

# Proposal considered by the Board on 22 June 2023 for Mitiwai Stream

[approve instead of Matauwai Stream]



## Summary

The proposal is to approve Mitiwai Stream as an official place name, which is one of two alternative recorded place names, for a stream near Taharoa (locality), that flows from Orangiwhao (hill) southwest for 4km into the Tasman Sea, southwest of Kawhia Harbour. The other recorded place name Matauwai Stream is shown on current official maps. Both are in the Gazetteer for the same stream.

The proposer has provided kōrero that the name refers to how the stream 'licks' at the sea and becomes part of it. The proposer represents local hapū Ngāti Mahuta ki te Hauāuru, Ngāti Rangitaka and Te Kōraha Marae, who advise that they have never heard of 'Matauwai'. Āruka Marae (at Taharoa) and Maketū Marae (at Kawhia) support the proposal and Waikato-Tainui has provided a letter of support.

Mitiwai Stream was used on official maps<sup>1</sup> but changed to Matauwai Stream on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1974) of the NZMS 1 N73 map. The stream continued to be named Mitiwai on other official maps as late as 1984 but the subsequent NZMS 260 and current NZTopo50 series<sup>2</sup> have since used Matauwai Stream.

Because there is another recorded name public notification is required to confirm one name to replace the other. This is the same process applied by the Board for

<sup>1</sup> Therefore the name is an existing recorded name, having been recorded on two official documents the Board considers to be authoritative.

the recent approval of Ngāmoko Stream, thereby replacing its alternative recorded name Ngaure Stream (gazetted 7 June 2023).

## Secretariat recommendation

[At its 22 June 2023 hui the Board resolved this recommendation]

**Accept** the proposal to **approve** the unofficial recorded place name **Mitiwai Stream** as the official place name, replacing the alternative recorded place name Matauwai Stream, based on:

- the function of the Board to encourage the use of original Māori place names and advice that 'Mitiwai' is the correct, original name,
- evidence of historical use, including use of Mitiwai Stream on official maps until relatively recently (as late as 1984),
- advice that the name used locally for the feature is Mitiwai Stream, including evidence of continued use in scientific publications,
- support from three local marae and a formal letter of support from Waikato-Tainui, and
- approving one of the names as official and replacing the other one potentially benefitting identification to emergency services,

**and**

**Notify** as a proposal to **approve** for one month.

**Noting** that Matauwai Stream, which has been in long term use (49 years) on official maps is an alternative recorded name for the same feature, so, public consultation is required.

## Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal The proposal is to approve one of two alternative recorded place names, Mitiwai Stream, over the other, Matauwai Stream.

The proposer represents the views of local hapū Ngāti Mahuta ki te Hauāuru and Ngāti Rangitaka, as well as Te Kōraha Marae. They advise that Mitiwai Stream is the correct original name and that they have no knowledge of Matauwai Stream or why the name was changed on official maps. They have advised of the importance of the feature to hapū narratives, with Mitiwai Stream being part of their pepeha, and as a natural resource in a rural location.

The proposal arose during a review of resource consent documents for the Tahuroa ironsand mining operations. The proposer advises that Mitiwai Stream and Matauwai Stream are used interchangeably in the documents.

The proposer provided this kōrero in support of Mitiwai Stream:

*Miti in te reo Māori means 'to lick', and also means 'undertow/undercurrent'. Our old people recall that the stream that passes our marae, Te Kooraha, is called Mitiwai because it is a gentle stream and once it reaches the sea mouth, it, 'licks at the salt water before it becomes part of it.' Mitiwai is a stream that provides food; mainly watercress and tuna/eel. The old people still place their rotten corn sacks further upstream for fermenting. It provides a safe swimming area for our descendants, in terms of its gentle flow. Due to the remote location of the marae, it supplies water for the kitchen and ablution blocks and also provides water to the farms that have stock in paddocks close to the stream. It has been a part of hapū narratives for generations.*

The proposer has also provided:

- a copy of a 1993 scientific publication referring to Mitiwai Stream and the geophysical processes behind 'Mitiwai Formation' being a layer of the ironsands.
- a copy of survey plan ML 6206/1 (1889) naming Mitiwai Stream and Mitiwai for a settlement near where Te Koroaha Marae is presently, and
- an excerpt from a booklet produced for the opening of Te Kōraha Marae's waharoa on 29 January 2023. A Co-Chair of Te Kōraha Marae later provided the whole booklet (refer Supporting information), which details the narrative of the name Mitiwai. A new logo designed for the marae has a representation of Mitiwai Stream and the action of the 'lick' or intermixing of the fresh and salt waters.

Names shown on plans and maps

The feature is named Mitiwai Stream on survey plans such as ML 6206/1 (1889) and on official cadastral maps NZMS 13 SAK47-48 (1933, 1958 eds), NZMS 177 N74 (1971).

On the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the NZMS 1 N73 map (1953) it is named Mitiwai Stream but changes to Matauwai Stream on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1974). The name remains as Matauwai Stream on the current NZTopo50-BE31.

Another stream 12.8km east-northeast at Kawhia Harbour is named Matauwai Stream on ML 6430/1 (1889) and on all of the cadastral maps above. When Mitiwai Stream was renamed Matauwai Stream on the NZMS 1 N73 (1974), the former position became unnamed. There may be cause to restore Matauwai

Stream to that original position if correct, however, it is not the subject of this proposal.

The change may have been an error relating to the repositioning of this name. However, the NZMS 1 map files were lost. These contained correspondence and instructions regarding changes between editions, and sometimes included changes to place names.

The feature continued to be named Mitiwai Stream on the 1:250k topographic series NZMS 18, sheet 4 (1983/84) despite the change on the inch to the mile series. On the subsequent metric NZMS 262 series (sheet 4, 1987) and NZTopo250 map it is unnamed.

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Location of the feature, generic term, [geographic feature type](#)

The feature is a stream near Taharoa (locality), which flows from Orangiwhao (hill) southwest for approximately 4km into to the Tasman Sea, southwest of Kawhia Harbour. [Stream](#) is an appropriate feature type.

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New Zealand [Gazetteer](#), associated names, and duplication

[Matauwai Stream](#) is an unofficial recorded name in the Gazetteer. There are no associated or duplicated place names.

[Mitiwai Stream](#) was added to the Gazetteer by the Secretariat in May 2023 as an alternative unofficial recorded place name, as it meets the relevant criteria. There are no associated or duplicated 'Mitiwai' names in the Gazetteer.

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Research, history and references to the feature

There is no record in the archives of the Board for either name.

There are references to a settlement called Mitiwai<sup>2</sup> (named on ML 6206/1 above) and 'Mitiwai Beach'<sup>3</sup> in early newspapers. There are references to Mitiwai Stream, 'Mitiwai Sands' and the 'Mitiwai Formation' in scientific publications, including geological maps held by GNS Science.<sup>4</sup> Some of the publications are relatively recent.

Conversely, there are very few references to Matauwai Stream. No references suggesting Matauwai Stream is considered to be correct have been found.

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Consultation with iwi and others

Waikato-Tainui has provided a letter of support, and to date no response has been received from Ngāti Maniapoto.

In correspondence with Waikato-Tainui, Āruka Marae (at Tahuroa) and Maketū Marae (at Kawhia) have also advised of their support for the proposal.

Advice on orthography<sup>5</sup>

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator has advised that the correct orthography is Mitiwai based on the kōrero provided with the proposal.

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Relevant section from the [NZGB Act 2008](#)

Section 11(1)(e) is a function of the Board to encourage the use of original Māori place names on official charts and maps.

*The proposer on behalf of local hapū and a marae located next to the feature advises that Mitiwai is the correct original Māori name for the stream.*

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<sup>2</sup> [ON HORSEBACK THROUGH THE KING COUNTRY](#). *New Zealand Herald*, Volume XXXV, Issue 10813, 23 July 1898, Page 1 (Supplement)

<sup>3</sup> [TAHAROA NATIVE SCHOOL PICNIC](#). *Kawhia Settler and Raglan Advertiser*, Volume XII, Issue 681, 6 March 1914, Page 5

<sup>4</sup> Examples: [Te Kuiti subdivision. Sheet 1. Marakopa survey district N. Field sheet](#) (1928); [Taharoa ironsand](#) (1957)

<sup>5</sup> The conventions and rules of how to write a language



Under section 24 the Board may approve a recorded name as official if there are (2)(a) 'no known alternative recorded names', without giving public notice under section 16.

*Both names meet the criteria of being unofficial 'recorded' place names as both are used on multiple official documents which the Board considers authoritative. Therefore, as there are 'alternative recorded names' the Board must publicly notify the proposal for submissions to approve one as official to replace the other.*

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

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### 1.6 Altered names

A name may be altered where it does not follow established long-term local or common use. Any alteration should balance the cultural and historical significance of the name against long-term use and the practical need for location identification.

*The feature has been named Matauwai Stream on official maps for the last 49 years. Mitiwai Stream was used prior to this on official maps and the proposer has provided evidence the name is still in use. Technically, the proposal is to approve one name thereby replacing the other, rather than to 'alter' it.*

Concerns or issues for emergency services

The proposal may align with local use and the interchangeable use of two unofficial recorded names for the same feature could have an impact on emergency services. Approving one of the names as official may be beneficial.

Media

Media attention is unlikely.

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## Supporting information

1. Proposal for Mitiwai Stream – 4 April 2023
2. Letter of support from Waikato-Tainui – 19 May 2023
3. Correspondence with marae and support for the proposal – May 2023
4. Te Kooroha Marae waharoa opening booklet – 29 January 2023