

BRF 25-143 Decisions on altering Takanini to Takaanini for the suburb and Railway Station in south Auckland

Ki / To:	Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Land Information	Rā / Date:	3 December 2024
Priority Level	Priority: Low	Action required by	No deadline

Purpose

To seek your final determinations on altering:

- Takanini to Takaanini (suburb), and
- Takanini Railway Station to Takaanini Railway Station.

New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa Whakapā/contacts

Ingoa/Name	Nama waea/ Contact number	Whakapā tuatahi/first contact
Anselm Haanen Board Chairperson	04 4600376 or 027 249 5901	☒
Wendy Shaw Board Secretary	04 4600581 or 027 480 7082	☐

Ngā kōrero a te Minita/Minister's comments

No

Key messages

1. A local resident made these proposals to correct Takanini to Takaanini (suburb), and Takanini Railway Station to Takaanini Railway Station, in south Auckland.
2. The Board accepted that the correct spelling had the double a's.
3. The Board accepted the proposals, which it publicly notified between 6 June 2024 and 10 September 2024. The Board received 385 submissions across the two proposals, with 239 supporting and 146 objecting. There were 291 unique submitters. Very few submitters stated they lived in Takanini itself, although the majority of submitters for and against were from across Auckland.
4. The supporting submissions for both proposals generally considered the names should be corrected to honour Ihaka Takaanini as originally intended, and that the incorrect spelling was insulting and offensive.
5. The objecting submitters were mainly concerned with the costs that a change would incur, retaining the long term use of Takanini, and that the additional [a] would create confusion.
6. At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board rejected the objecting submissions as it didn't consider the reasons provided to outweigh its reasons for accepting the proposals.
7. Because the Board didn't uphold the objections you must now make the final determination on the proposal¹.
8. Your final determination is likely to be of public and media interest.

¹ As required by section 20(1) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008

Tohutohu/Recommendations

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa recommends that you:			Deadline
1. Me whakakoia/Confirm	the Board's decision to alter the official name Takanini (locality) to Takaanini (suburb)	Agree / Disagree / Different decision	No deadline
2. Me whakakoia/Confirm	the Board's decision to alter the official name Takanini Railway Station to Takaanini Railway Station	Agree / Disagree / Different decision	No deadline
3. Me mātai/Note	that if you do not agree with the Board's decisions your determinations on the proposals are final. Takanini and Takanini Railway Station will remain the official names.	Noted	No deadline
4. Me whakakoia/Confirm	whether you or the Board will publicly announce your final decision. LINZ will work with your office on the content.	Board / Minister	No deadline



Anselm Haanen

Chairperson, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Rā/Date: 2 Dec 2024



Hon Chris Penk

**Te Minita mō Toitū Te Whenua
Minister for Land Information**

Rā/Date: 3.12.2024.

Te Horopaki/Background

9. In February 2024 the Board received two proposals (see the **Location map** at the end of this report and see **Attachment 1** for the proposal) from s.9(2)(a) to alter:
- Takanini (locality) to Takaanini (suburb), and
 - Takanini Railway Station to Takaanini Railway Station.
10. Te Ākitai Waiohua who are mana whenua endorsed the proposals. The features are named for the Te Ākitai Waiohua rangatira Ihaka Wirihana Takaanini Te Tihi (1800–1864). The current Chair of Te Ākitai Waiohua is a direct descendant.
11. The history of the development of the area and its naming is:
- Ihaka Takaanini received a Crown grant of 1120 acres in 1863. The Crown took some of the land for the route of the North Island Main Trunk railway in 1878. Ihaka Takaanini died in 1864 and his son Te Wirihama Takaanini sold the remainder of the grant to the Crown in 1885
 - in 1913 the Crown acquired additional land to build a railway station which opened in the same year. In 1914 the Maru Land Company subdivided the 'Town of Takanini' (sic) around the railway station. Services for Takanini followed such as Takanini Post Office in 1914 and Takanini School in 1923, perpetuating the misspelling.
12. In 1929 Te Ākarana Māori Association wrote to the Honorary Geographic Board requesting correction of the railway station name to Takaanini. In 1930 the Board ruled that Takaanini was correct, however it had no statutory power to enforce this ruling with New Zealand Railways.
13. In 1948 Takaanini Railway Station was gazetted as official along with all Honorary Board decisions as a requirement of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946. Following subsequent discussions with New Zealand Railways and New Zealand Post Office, in 1950 the Board agreed to backtrack and gazetted the names officially as Takanini to accord with 'established use'.
14. In 2018 Auckland Transport changed the signage for Takanini Railway Station to 'Takaanini' without going through the required statutory process to alter the official name. Section 32 of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008 requires official documents (including railway signs) to use official names, where they exist.
15. Takaanini is the correct standardised spelling. It is formed by compounding the 'Taka' and 'ānini' morphemes (word parts) into one word. Omitting one of the a's would ignore the distinct meaning of the separate parts.
16. In 2022 Te Ākitai Waiohua raised the incorrect spelling as a long-standing grievance.
17. Papakura Local Board and Auckland Council have already moved to recognise the correct spelling in the names of Takaanini Reserve and Takaanini Community Hub.

The Board's decisions on the proposals

18. At its 30 April 2024 hui the Board accepted the proposals for Takaanini (suburb) and Takaanini Railway Station (see **Attachment 2** for the *Proposals Report*). Its key reasons were based on:

- its functions to determine the correct spelling of place names, with evidence of the provenance of the name and its correct spelling, and with Takaanini being an orthographically correct compound word
- discounting long term use of the misspelled name
- support from Te Ākitai Waiohū who are mana whenua and noting their long term desire for the spelling correction
- support from Ngāti Tamaterā
- consistency between the proposed names of the suburb and railway station and the Board's view that generally railway stations should be named for the populated places that they serve
- support from Auckland Transport.

Mātanga kōrero/Consultation

19. The Board publicly notified the proposals between 6 June 2024 and 10 September 2024.

20. The Board received 385 submissions from 291 individual submitters including 16 submitters across both proposals identified as living in Takanini, which the Board considered at its hui on 15 October 2024. See **Attachment 3** for the *Submissions Report*.

21. The majority of submitters were from across Auckland. Submissions comprised:

Proposed name	Supporting	Objecting	Total
Takaanini	160	85	245
Takaanini Railway Station	79	61	140
Total	239 (62%)	146 (38%)	385

22. Supporting submissions generally aligned with the reasons why the Board had initially accepted the proposals. Most considered that because the suburb is named for Ihaka Takaanini the place name must be corrected to honour him and support Te Ākitai Waiohū and that the incorrect spelling Takanini is insulting and offensive.

23. The main reasons in the objecting submissions fell into these categories:

- Takanini should be retained based on long term use and change will confuse people and services
- the proposals are a waste of time and money. Public money can be spent in more useful ways
- anti-Māori sentiments (racist, divisive, and pandering to a minority)
- businesses will have to change their names and contact details.

Ngā tatūnga o te poari/The Board's decision

24. At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board rejected the 146 objecting submissions as it didn't consider their reasons outweighed its original reasons for accepting the proposals. Responses to some of the objecting categories are provided in the *Submissions Report*.

25. The Board agreed with the reasons in the supporting submissions and confirmed its initial decisions.

26. Because the Board didn't uphold the objections you must now make the final determinations as required by section 20(1) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.

Hīraunga ahumoni/Financial Implications

27. Official documents and documents produced for travellers and tourists are required to use official place names. However, there is no legal requirement for businesses, schools, etc to, although many may want to or feel they need to. They can choose to use them, and when.

28. To minimise costs, the Board typically adopts a soft approach to compliance by allowing changes to be made over an extended period. For example, road signage can be updated during regular maintenance and replacement cycles.

29. Should you decide to reject the Board's decisions to correct the spelling, Auckland Transport, Papakura Local Board, and Auckland Council would be expected to update their official documents to comply with the spelling of the existing official names.

Hunga pāpāho/Media

30. News media have occasionally raised the spelling of Takanini vs Takaanini since 2018 when Auckland Transport changed the Takanini Railway Station signage. There was some media coverage of the proposals at the start of the Board's public consultation process in June 2024. See **Attachments 4-7** for media engagements.

Ngā Tāwhaitanga/Next Steps and angawā/timeframes

- 31. If you agree with the Board’s decisions on the proposals, they will be notified as required by the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.
- 32. If you don’t agree with the Board’s decisions, then Takanini (suburb) and Takanini Railway Station will continue to be the official names.

Tāpiritanga/Attachments

Document number	Name of attachment
1.	Proposal for Takaanini and Takaanini Railway Station received on 26 February 2024
2.	Proposals Report considered by the Board at its 30 April 2024 hui
3.	Submissions Report summarising the submissions that the Board considered at its 15 October 2024 hui
4.	Media articles
5.	The Board’s bilingual media advisory distributed on 6 June 2024
6.	Facebook post 6 June 2024
7.	Facebook post 2 September 2024

Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

