



## Summary

Christchurch City Council proposes altering the unofficial recorded<sup>1</sup> name Kaputone Creek to Kā Pūtahi as the official name of the stream that flows from the western side of residential Belfast into Styx River near Marshland in Christchurch.

*Kā Huru Manu* records that Kā Pūtahi, which means 'to join, meet, as two paths or streams meet running one into the other', is the correct spelling. 'Kaputone' is not in the Māori lexicon and has no meaning.

The Board's [Generic Terms Policy](#) records that a name without a generic term can make it difficult to identify the feature or its location and that water features in particular should include a generic term.

Although the current name has been in long term use (164 years) with the generic term 'Creek', the proposed name doesn't include a generic term either separately or embedded within the name. However, emergency services generally rely on digital technology to locate an emergency, so there may not be issues when identifying the stream if a generic term isn't included.

Mana whenua, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, support the proposal and consider that as Kā Pūtahi holds its own mana no generic term is required. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi

<sup>1</sup> A recorded place name is one that has appeared on at least two authoritative maps, charts or databases, which the Board has resolved to be: NZMS map, 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. It is not official.

Tahu (TRONT) has advised that they support the clear directive from mana whenua that Kā Pūtahi is correct, and a generic term isn't required.

If a Māori generic term was to be considered, using the Ngāi Tahu dialect for Manga (stream) the name could be Te Maka o Kā Pūtahi.

## Board's decision

At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

That the Board **accepts** the proposal to **alter** the unofficial recorded name from Kaputone Creek to **Kā Pūtahi** as the official name of the stream, based on

- The Board's functions to investigate and determine the priority of the discovery of a geographic feature, and to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps.
- The Board's responsibility to examine cases of doubtful spelling.
- Evidence in *Kā Huhu Manu* that Kā Pūtahi is the correct name of the stream.
- Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu supporting the proposal without a generic term.
- Not including a generic term being unlikely to impact on emergency services as they generally rely on digital technology to locate an emergency.

**and**

Will **notify** as a proposal to alter for one month.

## Secretariat assessment

The proposal Christchurch City Council propose altering the unofficial recorded stream name Kaputone Creek to Kā Pūtahi as its official name.

When seeking to engage with the community about renaming two associated reserves, the council's Waipapa Papanui-Innes Community Board requested that staff take the opportunity to correct the historical misspelling of Kaputone Creek to the original Māori name of Kā Pūtahi.

The council advises that Williams' dictionary defines Pūtahi as 'join, meet, as two paths or streams meet running one into the other'.<sup>2</sup> This refers to either 'Pūharakekenui' (Styx River), 'Tao-whakapuru' or 'Te Riu o Te Aika waka' which are described as tributaries of Styx River.

The council has provided evidence of support for the proposal from mana whenua, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, and cited references to verify that Kā Pūtahi is the correct name of the stream.

<sup>2</sup> *Dictionary of the Māori Language*, Government Printer, 1977, p. 316

Names shown on plans and maps

The feature has been named 'Kaputone' on plans and maps for 164 years.

Plan/map	Date	Name
<a href="#">Black Map 324</a>	c.1860	Kaputone Creek
SO 3916	1878	Kaputone Creek
SO 1556	1909	Kaputone Stream
NZMS 1, S76, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> editions	1942, 1949, 1962, 1969	Kaputone Ck
NZMS 260, M35	2004	Kaputone Ck
NZTopo50-BX24 ed. 1.07	2023	Kaputone Ck

Location and extent of the feature, generic term, and geographic feature type

The feature is a stream that flows generally eastwards for ~10.5km from near where Johns Road intersects with the Western Belfast Bypass, through residential and industrial Belfast into Styx River near Marshland in Christchurch. The Board's [Generic Terms Policy](#) records that a name without a generic term can make it difficult to identify the feature or its location and that water features in particular should include a generic term.

Although the current name has been in long term use with the generic term 'Creek', the proposer isn't seeking a generic term. In their supporting letter mana whenua, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, have commented 'In terms of a generic term, we are happy for Kā Pūtahi to hold its own mana'. TRONT supports this view.

The feature is more correctly a 'stream' as a 'creek' is defined as flowing into the sea.

New Zealand Gazetteer, duplication, and associated names

No other features in the Board's naming jurisdiction are named Kaputone. Kaputone Place is an associated street name in Belfast, Christchurch, under the council's jurisdiction.

A hill approximately 3.5km north of Kaikohe is named [Putahi](#). [Putahi](#) is also the name of a trig station and hill ~5.5 km northeast of Patea. [Ngaputahi](#) is a remote locality 18.5km southeast of Murupara. These features are too far distant from this proposal for there to be any confusion because of duplication.

Research, history, and references to the feature

[Kā Huru Manu](#), which the Board accepts as an authoritative document, records: 'Kā Pūtahi is the correct spelling for Kaputone Creek – the northern tributary of Pūharakekenui (Styx River) in northern Christchurch. During the 1879 Smith-Nairn Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Ngāi Tahu Land claims, Taare Wi Teihoka and other Ngāi Tūāhuriri kaumātua recorded Kā Pūtahi as a kāinga mahinga ka (food-gathering place) where tuna (eels) were gathered.'

The Board's archives record that in June 1948 Board member Johannes Andersen advised that Kaputone was a misspelling of the correct name, and it should be Kapuatohe for the stream and a government hamlet about half a mile [~805m] west of the stream's source. He further advised 'I could never

learn the history of the name, so cannot say what it means'.<sup>3</sup> A plan of 'Kaputohe Hamlet' is shown on SO 1494 dated 1901.

Former TRONT nominated Board member Te Maire Tau notes that 'Kaputone is not a Māori word and neither does it break into words that would make sense in Māori. Furthermore, our tribal records do not mention a Kaputone'.<sup>4</sup>

A 2006 council report described the stream as being in a degraded state due to industrialisation and urbanisation of the surrounding area.<sup>5</sup> However, in March 2024 an esplanade reserve which will contain a public walkway was vested in the council, who also plan to restore and enhance the environment.<sup>6</sup>

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Consultation with iwi

TRONT has advised that they support the clear directive from mana whenua, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, that the name change to Kā Pūtahi is correct.

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Advice on orthography<sup>7</sup>

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator has confirmed that Kā Pūtahi is correct. She also advised that if the generic term maka (Ngāi Tahu dialect for manga) was used with Kā Pūtahi it would be (Te) Maka o Kā Pūtahi. The bracketed (Te) means it could probably be dispensed with, but it would be more correct to keep it in.

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

Section 3(e) of the Act provides for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features. Under sections 10(1)(c) and 11(1)(b) of the Act the Board has a responsibility to examine cases of doubtful spelling. The Board's functions also include investigating and determining the priority of the discovery of geographic features and collecting and encouraging the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps (sections 11(1)(c)(d)(e) refer).

*The proposer wishes to correct and restore the stream's original Māori name and has support from mana whenua.*

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Relevant sections from the [Standard for New Zealand place names](#)

#### 1.4 Generic terms

A generic term should accurately describe the type of feature being named. A Māori generic term should generally be commonly known in the area. Some Māori place names include the generic term as part of the name, which is acceptable.

Natural features should usually have a generic term included in their name. *Although the current name includes 'Creek', the proposed name doesn't include a generic term either separately or embedded in the name. However, emergency services generally rely on digital technology to locate an emergency, so there may not be issues when identifying the stream in an emergency.*

#### 1.6 Altered names

A name may be altered when it standardises the orthography.

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<sup>3</sup> Board correspondence, Volume 23, p.107

<sup>4</sup> Christchurch City Council, [Belfast Area Plan](#), May 2006. Accessed 22 July 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Herenga ā Nuku, [New esplanade reserve walkway along Kaputone Creek](#), 3 April 2024. Accessed 22 July 2024.

<sup>7</sup> The conventions and rules of how to write a language

Any alteration should balance the cultural and historical significance of the name against long-term use and the practical need for location identification. *The proposal would correct the orthography of the name and therefore its meaning. The proposer has provided evidence of the cultural and historical significance of the name.*

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Media

The *Star News* reported on the proposal in April 2021 when it was first mooted.<sup>8</sup> There may be some local media interest if the Board accepts the proposal for consultation.

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### **Supporting information**

1. Proposal for Kā Pūtahi – 2024-07-16
2. Email from TRONT – supports proposal – 2024-07-17
3. Email with orthographic advice – 2021-03-15

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<sup>8</sup> ['Name change on agenda for creek'](#), *Star News*, April 2021. Accessed 18 July 2024.