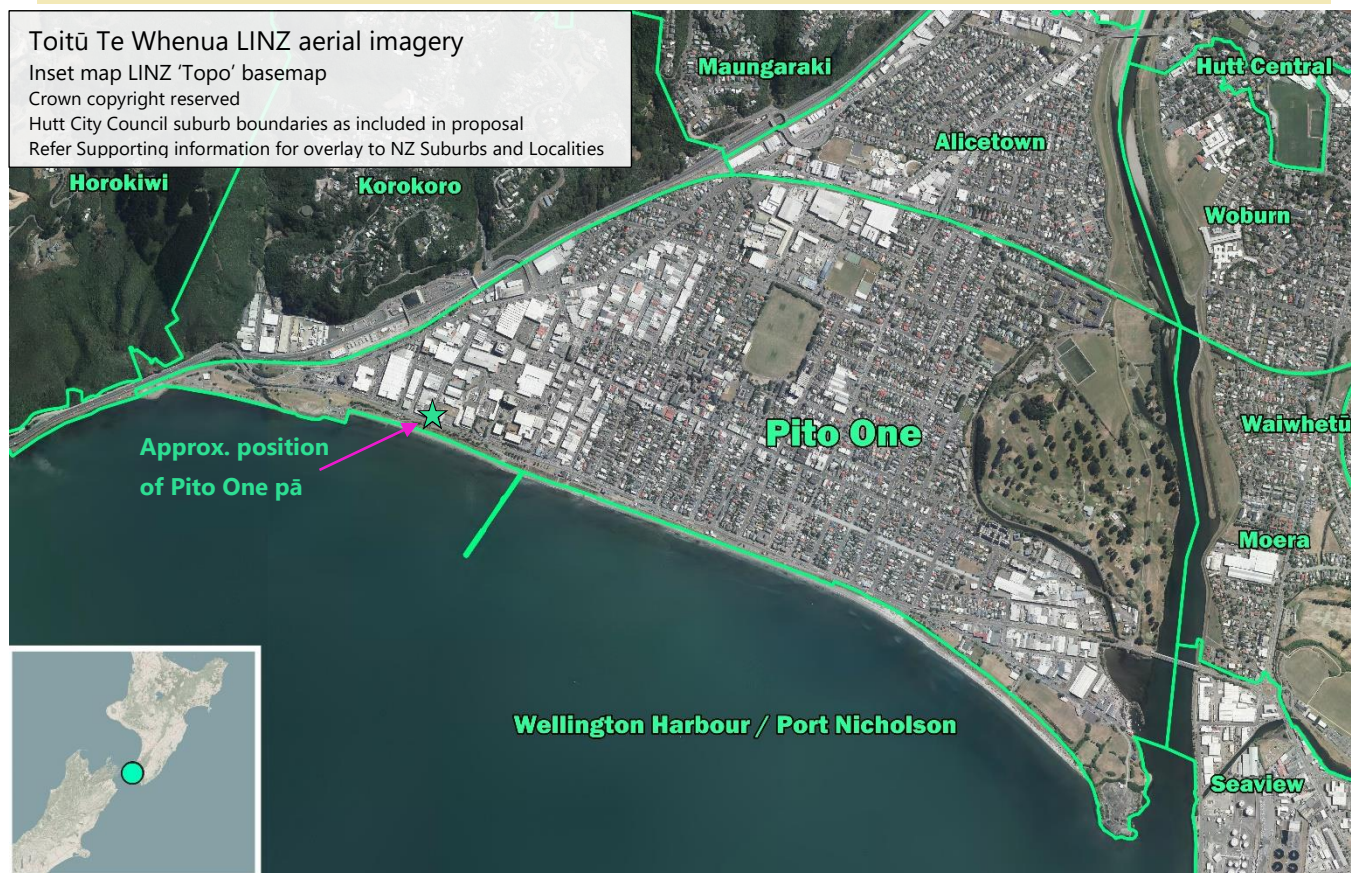


Proposal report considered by the Board on 30 April 2024 for Pito One (suburb) with the Board's decision

[altered from Petone (suburb)]



Summary

The joint proposal from Wellington Tenth's Trust and Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust is to officially alter the existing unofficial suburb name Petone to Pito One, for the Lower Hutt suburb.

Their kōrero for the place name refers to the act of burying the pito [umbilical cord] of newborns in the one [sand/earth] as an act of ahi kā [occupation], 'a symbolic tethering of a newborn to the land and their tūrangawaewae'. The suburb name relates to Pito One Beach, and Pito One pā at its southwest.

The proposers have provided an extent for Pito One (suburb) as shown on the map above, supplied by Hutt City Council. It is nearly identical to the existing unofficial NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset boundaries used for addressing which have not changed over 15-20 years. While the proposal contains little specific comment on the extent, the public's views on the proposed extent may be sought during notification of the proposal.

That the current spelling is incorrect is well known, albeit with 'Pito-one', then 'Pitoone' previously recognised by the Board as the correct spelling:

- In 1930 the Honorary Board ruled that Pito-one was the correct spelling but had no power to enforce it.
- In 1948 Petone (Borough) was gazetted as official with 'Pito-one is the correct form' in the remarks column.

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- In 1951 the New Zealand Post Office requested a definitive ruling. The Board again upheld the Petone spelling officially for the Borough, Post Office, and Railway Station, though did not gazette any of the names.
 - Twice in 2019, the Board declined approving Petone under fast-track processes, due to orthographic advice the name was correctly Pitoone.

Petone Railway Station would need a consequential name change if Pito One for the suburb becomes official.

Board's decision

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

Accept the proposal to officially **alter** the existing unofficial recorded suburb name Petone to **Pito One**, including the proposed extent, based on:

- the Board's functions to determine the correct spelling of place names, with evidence of the provenance of the name and its correct spelling from the proposers as mana whenua,
- the long-term use of the spelling as Petone not outweighing using the correct orthography for an original Māori name,
- advice confirming the orthography for Pito One as two words, and not Pito-one or Pitoone, directly from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori,
- the Board having recognised the incorrectness of the existing name several times, notwithstanding it has previously considered 'Pito-one' or 'Pitoone' to be the correct spelling, and
- evidence of support from Hutt City Council and mana whenua,
- the extent as supplied by Hutt City Council being appropriate, noting it is also mostly identical to the existing unofficial extent from the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset, and that public notification will enable the Board to consider any feedback on the extent,

and

Notify as a proposal to alter for three months.

Secretariat assessment

The proposal

The joint proposers, Wellington Tenth Trust and Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust, seek to officially alter the existing unofficial recorded suburb name Petone to **Pito One** to correct the spelling.

The proposers have provided:

- their kōrero that the name refers to burial of pito [umbilical cord] in the one [sand/earth] as an expression of their ahi kā [occupation] and mana whenua, being the *'symbolic tethering of a newborn to the land and their tūrangawaewae'*.
- some historical context, eg that Pito One pā was where senior rangatira Te Puni met William Wakefield and the New Zealand Company settlers in 1839, and that the environs of the pā *'stretched between the foreshore and Jackson Street, and between Korokoro Stream in the west and Victoria Street in the east'*.
- further documentary evidence of the use of the name, eg:
 - references in early correspondence and on maps and surveys (varyingly Pito-one, Pitoone, Pito One, Pito one, etc) and how this changed over time to Petone, and
 - evidence of prior discussions about altering the name back,
- a formal letter of support from Hutt City Council,
- letters of support from these iwi/hapū organisations:
 - Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (Taranaki Whānau ki te Upoko o Te Ika),
 - Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa ki te Upoko o te Ika a Māui and Waiwhetū Marae Trust,
 - Te Tatou o Te Pō Marae
- a letter from the CE of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (TTWh) with advice confirming Pito One is the correct orthography,
- a marked-up extent for the proposed Pito One (suburb) supplied by Hutt City Council.

The proposal was initially for Pito-one with a hyphen and lower case second [o]. At its 30 October 2023 hui, Poari Hapori o Pito-One | Petone Community Board resolved to recommend to Hutt City Council that it support the proposal. At its 22 November 2023 hui, Hutt City Council considered the recommendation and a report. It resolved to support the proposal for Pito-one.¹ News media widely covered these decisions (see media section at end of report and articles in Supporting information).

However, after receiving council support kaumātua considered that the name should be in the form Pito One as two words to *'give clarification to the meaning and return mana to the name.'* This necessitated going back to the council and supporters, all of whom have provided new letters of support for 'Pito One'.

¹ Petone Community Board and Hutt City Council minutes are available here: <https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/council-meetings/meeting-agendas-and-minutes> - last accessed 17 April 2023

Due to the change from Pito-one to 'Pito One', and following widespread news coverage, it is possible that there will be confusion should the Board accept the proposal for Pito One. Prior news articles and Hutt City Council's now outdated media release² are readily available to anyone seeking information on the proposal.

The proposers note they plan to address further place name corrections such as to Epuni [Te Puni] and Naenae [Te Ngaengae].

Names shown on plans and maps

Spellings on early plans and maps vary in naming the pā, the beach and Maōri land blocks. From the late 1870s maps and plans mostly use 'Petone' for the township and railway station. Official maps published by Lands and Survey and its successor departments consistently use 'Petone' in the 20th and 21st centuries. Some maps only name Petone for the borough (for a past type of local government area) or treat the borough and populated place synonymously.

A full table of plans and maps is in the Secretariat research document in Supporting information.

[Geographic feature type](#), generic term, location

Petone is the unofficial recorded name for a suburb of Lower Hutt, in Lower Hutt City³, Wellington Region. The [New Zealand Geographic Board \(Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa Act\) 2008](#) ('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*'. Therefore, suburb remains the appropriate feature type.

Extent of the feature

The proposed extent closely follows three well-defined natural or man-made boundaries, being:

- the foreshore of [Wellington Harbour / Port Nicholson](#) to the south,
- [Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River](#), to the east,
- part of [Wairarapa Line](#) (railway line) west from the river, then southwest to 500m beyond the mouth of Korokoro Stream.

This extent is nearly identical to the existing unofficial extent in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset (refer Addressing implications below). At the southwest it extends slightly further along the shoreline, and at the foreshore it uses current cadastral (property) boundaries rather than approximating Mean High Water Springs. If the Board agrees to notify an extent for Pito One it could accept the proposed extent as supplied by Hutt City Council or make any change it considers appropriate.

As populated places change in size their boundaries may need to change, so while the Board may consult on this extent, it isn't intended that detailed boundaries be included in a final gazette notice. This would enable minor adjustments to continue being made in the future through the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset without having to go through the statutory process.

² [Petone to Pito-One: Changing the name of an area](#). Hutt City Council, 27 November 2023 – last accessed 10 April 2024.

³ Noting the Local authority is officially Hutt City Council rather than Lower Hutt City Council, by way of the [Lower Hutt City \(Name of City Council\) Act 1991](#).

[New Zealand Gazetteer](#),

associated place names and duplication

[Petone](#) is an unofficial recorded⁴ suburb name in the Gazetteer. [Petone Railway Station](#) is an associated unofficial recorded name.

There are no duplications of 'Petone'. However there is a [Pitoone Stream](#) at [Kūaotunu West](#), Coromandel Peninsula, a [Pitone Stream](#) and [Pitone](#) (hill) near [Awakino](#), Waitomo District, and another [Pitone Stream](#) southwest of Ōakura, New Plymouth District. Due to the large geographic separation there is no risk of confusion with these names.

Board archives and Secretariat research

A Secretariat research document in Supporting information summarises prior Board considerations, notes early references to the name (spelled in several ways), and considers some evidence of when the current 'Petone' became the established spelling.

Consultation with iwi

The proposers as mana whenua sought and received letters of support from three related iwi/hapū organisations.

Based on *Te Kāhui Māngai*, the Secretariat also forwarded the proposal to Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira (Ngāti Toa), Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust and Rangitāne o Wairarapa, requesting any views.

[Secretariat note: Support from Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira was tabled at the Board's 30 April 2024 hui].

Should the Board accept the proposal these additional groups will also be advised in terms of the Board's *Kaupapa for Māori Place Names*.

Consultation with others

The proposers sought endorsement from Hutt City Council to alter Petone to Pito-one, which they received on 22 November 2023. Following the change in the proposal from Pito-one to Pito One, the proposers provided an updated letter of support for the new orthography from Hutt City Council on 23 January 2024.⁵

Advice on orthography⁶

The Board's expert licensed translator has consistently advised (twice in 2019, 2024) that Pitoone is the correct orthography, based on rules for compounding words in the [Guidelines for Māori Language Orthography](#) published by TTWh.

The proposers sought further orthographic advice directly from TTWh. TTWh provided a letter of support for the proposed Pito One, writing that *'the separation of the two words does not change the meaning of the name and probably makes it clearer'*. In the letter TTWh states: *'We understand that our orthographic conventions are being used to justify Pitoone but point out the following from the conventions:*

1. Section 3: 3 - proper names - separately if appropriate i.e., Pito One.'

Section 3 concerns compounding of proper nouns [these same rules were cited for 'Pitoone'], when to use hyphens, and specific rules around [Te], [Ngā/kā], nui/iti, and particles. TTWh may have meant to refer to Section 2 #3, which

⁴ A recorded place name is one that has appeared on at least two authoritative publications, ie maps, charts or databases, which the Board has resolved to be: NZMS map, Toitū Te Whenua LINZ Archived Place Names Database, [Kā Huru Manu](#), and all hydrographic and bathymetric maps and charts published under a New Zealand hydrographic authority at the time of publication. A recorded name is not official.

⁵ Noting it remains dated 29 November 2023 per the original letter.

⁶ The conventions and rules of how to write a language.

states 'where there is a good chance for a compound to be misunderstood, if separating the words removes or lessens that likelihood, then separate them.'

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

Functions under section 11(1) are to: (b) examine cases of doubtful spelling of names and determine the spelling to be adopted on official charts or official maps, and (d)&(e) to encourage the collection and use of original Māori names on official charts and maps.

Pito One is advised to be the correct spelling.

[Standard for NZ place names](#) criteria

1.3 Undesirable names and other considerations

(e) Long-term existing names or names that are in common local use may take precedence over new names if they conform to this standard. Some long-term existing names (Māori and non-Māori) will not conform to the standard but are historically embedded.

The Board has consistently recognised that Petone is not correctly spelled but has upheld Petone based on long term and established use. The Board may consider that the reasons provided in this proposal, including support from the relevant local authority, Hutt City Council, mean it is now time to correct the spelling of this suburb name.

1.5 Orthographic standards

(b) The correct use of...Māori place names is dependent on expert advice from a licensed translator. The orthographic conventions of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) should be followed. However, advice from relevant hapū or iwi associated with the name will be taken into account.

The relevant hapū/iwi associated with the name have proposed Pito One and TTWh advise that this is the correct orthography. Section 11(1)(f) of the NZGB Act 2008 states that the Board may seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori on the correct orthography.

1.6 Altered names

A name may be altered when it standardises the orthography. Any alteration should balance the cultural and historical significance of the name against long-term use and the practical need for location identification.

Petone is in long term use (~ 146 years since the 'Town of Petone' subdivisions). An alteration to Pito One is unlikely to affect practical identification of the location as it is only an alteration to the spelling.

Addressing implications in relation to the proposal for the suburb

Toitū Te Whenua LINZ maintains the [NZ Suburbs and Localities](#) dataset used for official addresses. In July 2023 LINZ took over the dataset from Fire and Emergency New Zealand and published it on the LINZ Data Service. However, legal authority to name and define the extents of suburbs and localities remains with the Board. The difference between official suburb and locality names under the Board's jurisdiction and 'suburbs' and 'localities' for administrative and addressing purposes can cause confusion.

The extent for Pito One in the proposal was provided by Hutt City Council and may be viewed in its GIS.⁷ The extent is almost identical to the unofficial extent for 'Petone' in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset, other than 1): following

⁷ <https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/services/maps> - last accessed 10 April 2024

the cadastral (property) boundaries of the shoreline and 2): a small extension on the southwest.

The extension likely reflects that the land is vested in Taranaki Whānui, administered by Hutt City Council as a reserve, has boating facilities, and is accessible only from Petone. It is a logical inclusion. Accordingly, the implications for addressing are minimal. Notifying the proposed extent would provide an opportunity for public feedback on these unofficial boundaries that have been in use for 15-20 years.

Refer to Supporting information for an overlay of the two extents.

Cost implications

If the proposal proceeds, updates to signage, promotional material, maps, databases, websites, etc would be done over time during routine maintenance. Other than considering implications for updating the existing name Petone, various Hutt City, Wellington Region, and other government agencies initiatives have incorporated the spellings 'Pito-one' or 'Pito-One', including the relevant Community Board. These would also need to be updated.

For a recent example, Ngā Ūranga ki Pito-One (under construction with coastal reclamation) and Pito-One to Melling (opened 2023) are sections of Te Ara Tupua.⁸ This major project constructing a shared walking and cycle path (also notably a seawall) will connect Wellington to Lower Hutt. Although the names of paths are not themselves under the Board's jurisdiction, any planned signage on the path referring to the suburb as a destination would be.

Media

There is likely to be media coverage if the Board accepts the proposal. If the Board proceeds to notify this proposal a media release from the Board will be issued at the same time the Gazette Notice about five weeks after this hui.

There was extensive media coverage of the proposers' request to Hutt City Council to support the alteration of Petone to Pito-one, and the Council's resolution providing that support. Refer to Supporting information for references to eleven articles from 20 November 2023 to 27 November 2023.

However, the media attention raised awareness for the initial proposal for 'Pito-one'. Should the Board accept the updated proposal for Pito One, there may be confusion. The Board's media release will need to make it very clear that the proposal is for Pito One.

Supporting information

1. Proposal for Pito One – 2024-02-24
2. Correspondence with licensed translator - 2024-01-31
3. Correspondence with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori - 2024-03-25
4. Board archive material on its prior discussion and decisions
5. Correspondence with Justine Murray (RNZ) – February 2023
6. Overlay of proposed extent and existing unofficial extent from NZ Suburbs and Localities Dataset.
7. Secretariat research and media for Pito One proposal

⁸ <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ara-tupua/> - last accessed 17 April 2023