

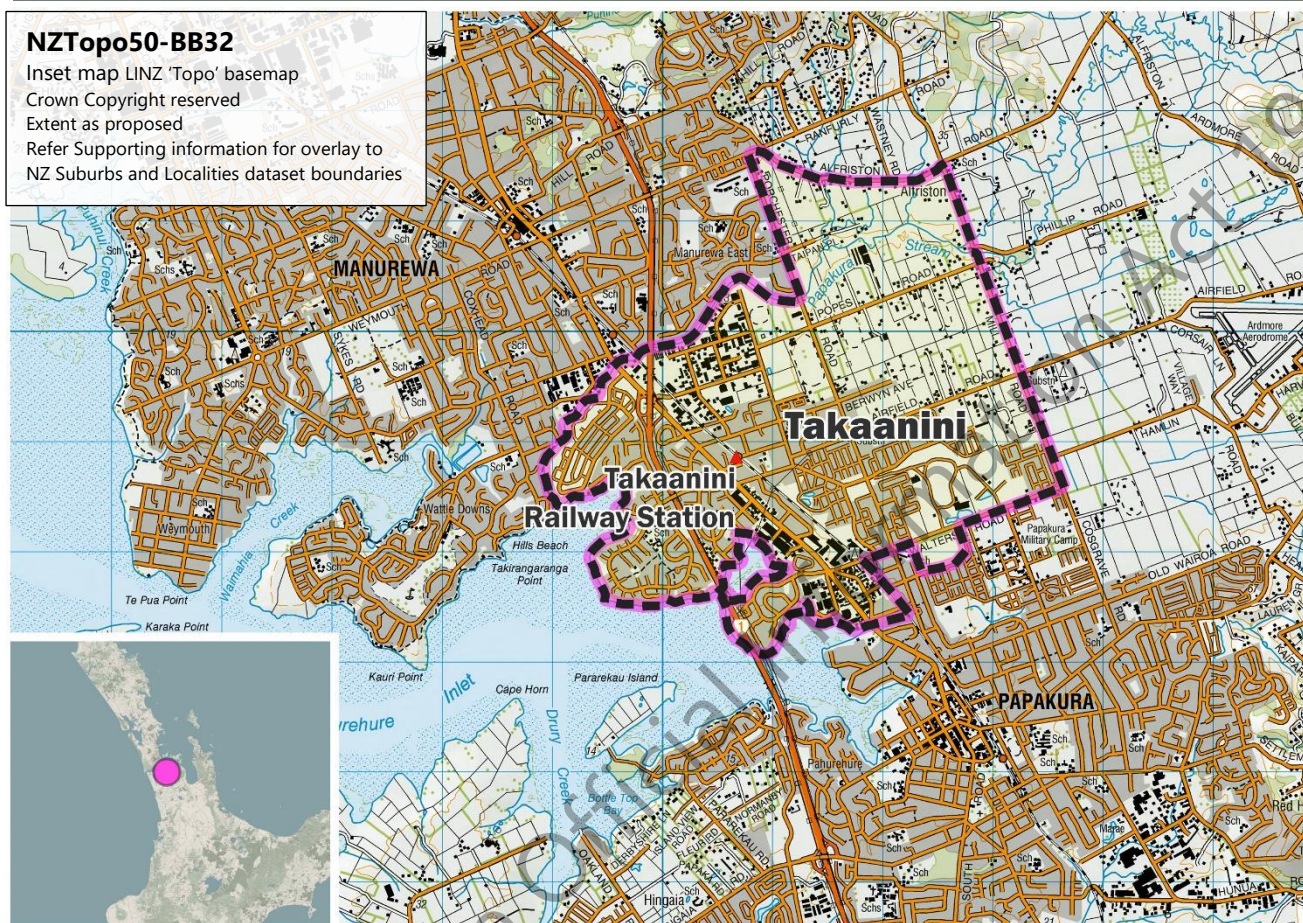
Proposals for:

Takaanini (suburb)

[altered from Takanini (locality)]

Takaanini Railway Station

[altered from Takanini Railway Station]



## Summary

The proposal from local resident s.9(2)(a) is to alter the existing official locality name Takanini to Takaanini, update the feature type to suburb and define the boundaries of the suburb. Having belatedly received the necessary support from Auckland Transport, a proposal to alter the official Takanini Railway Station to Takaanini Railway Station is also included.

Te Ākitai Waiohūa as mana whenua endorse the proposals. They are the iwi of the rangatira Ihaka Wirihihana Takaanini Te Tihi (1800-1864) for whom the suburb and railway station are named. The proposer has provided comprehensive documentary evidence to support the correct spelling. The spelling with a double [aa] also correctly reflects that Takaanini is a compound word of [Taka] and [ānini].

In 1930 following a request from Te Ākarana Māori Association, the Honorary Board confirmed that Takaanini was correct. However, in 1950 the Geographic Board agreed to alter the locality, post office, and railway station names back to Takanini based on 'established use' and incorrect or misinterpreted orthographic advice. In considering that the [aa] was a long vowel, it was considered acceptable practice at the time to drop a reduplicated vowel.

The proposer has provided an extent for Takaanini (suburb) as shown on the map above. While Papakura Local Board wished the proposer 'all the best' with his application to the Board, it has not commented on the suburb name proposal nor its extent. The proposed suburb extent includes the area of another existing suburb Conifer Grove and overlaps other suburb and localities like Alfriston (locality). It would affect at least eight of the 'suburbs' in the NZ Suburbs and Localities Dataset, managed by Toitū Te Whenua LINZ for property addressing.

The Board may therefore consider that the proposed extent is not well defined, or could adjust the proposed extents, or could consult with Papakura Local Board and Auckland Council, seeking their views and support for an extent. The Act allows the Board to define extents and it is recommended that the extent be included in the public notification so that the Board can consider the resultant feedback.

As populated places increase in size their boundaries may need to change. It isn't intended that 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 statutory process. The boundaries would however be depicted in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset through close liaison with the Secretariat.

Alternatively, the Board may instead decide to proceed only with the spelling correction and not the extent of the suburb. If so, the current NZ Suburbs and Locality dataset boundary would continue as the unofficial extent, allowing for boundary adjustments as agreed by the council.

In 2018 Auckland Transport changed the signage for Takanini Railway Station to Takaanini. The proposer sought to also alter the railway station name and written consent from Auckland Transport (as well as support for the suburb name proposal) was belatedly received on 9 April 2024. The Board's policy for railway features is that only the responsible agency may make proposals or consent to them.

---

## Secretariat recommendations

Recommendation 1 **Accept** the proposal to **alter** the existing official locality name Takanini to **Takaanini**, updating the feature type to suburb, and including its 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, and with Takaanini being an orthographically correct compound word (and not Takaānini), and
- discounting long term use of the misspelled name,
- noting the Geographic Board acknowledged Takaanini was correct in 1951 after having altered to the incorrect name to accord with 'established use' and based on erroneous orthographic advice,
- endorsement from Te Ākitai Waiohū who are mana whenua and noting their long term desire for the spelling correction,
- Papakura Local Board having been consulted, noting it *'wished the proposer all the best with his application to the Board'*,

- support from Ngāti Tamaterā,
- support from Auckland Transport,

**and**

**Noting** the different extent in the existing Takanini in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset and that public notification will enable the Board to consider feedback on the extent,

**and**

**Noting** that the proposed extent includes the unofficial recorded suburb of Conifer Grove, which is not intended to be replaced, recognising the separate identity of this area,

**and**

**Noting** it isn't intended that detailed boundaries be included in a final gazette notice. This would enable minor adjustments to be made in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset without having to go through the statutory process.

**and**

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

**AND**

Recommendation 2

**Accept** the proposal to **alter** the official name Takanini Railway Station to **Takaanini Railway Station**, based on:

- receipt of the consent/support from Auckland Transport in line with the Board's policy for railway feature names,
- consistency with the proposed name of the suburb and the Board's view that generally railway stations should be named for the populated places that they serve,
- the Board's 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,

**and**

**Notify** as a proposal to **alter** concurrently with the proposal for **Takaanini** (suburb) for three months.

**Noting** Auckland Transport have used the Takaanini spelling on its signage since 2018.

## Options

Option 3  
[replaces  
recommendations 1  
& 2]

**Defer** consideration and decisions until after consultation with the Papakura Local Board and/or Auckland Council, to agree to the extent of the proposed Takaanini (suburb),

**OR**

Option 4

**Amend Recommendation 1** by determining a different extent to that proposed.



## Secretariat assessment and advice

### The proposals

The proposer, s.9(2)(a) [REDACTED], seeks to alter the existing official locality name Takanini to **Takaanini** to correct the spelling, update the feature type to suburb, and define its extent. The proposer also seeks to alter the official Takanini Railway Station to **Takaanini Railway Station**.

Auckland Transport's agreement to the proposal for the railway station (and suburb) was belatedly received.

The proposer has provided:

- a biography of Īhaka Wirihana Takaanini Te Tihi for whom the feature is named, and a comprehensive history of the use of the name as a property appellation and locality name<sup>1</sup>
- documentary evidence of correctness of the spelling, including the signature of Īhaka Takaanini,
- evidence of consultation with Papakura Local Board, who neither supported nor objected to the proposal, but wished the proposer well with his application to the Board,
- evidence of support from Te Ākitai Waiohū, the iwi of Īhaka Takaanini. The proposer advised that Te Ākitai Waiohū are 'co-proposers' and would have liked to have made the proposal themselves but did not have the resources to prioritise doing so. Instead, they have endorsed this proposal. The proposer considered it inappropriate to consult with any other iwi/hapū/groups with an interest, given the context.
- a marked up extent for the proposed Takaanini (suburb),
- a response to earlier orthographic advice for 'Takaānini' (with a macron) arguing that by the Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori orthographic guidelines, this advice was incorrect.

As the orthographic advice was incorrect and was reconsidered (see below under Orthographic advice), the above document is mostly superseded.

However, it contains the further biographical details, documentary evidence for historic use of 'Takaanini', and examples of Auckland Council changing signage for the locality.

- A letter dated 9 April 2024 from Auckland Transport supporting the spelling alteration for the railway station name, as well as for the suburb name.

### Names shown on plans and maps

The Honorary Board's 1930 decision to correct Takanini to Takaanini (for the railway station) is briefly reflected on some official topographic maps. While the Honorary Board's decision was gazetted in 1948, all Takaanini names (the locality, railway station, post office) were officially gazetted back to Takanini in 1950. A full table of plans and maps is in the Secretariat research document in Supporting information.

<sup>1</sup> The Secretariat previously provided the proposer with all Board archive material on its 1930 and 1950 decisions on the Takaanini names

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

The proposal seeks to update the feature type, gazetted in 1950 as a locality, to suburb. The [New Zealand Geographic Board \(Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa Act\) 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’. The area has developed considerably over 74 years so altering the feature type to suburb is appropriate.

The existing locality name has no defined extent by the Board but it is unofficially defined as a suburb in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset (see Addressing implications below). In 1950 Takanini was described as being in Block XIV Otahuhu Survey District. The proposer has provided an extent for the proposed Takaanini suburb ‘based on postal boundaries, etc’. However, the proposed extent in fact overlaps three post codes.

If the Board agrees to define an extent for Takaanini it could either accept the extent proposed by the proposer, determine an alternative extent, or defer both proposals to obtain agreement from Papakura Local Board and/or Auckland Council.

Papakura Local Board’s limited response to the suburb name proposal does not appear to have included any consideration of the boundary nor the fact that the existing unofficial recorded suburb name of Conifer Grove is included. The ramifications of this have not been addressed in the proposal and proceeding to notify may be controversial or confusing as to the intention.

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

[Takanini](#) and [Takanini Railway Station](#) are official names in the Gazetteer. There are no duplications of Takaanini or Takanini elsewhere in New Zealand, other than a collected original Māori name [Ōtakanini](#), a pā at Kaipara Harbour. Confusion with this name is unlikely.

Board archives and Secretariat Research

A Secretariat research document in Supporting information contains a timeline summarising the historical information in the proposal material, Board archives and some additional research for the history of the place name and the Board’s decisions on the name.

Consultation with iwi

The proposer prepared the proposal with Karen Wilson (Te Ākitai Waiohua), a descendant of Ihaka Takaanini. The proposer considered only Te Ākitai Waiohua ‘have a direct understanding of their tupuna’ so thought it inappropriate to consult with other iwi/hapū/groups with ancestral interests. The Secretariat forwarded the proposal to the following nine Māori groups inviting any views on the proposal as per the Board’s *Kaupapa for Māori place names*. The groups were advised that the proposer was still seeking Auckland Transport’s support for the name of the railway station.

Ngāti Tamaoho	Ngāti Te Ata Waiohua	Ngāti Tamaterā
Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki	Ngāti Maru	Ngaati Whanaunga
Waikato-Tainui	Ngāti Paoa	Te Kawerau ā Maki

Ngāti Tamaterā have since advised its support for the suburb name proposal.

Consultation with others

The proposer sought endorsement from Papakura Local Board focussing on the name as opposed to its boundary. At its 13 December 2023 hui<sup>2</sup> the Board 'wished him all the best' for his application that *'the correct spelling of Takaanini be officially recognised'* and did not explicitly support or object to it. The proposer received support on 9 April 2024 from Auckland Transport for the railway station name proposal and the suburb name.

Former advice on orthography<sup>3</sup>

In 1950 the Board altered Takaanini to Takanini partly based on incorrect or confused orthographic advice. In the Board minutes the orthographic advice of Sir Āpirana Ngata is recorded as *"Authorities now inclined to drop one of the "a"s where two words coalesce"* but the decision is recorded as *'Takānini (Long 'a')*. His advice may have been misunderstood rather than incorrect given the decision on a long vowel doesn't quite match the advice regarding compound words. Ngata was not present at the 8 June 1950 Board meeting and died the following month. The gazette notice for Takanini also remarked *'Adopted instead of Takaanini although both forms considered correct'*.

Current orthographic advice

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator initially advised that 'Takaānini' was the correct orthography with a macron on the third [a]. They noted as a word Takaanini is *'a compound of 'taka' (a prefix in words involving a sense of revolution or circuit) and ānini meaning giddy (having a sensation of whirling etc). It is a word in its own right and is glossed as giddy, dizzy.'* They also noted that the name *'is not a precedent for double vowel names rather than macrons'* as it is a compound word.

This advice led to significant concern from the proposer. In response the proposer prepared a large write up on the [Orthographic Guidelines of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori](#) (see Proposal section above) and wrote directly to Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori.

The licensed translator has since confirmed the orthography of Takaanini is correct. The advice for 'Takaānini' was reconsidered after reviewing the relevant part of the Orthographic Guidelines<sup>4</sup>. Part 1, 7.4 states that when a compound word with a prefix ending in an [a] is joined to a base beginning with a long [ā], the macron is dropped. Takaānini would still be acceptable, but atypical.

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.

*Takaanini is the correct spelling both as a personal name and as a word in terms of current orthographic standards.*

Section 32 requires official names, where they exist, to be used on official documents.

*In 2018 Auckland Transport (AT) changed the signage for Takanini Railway Station (an official name) to 'Takaanini' without following the Board's statutory process. At the time a compliance letter was considered but not pursued. AT was instead encouraged to make a retrospective proposal to*

<sup>2</sup> [Papakura Local Board minutes](#) – last accessed 27 March 2024

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

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.reomaori.co.nz/orthography> - last accessed 27 March 2024

officially correct the name. This did not eventuate, and the signage has remained for six years.

The proposer has provided further evidence that more recently, Auckland Council is following suit in changing road signage for the suburb to Takaanini, also without going through the required statutory process.

The proposer considers that for all parties involved 'There is a risk of reputational damage' as not following the legal process is 'not a good look for anybody'.

Standard for NZ  
place names criteria

### 1.1 Acceptable names

- (a) Names that reflect New Zealand culture, society, exploration, events, tradition, and history. The NZGB encourages the restoration of original Māori place names.
- (b) The surname or traditional ancestral Māori name of a person who has been deceased for at least two years, was a notable leader, of good character, and/or contributed to, or had a strong association with the feature, place or area.
- (c) Names that recognise the priority of discovery of significant places, including those of Māori pre-European contact.

*The suburb and railway station were named for Ihaka Takaanini, a fact well supported by documentary evidence. Takaanini is the correct spelling as a personal name and in terms of current orthographic standards.*

- (g) Names that contribute to a theme in an area.

*Other place names in the area are named (or possibly named) for Ihaka Takaanini and his descendants. [Te Mahia Railway Station](#) (official) is named for Te Mahia Takaanini, Ihaka Takaanini's granddaughter. Reed's Place Names of New Zealand<sup>5</sup> records that [Wiri](#) (official, suburb) and [Wiri Railway Station](#) (official) to the north are also named for Wirihana [Wilson] Takaanini, another name of Ihaka [Issac] Takaanini. However, Te Ākarana Māori Association stated in 1929 the name was correctly Wiria, with no connection and NZ Rail advised in response that the name was actually chosen for a nearby stream Waiwiri.*

### 1.6 Altered names

A name may be altered when it corrects a significant wrong or grievance

*During hui for the south Auckland railway station names the Board was advised that the Board's 1950 reversion of Takaanini to Takanini was a long-standing grievance for Te Ākitai Waiohū.*

Addressing  
implications in  
relation to the  
proposal for the  
suburb

Toitū Te Whenua LINZ maintain the [NZ Suburbs and Localities](#) dataset to add suburb and locality names to 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.

<sup>5</sup> Reed, A.W. & Dowling, P. (ed.) (2010). Place names of New Zealand. North Shore: Penguin Group

The NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset contains an existing 'Takanini' area which differs to the extent in this proposal for Takaanini. In comparison to the dataset, the proposed extent includes all of 'Conifer Grove' and most of 'Takanini', parts of 'Randwick Park', 'Alfriston' and 'Papakura', and minor parts of 'Manurewa' and 'Manurewa East'. By excluding part of the existing 'Takanini' it may also affect 'Ardmore'. This is depicted in Supporting information 'Diagram of proposed extent for Takaanini, and existing NZ Suburb and Locality dataset boundaries'.

Any final extent outcome that emerges from the public consultation and/or council/local board views will be reflected in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset.

#### Cost implications

If the proposals proceed, 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.

In this instance, Auckland Transport has already updated the railway station name on signage. The proposer has provided evidence that Auckland Council is also updating the signage for the suburb.

#### Media

There is likely to be media coverage if the Board accepts the proposal and a media release should be issued.

Media previously covered the spelling of Takanini Railway Station when Auckland Transport unilaterally changed the signage to 'Takaanini', without following the statutory place naming process. Articles in 2018 refer to 'commuter confusion'<sup>6</sup> and note protest on the lack of public consultation. A 2023<sup>7</sup> article quotes the Chairperson noting the signage was 'technically illegal'. The 2023 article was critical of the Board's decisions for macrons on new south Auckland Railway Stations and cited Takaanini as '*a precedent for using double vowels instead of tohūtō for South Auckland train station names.*' This is not correct as the [aa] is not a long vowel. It may be difficult to communicate technical linguistic details, ie Takaanini is correct standardised orthography for a compound word, not inconsistency.

### Supporting information

1. Proposal for Takaanini – 2024-02-24
2. [Final] Orthographic advice – 2024-02-28
3. Correspondence with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori - 2024-02-28
4. Board archive material on its 1930 and 1950 decisions
5. Email from Ngāti Tamaterā – support for proposal – 2024-03-28
6. Diagram of proposed extent for Takaanini, and existing NZ Suburb and Locality dataset boundaries
7. Letter from Auckland Council supporting the proposals for Takaanini (suburb) and Takaanini Railway Station
8. Secretariat research

<sup>6</sup> [Takanini or Takaanini? Auckland Transport's new sign leaves commuters confused](#), *Stuff*, 18 October 2018 - last accessed 27 March 2024

<sup>7</sup> [Correcting misspelt Māori place names and the problem with a 'standardised approach'](#), *The Spinoff*, 28 July 2023 - last accessed 27 March 2024