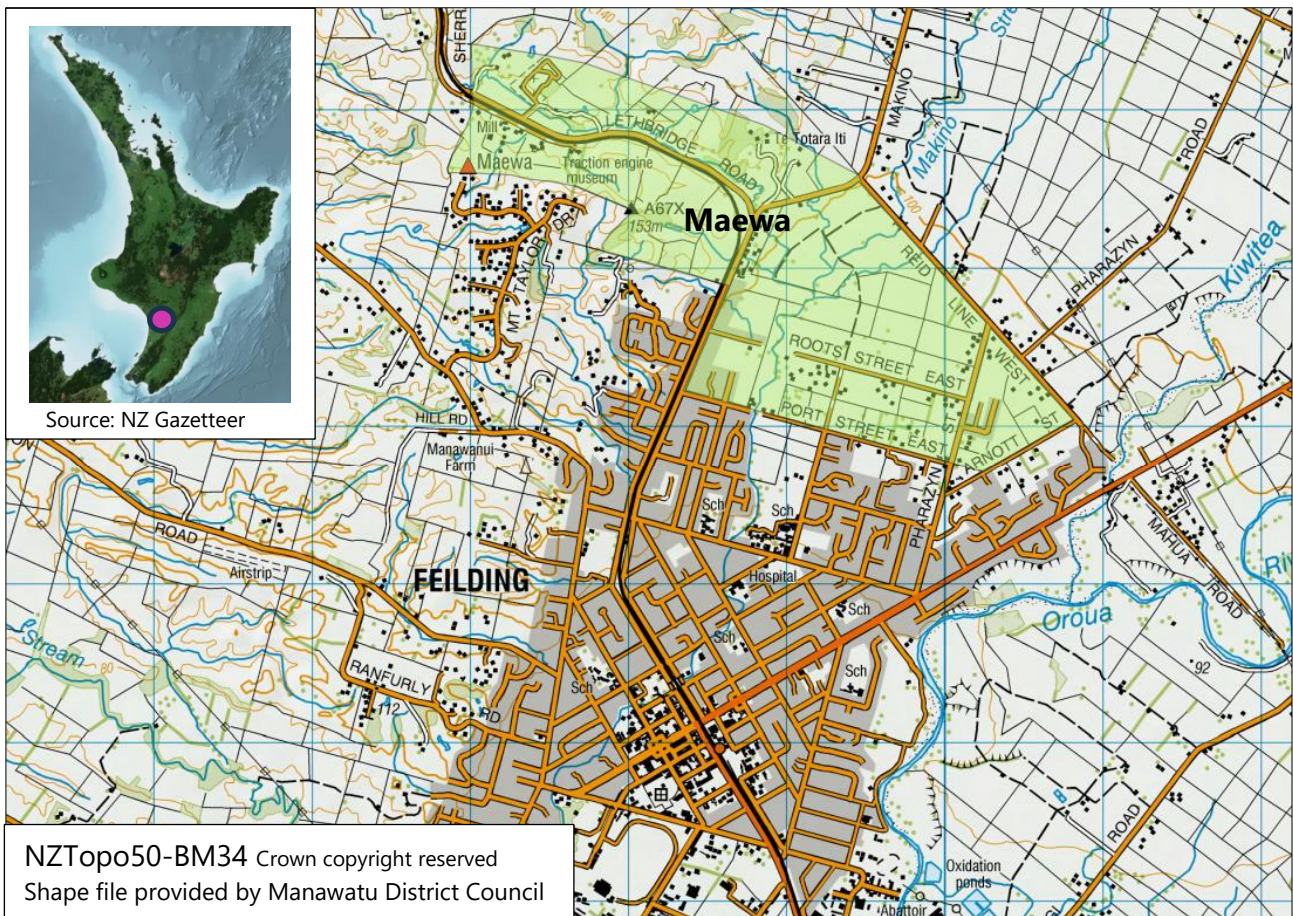


# Proposal report considered by the Board on 30 April 2024 for Maewa (suburb) with the Board's decision

[altered from Maewa (locality) and Precinct 4 (local use name), including a new extent]



## Summary

The proposal from Manawatu District Council is to alter the unofficial recorded locality name, Maewa, by extending it south-eastwards to include a future new development locally referred to as Precinct 4 and become the official name of a new suburb of Feilding.

Maewa is an original Māori place name which Ngāti Kauwhata gifted to the council for the new suburb. Meaning 'to meander', Maewa describes the meandering waterway that begins as a puna or aquifer at the current locality and flows eastwards into Makino Stream, connecting it to the precinct and town. The council has provided its formal resolution that the new suburb be named Maewa and evidence of consultation with the residents of the locality.

The Board has a statutory function where it may define extents. However, populated places can increase in size so their boundaries may need to change. Therefore, it is recommended that if the Board accepts the proposal, the extent that the council has provided be publicly notified. However, it isn't intended that the detailed boundaries be included in a final gazette notice. This would enable minor adjustments to be made in the future without having to go through the full Board process. The boundaries would be depicted in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset, which is used to support addressing and emergency responses.

## Board's decision

At its 30 April 2024 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

**Accept** the proposal to **alter** the unofficial recorded locality name Maewa to **Maewa** as the official name of a new suburb under development in Feilding, based on:

- the proposal with its extent having been made by the council itself (which the Board encourages<sup>1</sup>),
- the new suburb needing its own name with separate identity, noting that there are no other named suburbs in Feilding,
- the new suburb meeting the NZGB Act 2008 definition of 'an identifiable area within a local authority area, usually urban in character, with facilities such as those for education, transport, and shopping',
- Maewa being an original Māori name that has a strong association with the area,
- recognising the traditional narrative and cultural values associated with the name,
- evidence of support for the proposal from mana whenua and residents of the existing Maewa (locality), and
- giving effect to the Board's strategic goal to officially name and define all suburbs and localities.

**and**

**Notify** as a proposal to alter for three months.

## Secretariat assessment

The proposal

Manawatu District Council is seeking to alter the extent of the unofficial recorded locality name Maewa to include a new development it refers to as Precinct 4, to become the official name of a new suburb being developed in Feilding. The council's intention is to extend Maewa (locality) south-eastwards to include Precinct 4.

As part of its town planning function the council identified areas or precincts for residential development in Feilding. One of those areas has the working name, Precinct 4. In preparation for a large housing development the council asked Ngāti Kauwhata, te iwi kāinga, to provide a suitable name for the area known as Precinct 4. After careful consideration, the name offered was Maewa, in acknowledgement of a small stream of significance to the iwi.

The stream, Maewa, which translates as 'to meander', starts from a puna or aquifer at the current locality of Maewa and meanders eastwards to connect with Makino Stream, which flows through the precinct and town. Maewa is the meandering waterway that connects the locality to the precinct and town.

The council has provided an excerpt from its 5 October 2023 minutes with its resolution formally endorsing that the new suburb be named Maewa.

The council has advised that:

- within the 256 ha available for development there could be up to 1778 residential lots,

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.linz.govt.nz/guidance/place-naming/propose-place-name/suburb-and-locality-names>

- the main developer in the Precinct 4 area had a sod turning ceremony in February 2024 and their first phase will see 40 houses built. Another developer who has a much smaller block (~70 sections) has started laying infrastructure,
- a shopping complex is not required as there are a number of small shops/dairies in the near vicinity,
- there is sufficient capacity within existing schools to accommodate children within the Precinct 4 area,
- 25 ha will be open spaces and 4 ha will be allocated as reserves.

Names shown on plans and maps

Maewa (locality) has been shown on official maps since the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of NZMS 1, N144, in 1955 (almost 70 years), so it is a well-established name.

Map/plan	Date	Name
DP 21	1875	Not named
NZMS 13, WN48	1917, 1924, 1948	Not named
NZMS 1, N144	1955, 1965, 1971	Maewa [locality]
NZMS 260, R23-S23	1986, 2005	Maewa [locality]
NZTopo50-BM34	2019	Maewa [locality]

[Geographic feature type](#), generic term, location and extent of the feature

[Section 4 of the NZGB Act 2008](#) defines a suburb as an identifiable area within a local authority area, usually urban in character with facilities such as those for education, transport and shopping. Maewa would loosely meet the definition of a suburb, noting that the facilities that would serve it are not within the proposed extent.

Currently Maewa is a locality just to the northwest of Feilding. The council has provided a shapefile which shows that once extended south-eastwards, the new suburb will cover approximately 4.5km<sup>2</sup>. However, while the Board has a statutory function where it may define extents, populated places can increase in size so their boundaries may need to change. Therefore, if Maewa (suburb) becomes official, it is recommended that the detailed boundaries are not included in the final gazette notice. This would enable minor adjustments to be made in the future without having to go through the Board's full statutory process. The boundaries would be depicted in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset.

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

[Maewa](#) (locality) is an unofficial recorded name in the Gazetteer.

[Maewa](#) is also the unofficial recorded name of a hill approximately 60km north-northwest of the locality. The two features are far enough distant from each other for there to be any issues when communicating with emergency services. Also noting that Maewa (locality) already exists and has not caused any concerns because of duplication.

Research, history and references to the feature

There are no entries in the Board’s archives for Maewa.  
A railway station opened at Maewa in 1914, but the closing date is unclear.<sup>2</sup>  
Papers Past record a [Derailment at Maewa Tablet Station](#) in 1936 and a [marriage at Maewa](#) in 1945.

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Consultation with iwi and others

Rangitāne o Manawatū have advised that they support the proposal. Ngāti Kauwhata, who gifted the name to the council, are a hapū of Te Rūnanga o Raukawa. To date there has been no feedback from Te Rūnanga o Raukawa or Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa within whose area of interest the proposal also falls.  
The council has provided evidence of consultation with the residents of the current locality of Maewa. The council has responded to their concerns advising that they will remain zoned as rural and there will be no change to their current rating system or restrictions imposed on their land because of the proposal. One resident has suggested that the new suburb be named Maewa East.

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Advice on orthography<sup>3</sup>

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator has confirmed that Maewa, meaning ‘to meander through’, is the correct orthography.

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

Section 3(e) provides for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features. Under section 10(1)(e) a principal function of the Board when it alters a place name is to investigate and determine the feature’s extent.  
*See above for discussion on gazetting an extent if the suburb is officially named.*  
Other functions of the Board under section 11(1)(d)&(e) are to encourage the collection and use of original Māori names on official charts and maps.

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[Standard for NZ place names](#) criteria

### 1.1 Acceptable names

(b) the Board encourages contemporary Māori place names and the restoration of original Māori place names.

*Maewa is an original Māori place name that has been in long term use and has a strong association with the area. The local hapū gifted the name for the new suburb and it is supported by wider mana whenua.*

### 1.3 Undesirable names and other considerations

(a) The names of populated places should be unique and unambiguous. Populated place names should support identification for emergency services and property addressing.

*Maewa (locality) is an ‘additional name’ within, and associated with, Feilding (town) in the [NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset](#) which is used to add locality and suburb names to official property addresses and is used for emergency response.*

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<sup>2</sup> Juliet Scoble (2010), [Names & Opening & Closing Dates of Railway Stations in New Zealand 1863 to 2010](#), Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand. Accessed 6 March 2024.

<sup>3</sup> The conventions and rules of how to write a language

Cost implications     If the proposal proceeds, there should be no significant concerns because of cost. Updates to signs, promotional material, maps, databases, websites, etc would be done over time during routine maintenance.

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Media                     There was some media coverage prior to the Board receiving the proposal<sup>4</sup> and an article on original Māori place names in the wider Feilding area was published during Te Wiki o te Reo Māori<sup>5</sup> in September 2023.

In March 2024 the media reported that some Feilding residents are unhappy that Kāinga Ora plan to build a cluster of 20 state houses in the new Maewa suburb.<sup>6</sup>

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## Supporting information

1. Proposal for Maewa – 2023-10-20
2. Email with orthographic advice – 2024-01-31
3. Email from Rangitāne o Manawatū – support proposal – 2024-02-28
4. Council’s consultation with residents – 2024-03-19

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<sup>4</sup> Matthew Dallas, [‘Maewa gifted as name for fledging suburb in north Feilding’](#), *Stuff*, 11 October 2023.

<sup>5</sup> George Heagney, [‘With a name comes Kaupapa: The history of Māori names of significance in Feilding’](#), *Stuff*, 11 September 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Janine Rankin, [Residents upset by plan for Kāinga Ora housing in Feilding’s new suburb](#), *Stuff*, 23 March 2024.