary

At its 20 April 2021 hui, the Board accepted a proposal to assign **Paekākā** as the new official name for an unnamed area in Wellington generally covering the Botanic Garden precinct, Anderson Park, and Bolton Street Memorial Park.

During the notification period from 27 May to 28 June 2021 the Board received 173 submissions supporting and 69 submissions objecting to the proposal.

The supporting submissions generally reaffirmed the reasons the Board accepted the proposal, such as promoting te reo Māori and the name being appropriate for the area due to its historic and contemporary connections to the kākā.

The reasons in the objecting submissions are detailed below under the heading 'Submissions', categorised and ordered by frequency, and responded to by the Secretariat. The top five categories are:

- Objects to altering existing names (27) [*although no existing names are proposed to be altered*]
- Costs to taxpayers/ratepayers, poor prioritisation (19)
- No additional name is required for the area (18)
- Various alternative proposals (10)
- The proposed name lacks connection to the area (10)

The Secretariat does not consider the reasons in the objecting submissions to outweigh the reasons accepted by the Board and those in the supporting submissions. Some objections suggested another more appropriate name for the area could be assigned, but either did not propose an alternative, or provided no or little evidence as to why a proposed alternative would be more appropriate.

Approx. 18% of submitters, supporting and objecting, refer to 'changes' or 'alterations' to existing names, such as Wellington Botanic Garden, Kelburn or Thorndon, Wellington (city), the CBD, etc. There is no proposal to alter any existing name.

At its hui on 22 July 2021 the Board resolved this recommendation

Secretariat recommendation

Consider all submissions on the proposal to assign a new name **Paekākā** to an area in Wellington, and their reasons,

and

Reject the 69 objecting submissions based on the reasons given not outweighing the Board's reasons for originally accepting the proposal, being:

- the Board's function to encourage the use of original Māori names (noting a contemporary use of a traditional name in another location),
- being an appropriate name in terms of the Board's legislation and Standard for New Zealand Place Names,

Noting evidence of community support for the proposal in the supporting submissions, which emphasise the appropriateness of the name based on connections to the kākā in Wellington, recognising Taranaki Whānui and Māori heritage in the area, and use of te reo Māori,

and

Confirm the Board's earlier decision to accept the proposal to assign **Paekākā**,

and

Report the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

Background

Draft Board
minutes 20 April
2021

Resolution

*That the Board **accepts** 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,
that the term Pae describes the generic 'area' term,*

Further discussion

The Board discussed recommendation 2 and the term 'pae' noting the many definitions, including 'realm' as used in the report. The observer for Te Puni Kōkiri advised that any te reo Māori name with 'pae' prefixed to a bird name would always mean 'perch', ie Paekākāriki. The Board considered that it was important the history of words and appropriateness is fully researched to ensure a culturally accurate and appropriate meaning.

Notification

Advice to mana whenua of public notification	<p>On 20 and 21 April 2021, the Secretariat advised Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa Rangatira respectively that the proposal would open for consultation on 27 May 2021 for one month.</p> <p>On 20 May 2021 Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira (TRTR) advised it supported the proposal for Paekākā (refer Supporting information). TRTR did not make a further formal submission during the consultation process.</p>
Advice to MPs	<p>On 1 June 2021, the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Wellington Central, Te Tai Tonga, and all adjacent electorates that the proposal for Paekākā was open for submissions until 28 June 2021.</p>
Public notification including social media	<p>The Board advertised the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- in the New Zealand Gazette,- in the <i>Sunday Star Times</i> and <i>Dominion Post</i>,- on the LINZ¹ Consultation and FacebookTM pages, and the Facebook post was later boosted²,- the New Zealand Government's Consultation page. <p>An advertisement was submitted to Te Puni Kōkiri's events calendar Rauika, on 21 April 2021, but was not published.</p>

Media

The Board distributed a media release on 28 May 2021 in English, which was also [posted on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website](#). It was syndicated by [Scoop.co.nz](#) and [Voxy.co.nz](#) on the same day. The te reo Māori translation was delayed and published on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website on 3 June 2021.

News media reproduced the release and/or reported on the proposal, with the Secretary responding to two media enquiries. A compilation of media articles is in the supporting information.

Most submissions (209, 70%) were received from 28 to 31 May 2021, starting immediately after publication of an article on [stuff.co.nz](#). This timing, and analytics of the proposal page indicates media reporting primarily drove awareness of this proposal.

At its 20 April 2021 hui, the Board noted some conflicting messages in the media about what the name Paekākā was intended to apply to. Further comments in the media, eg about 'Paekākā Botanic Gardens'³ as a 'dual name' may continue to confuse the public as to the proposed name.

¹ LINZ - Land Information New Zealand

² Making a Facebook post an advertisement to reach a wider audience

³ Philips Matthews, [Mind your language: the backlash against the te reo revival](#), *Stuff*, 11 June 2021

Submissions

Overview

During the notification period from 27 May 2021 to 28 June 2021 the Board received 173 supporting submissions and 69 submissions objecting to the proposal. Submissions are categorised by common themes in their content in a supporting document. Some similar categories are grouped together.

Local engagement

80.58% of submitters advised they are from Wellington or Wellington Region:

	Wellington	Wellington Region	New Zealand	Unknown
Supporting	135	15	21	2
Objecting	35	10	20	4
Total	170	25	41	6
%	70.25	10.33	16.94	2.4

Information on the location of the submitters is collected to inform on the level of local community engagement. It does not indicate that they have a greater influence on the outcome of the proposal.

Issues

Submissions must provide reasons for support or objection to a proposal. If the content of a submission does not address the proposal it might not count under the statutory process.

More than 40 submissions both objecting and supporting, refer to 'alterations' or 'changes' to existing names although no alteration is proposed. These submitters assume (or appear to assume) Paekākā is an alteration or assigning an official name to any one of:

- Wellington Botanic Garden
- Kelburn
- Thorndon
- The Wellington CBD, Wellington Central
- Wellington (city)

These submitters may have responded to media headlines and articles referring to a '*new name for central Wellington*', the '*Wellington CBD*' with stock photos of the CBD.

For the twelve supporting submissions that refer to altering/changing names, it is questionable if they support what is proposed.

Two of the objecting submissions could be considered supporting submissions, as the objections are qualified by stating:

- '*It would be acceptable for Paekaka to be written below these these [sic] names but not as a replacement*'
- '*If there is a need for an additional name for the area, the proposed name is acceptable.*'

These statements align with what is proposed.

Summary of the 173 supporting submissions

The supporting submissions reaffirmed reasons the Board accepted for proceeding with the proposal, elaborating on why they thought Paekākā was an appropriate name. The submissions emphasised the connection to kākā, in terms of seeing them on a daily basis, that their presence represents conservation success, and that they are iconic to Wellington.

The supporting submitters provided these summarised reasons:

Reasons categorised and summarised	No.
Connections to the bird - likes seeing them, it acknowledges conservation success, the kākā is now (and was) symbolic of Wellington	65
Gives recognition to Māori people/of Taranaki Whānui and gifting the name	56
Recognises Māori heritage/tradition/culture in the area	48
The meaning of the name is appropriate/fitting to the area	32
General comments on the name (eg, name sounds good, beautiful name, easy to say, simple)	31
Promotes te reo Māori	30
A name is required/valuable to define the area with a common identity	17
Thinks name is for wrong feature (ie for a suburb, Kelburn, Thorndon, Wellington, etc), and/or mentions 'changing', 'altering' existing name	17
Refers to removing colonial names and support for decolonisation [<i>noting no existing name is proposed to be altered</i>]	16
Should be more Māori place names in general	15
Supports restoring an original Māori name [<i>noting the name is being applied to this area from nearby</i>]	13
Gave no reasons, submission is concerned only with other names, supports based on reasons that would not be the outcome of the proposal [<i>ie, submission may not be considered valid</i>]	9
Suggestions on other names	8
Honouring Treaty obligations	7
Name should apply to a greater area [<i>these could be considered objections</i>]	4
No concern/indifferent about adding another name if the identities of existing names are preserved	3
Having a specific family connection to the area	1
The name is unique	1
Applying the name will counter old racists	1
It will improve relations between mana whenua and Wellington City Council	1
The name could be used for addressing	1
Supports the views of another submitter	1

Summary of the 69 objecting submissions

Objects to 'changing', 'altering' the existing name ie for Wellington Botanic Garden, Kelburn, Thorndon, Wellington, etc. (27)

There is no proposal to alter any existing name.

Costs to ratepayers, costs in general. Wellington City Council/the Government should have higher priorities eg pipes, COVID-19 (19)

Most official documents using official names are maintained electronically so the cost to update is minimal. The Board expects updates to names on physical products such as signs are made in a timely manner and during regular maintenance cycles, thus minimising/absorbing costs.

In terms of prioritisation, consideration of new place name proposals is the purpose of the Board. The Board must consider new proposals that meet its requirements and must advance each step of the statutory process as soon as reasonably practicable.

No further name is required to identify the places. Adding a name is confusing, including for tourists.

Proposal is unnecessary, tokenism, isn't really achieving anything.

If Paekākā is wanted, rename Wellington Botanic Garden, if the area needs definition adjust the definitions for the existing suburb names (18)

Mana whenua and Wellington City Council seek this name and believe it is required. The Board agreed in April 2021.

Alternative proposals (10)

These alternative proposals were made:

Kākārau (*lit.* many kākā). To retain a gist of Paekākā and be less likely to be confused with Paekākāriki.

This could resolve any potential confusion with Paekākāriki and there is no duplication of the name. However, the Board accepted the proposal for Paekākā in part because it is an original name from nearby.

Paekaka (without macrons). Because the submitter can't use macrons on their keyboard.

Macrons are part of standardised te reo Māori as set by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission). They are required to correctly convey the meaning of a name. Kaka, kakā, and kākā are different words with different meanings.

Part of a **dual name** with Wellington Botanic Garden,

Wellington Botanic Garden Precinct

The Gardens

It is not proposed to rename Wellington Botanic Garden and there are other features in the proposed area.

Mansfield. For Katherine Mansfield's house, being (relatively) nearby. Katherine Mansfield House & Garden is not within the proposed area, noting that the proposal is to translocate an original Māori name Paekākā.

Wakefield. To commemorate the founding of Wellington.

There are geographic features named for some of the Wakefields, and many features in Wellington outside of the Board's jurisdiction are named for

Wakefields. It is unclear why the name would be more appropriate for this area than the proposed name, Paekākā.

for a **Māori individual** who has contributed to the city.

No specific individual was identified.

Aro Valley

There is already an Aro Valley (suburb) 650m away. The proposal is not to name or rename a suburb.

The name lacks connection to the area, the name is not specific, the name is irrelevant, eg as it's a botanic garden kākā are a very limited part of the biodiversity. Kākā are all over the city.

The current features in the area all settler created.

The original name applied elsewhere. (10)

The strength of connection of a name to the area is a key consideration of the Board.

Objects to Māori names. There is a disproportionate emphasis on Māori names. (10)

The Board considers proposals which meet its requirements in terms of the *Standard for New Zealand Place Name*, whether Māori or non-Māori. The Board does have specific statutory functions relating to Māori place names.

Too similar to Paekākāriki, will be confusing (9)

At its 20 April 2021, the Board considered this a valid concern for those unfamiliar with the proposed name. However, it considered other reasons for accepting the proposal outweighed this concern and that the name was unlikely to cause confusion in an emergency.

Historical revisionism, loss of history, it is political correctness (8)

The proposal is to assign a new name for an unnamed area, so it is unclear how this would constitute historical revisionism or be a loss of history.

No reasons given for objecting (7)

A submission must have reasons for supporting or objecting to a proposal.

Name hard to pronounce, to understand (6)

The proposed name is short and easy to pronounce. The meaning of the name provided by the proposers has been widely publicised.

Should be an English name (5)

Objecting submitters may make an alternative proposal, including for an English name. Any names that were suggested are addressed above under 'Alternative proposals'.

No reasons given for the proposal. Proposal information does not cover Māori historic use in the area. (4)

The reasons given by Wellington City Council were summarised on the proposal webpage and in the report considered by the Board at its 20 April 2021 hui. The report states, '*The proposed name connects with traditional resource use in the area and current conservation efforts, both relating to the presence of the kākā (bird)*', ie original resource use means trapping of kākā for food, feathers, etc.

Prior consultation is flawed/biased, eg groups that support the proposal are controlled by WCC anyway. Not enough community consultation. No mention of consultation with the family of Morva Williams who donated some of the land. (4)

The Board's statutory process has provided the opportunity for anyone to make a submission on the proposal within a reasonable timeframe.

Name/process is derogatory towards those with European ancestry. It is offensive to those with ancestors buried at the cemetery (4)

It is unclear how the proposed name would be derogatory or offensive.

Objects to consultation on fait accompli proposal (3)

In accepting the proposal and notifying for public submissions, the Board will independently consider all submissions and the most appropriate outcome which does not preclude declining the proposal or assigning a different name.

Should be a vote/majority decision. Should be presented with options including non-Māori names. (2)

The Board focuses on the reasons given in submissions, not the numbers for or against. The process allows any objecting submitter to make an alternative proposal.

kaka means shit in Germanic languages, Hebrew, etc (2)

There are many examples of bilingual homophones⁴ that may have unfortunate different meanings; however, the proposed name refers to the kākā (bird, Nestor notabilis) which is a te reo Māori word.

Submitting on another name (use of Te Whanganui-a-Tara for Wellington stealing the name from Whanganui (city)) (1)

The Board may be interested to note information on other names, but this submission has no bearing on this proposal.

Basis of the proposal is flawed, no evidence Paekākā tree existed (1)

Paekākā is well attested as an original name (in Thorndon (suburb)) whether or not the 'Paekākā' tree existed.

The name will undermine the branding of Victoria University of Wellington (1)

The proposal is not to alter the name 'Wellington', 'Wellington Central', or the 'Wellington CBD', 'Victoria University of Wellington', etc.

Supporting information

1. Board proposal report – Paekākā – 2021-04-20
2. Email from Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira - 2021-05-20
3. Submission summary spreadsheet
4. Unedited copy of Qualtrics platform submissions
5. Copies of objecting submissions not received through online platform
6. Copies of supporting submissions not received through online platform
7. Media articles on Paekākā

⁴ Words from different languages that sound alike but have different etymologies.