

Submissions considered by the Board on 3 October 2023 for Mitiwai Stream

[approve instead of Matauwai Stream]



Summary

At its 22 June 2023 hui the Board accepted a proposal to approve Mitiwai Stream as an official place name, for a stream near Taharoa (locality), southwest of Kawhia Harbour. The proposal made on behalf of local hapū and Te Kōraha Marae sought to correct official maps which currently show Matauwai Stream. Because Mitiwai Stream and Matauwai Stream are alternative recorded names for the same feature, public notification was required to approve one of the names as official.

During public notification from 1 August 2023 to 5 September 2023 the Board received four supporting submissions and one submission objecting to the proposal.

The supporting submissions reaffirm that Mitiwai Stream is correct and Matauwai Stream is unheard of, or otherwise support the local hapū in their proposal. The objecting submitter wrote: *'Why change the name that this stream has been known by for decades. These constant name changes only cost the tax payer more money.'*

The Secretariat does not consider these reasons to outweigh the reasons the Board accepted for the proposal. Evidence was provided that the feature is known as Mitiwai Stream, with use of Matauwai Stream on official maps appearing to be an error. Concern over unspecified costs would not outweigh the Board's function to restore the original Māori name.

For the recent proposal for Ngāmoko Stream, the Board considered a similar submission objecting to ‘changing’ the existing name to be invalid, because Ngamoko Stream *was* the existing name. Therefore, the Board made the final determination. While Mitiwai Stream is also one of two existing names, in this case Matauwai Stream is what is currently named on official maps and the objection contains another reason around costs. Therefore, the Board would need to reject the objecting submission in terms of [s.18\(1\)\(b\) NZGB Act 2008](#) and report its decision to the Minister for Land Information.

At its 3 October 2024 hui the Board resolved this recommendation.

Secretariat recommendation

Consider the five submissions on the proposal to approve the unofficial recorded name **Mitiwai Stream** as an official place name and their reasons,

and

Reject the **one** objecting submission that supports the alternative existing unofficial recorded name, Matauwai Stream, based on the reasons provided not outweighing those the Board previously accepted for the proposal and new reasons, being:

- 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,
- approving one of the names as official and replacing the other one potentially benefitting identification to emergency services,
- the use of the alternative existing unofficial recorded name, Matauwai Stream, appears to have been depicted in error on maps since 1984, and
- costs to change the name of the stream on maps and road signs (if there are any) would be negligible, especially for digital updates, and do not outweigh the Board’s function to use the original Māori place name,

and

Confirm the Board’s earlier decision to accept the proposal to approve the unofficial recorded name **Mitiwai Stream** as an official place name, and replacing the alternative existing unofficial recorded name, Matauwai Stream.

and

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

Background

Draft Board
minutes 22
June 2023

'Mitiwai Stream has been in long term use including prior use on official maps. However, Matauwai Stream is another recorded name for the feature, so Mitiwai Stream can't be approved as official under section 24 of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008 without public consultation, that is, it has to be publicly notified for submissions. Waikato-Tainui and multiple local marae support the proposal.'

Notification

Advice to
mana whenua
of public
notification

On 26 June 2023 the Secretariat advised Te Kōraha Marae (the proposers), Āruka Marae, Maketū Marae, Waikato-Tainui and Te Nehenehenui Trust (Ngāti Maniapoto) that the Board would notify the proposal for submissions on 1 August 2023.

No views were received, and no submissions made during the notification period, noting all groups other than Te Nehenehenui Trust already advised support for the proposal.

Advice to MPs

The Secretariat advised the MPs for Taranaki-King Country, Te Tai Hauāuru and all neighbouring electorates that submissions on the proposals were open until 5 September 2023. Tama Potaka, MP for Hamilton West advised he had no comment as it was a matter for Taranaki-King Country and mana whenua around Kawhia Harbour.

Public
notification
including
social media

The Board advertised the proposals:

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#),
 - in the *Sunday Star Times* and *Te Awamutu Courier*,
 - on the Toitū Te Whenua [Consultation](#) page, its [Facebook page](#), and the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.
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Media

The Board published [a bilingual media release](#) about the proposal and other final decisions on 1 August 2023. There hasn't been any media coverage.

Supporting information

1. Board proposal report – Mitiwai Stream – 2023-06-22
2. Qualtrics spreadsheet with the five submissions