

Submissions for:
Takaanini (suburb)
Takaanini Railway Station

[altered from Takanini (locality)]

[altered from Takanini Railway Station]



Summary

At its hui on 30 April 2024 the Board accepted proposals from local resident s.9(2)(a) (which were supported by Te Ākitai Waiohū) to:

- alter the existing official locality name Takanini to Takaanini and update the feature type to suburb,
- alter the existing official name Takanini Railway Station to Takaanini Railway Station.

The Board did not notify any boundaries/extent for the suburb due to those included with the proposal having unintended consequences for Conifer Grove, and the Board’s recent intention to leave suburb boundaries for the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset to depict, as managed by Toitū Te Whenua LINZ.

During the public notification period between 6 June 2024 and 10 September 2024, the Board received 385 submissions from 291 individual submitters:

Proposed name	Supporting	Objecting	Total
Takaanini	160	85	245
Takaanini Railway Station	79	61	140
Total	239	146	385

Although most submitters stated that they were from Auckland, very few stated they were from Takanini itself.

Generally, the supporting submissions for both proposals provided reasons that align with the reasons the Board agreed with when it accepted the proposals in April 2024. The supporting submissions emphasise that the incorrect spelling is disrespectful, insulting, or offensive and needs to be resolved, to show respect to the name and to mana whenua. Several supporting submitters identified themselves as descendants of Ihaka Takaanini.

The objecting submissions are overwhelmingly concerned with the potential costs a spelling correction would incur and question the priority of making a change at this time (or ever). The reasons in the objecting submissions are not considered to outweigh the original reasons why the Board accepted the proposal.

Secretariat recommendations

- Recommendation 1 **Consider** the submissions and their reasons on the proposal to alter the existing official locality name Takanini to **Takaanini**, updating the feature type to suburb, **and** **Reject** the objecting submissions based on the reasons provided not outweighing the reasons that the Board accepted the proposal, being:
- 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** **Confirm** the Board's earlier decision to accept the proposal to alter Takanini to **Takaanini**, **and** **Report** the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

and

- Recommendation 2 **Consider** the submissions and their reasons on the proposal to alter Takanini Railway Station to **Takaanini Railway Station**, **and** **Reject** the objecting submissions based on the reasons provided not outweighing the reasons that the Board accepted the proposal, being:
- receipt of the consent/support from Auckland Transport in line with the Board's policy for railway feature names,

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- 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, and
 - 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

Confirm the Board's earlier decision to accept the proposal to alter Takanini Railway Station to **Takaanini Railway Station**,

and

Report the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

Background

Board minutes
30 April 2024
[abridged]

'The rationale and evidence for the proposed alteration is very robust. The Board noted that the recommendations include publicly notifying the proposed boundaries of the suburb, which would affect the adjacent Conifer Grove, and that the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset has a limited hierarchy and cannot show subordinate suburbs and localities.

The Board discussed whether setting the boundaries remained desirable, and whether the resolution could instead be subject to Papakura Local Board's input on the boundaries. The Board considered receiving any input was unlikely based on prior experience.

The Board noted the new processes for the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset that LINZ maintains, remain untested. The Board still has a statutory role and needs to provide leadership in this area. The alternative would likely be the continued proliferation of small 'vanity' suburbs as LINZ might just respond to complaints and change requests, without taking a strategic view of suburb and locality naming.

The Board agreed it would formally decline the proposed boundaries and agreed to modify the wording of its resolution to specify 'and not the proposed extent'. The Board agreed that the Secretariat should work with LINZ to formalise the protocols for defining boundaries in the Suburbs and Localities dataset.'

Notification

Advice to
mana whenua

On 2 May 2024 the Secretariat advised the 10 Māori groups¹ that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposal for three months from 6 June 2024. No further letters of support were received noting that Ngāti Tamaterā had previously advised its support for the proposals.

Advice to MPs

On 6 June 2024 the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Takaanini, Tāmaki Makaurau, and all adjacent electorates that the proposal was open for submissions until 10 September 2024.

Public
notification
including
social media

The Board advertised the proposals

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#), *Sunday Star Times*, *NZ Herald* and *Papakura Courier*, and
- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ² [Consultation](#) page, its [Facebook page](#) (including [a reminder](#)), and the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.

¹ Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngaati Whanaunga, Te Ākitai Waiohū, Te Kawerau ā Maki, Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Te Ata Waiohū

² Land Information New Zealand

Media On 6 June 2024 the Board released a bilingual [media advisory](#), which was also posted [on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website](#).

The proposal report had an unfortunate spelling mistake of "Īhaka Wirihama Takaanini te Tiki" rather than Īhaka Wirihana Takaanini te Tihi, in one location. However, it was from this part of the report that the media advisory was summarised. A correction was circulated to media organisations on 7 June 2024.

A number of media outlets reported on the proposals at the beginning of public consultation. The Board's Secretary was interviewed on Radio NZ's Morning Report on 7 June 2024.³

These media articles refer:

Title	Outlet	Date
Consultation for Māori place names in two Auckland locations opens	Newshub	6 June 2024
Māori name changes for Auckland suburbs: NZ Geographic Board opens consultations on proposals	NZ Herald	6 June 2024
Māori names proposed for Auckland suburbs	The Post	6 June 2024
New names proposed for Auckland suburbs, other parts of the country	1news	6 June 2024
Name change drawn out for Takaanini	Radio Waatea	7 June 2024
The Breakfast Club at 05:32 a.m.	MoreFM	7 June 2024
Breakfast with Robert and Jeanette at 06:30 am; 7am news	The Breeze	7 June 2024

No further articles during the notification period have been noted.

Other notification On 16 August 2024 Papakura Local Board hosted a public hui at the local library (Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini).⁴ The proposer and Karen Wilson (of Te Ākitai Waiohū) were requested to attend as experts. The proposer advised that 35 people attended the public hui, mostly locals. While there was no formal vote, no opposition was voiced at the hui to the proposals.

Submissions

Summary During the notification period between 6 June 2024 and 10 September July 2024 the Board received 385 submissions from 291 individual submitters.

Not counted in these figures are four objecting submissions from four individual submitters whose submissions contained content breaching the terms that 'threatening or offensive submissions will not be considered'.

Proposed name	Supporting	Objecting	Total
Takaanini	160	85	245
Takaanini Railway Station	79	61	140
Total	239	146	385

A small number of submitters made multiple submissions. Multiple submissions from the same identifiable individual are counted as one submission.

³ [Proposal to restore two Māori place names in Auckland](#) accessed 27 June 2024

⁴ [Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini – Facebook post, 15 August 2024](#).

The Secretariat has commented below on some of the submissions. Full copies of all submissions are in the supporting information.

Local engagement

This table has the location of all submitters based on volunteered information, which is collected to inform on the level of local community engagement. It does not indicate that they have a greater influence on the outcome of the proposal. Very few submitters stated they lived in Takanini itself, although the majority of submitters were from Auckland.

	Takaanini	Auckland	Rest of NZ	International	Unknown	Total
Supporting (suburb)	4	119	34	1	2	160
Objecting (suburb)	5	63	9	0	8	85
Supporting (railway station)	3	58	17	0	1	79
Objecting (railway station)	4	40	15	0	2	61
Total	16	280	75	1	13	385

Affiliation field

The online submission form has a voluntary option for affiliation for the Board's reference when considering submissions. The submission spreadsheets in supporting information include affiliation information where it has been provided.

Issues with submissions

Four submissions on Takaanini (one objecting, three supporting) were copied across from submissions received online for Te Tōangaroa. They commented on both of the Auckland proposals but did not fill out a submission form for Takaanini. Of the 291 individual submitters, 92 filled out both forms. Takaanini had 151 submitters who only submitted on that proposal and Takaanini Railway Station had 48 submitters who only submitted on that proposal.

Four supporting submissions referring to Takaanini Railway Station were copied from submissions for Takaanini, and three submissions referring to the suburb were copied from submissions on Takaanini Railway Station, including the submission from the Papakura and District Historical Society. However, it is likely that many more of those who only submitted one of the two forms support or object to both proposals, based on the very generalised content of most of the submissions.

For future proposals for both a place name and an associated railway station name, it may be preferable to take submissions for both names on one form. The Secretariat will be reviewing the online form before the next round of consultations to help improve user understanding of what's being proposed.

The proposals for Abbotts Creek, Rangitikei District, Pito One, Te Tōangaroa, and Maewa were notified at the same time as these proposals. The Board received nine submissions that didn't specify which proposal they were objecting to. They are included in Supporting information for reference but are not included in the counts for these proposals.

Takaanini

Summary of the 160 supporting submissions with Secretariat comments

The supporting submissions generally provide reasons that align with the Board's reasons for accepting the proposal, eg, that because the suburb is named for Ihaka Takaanini the place name must be corrected to honour him and support Te Ākitai Waiohū. Or conversely, that the incorrect spelling Takanini is insulting and offensive. Some consider that making such a correction shouldn't have to go through any sort of consultation process, because consulting on it is itself insulting and offensive. Others consider that the Board should not have given up on the correct spelling back in 1951 – meaning it wouldn't have to be dealing with it again in 2024 if it had stuck to the Honorary Board's 1930 ruling.

Notable submissions were received from 9(2)(a) (Ngaati Te Ata Waiohū, Ngaati Tiipa, Te Rarawa), the Papakura and District Historical Society and a former Chair of Manurewa Local Board, 9(2)(a)

Some supporting submissions incorrectly assume the double vowel is substituting a macron in order to adhere to the spelling preferences of local iwi. One supporting submission also appears to think the proposal is for Takaānini with a macron. This has not been considered to be 'an alternative proposal' (which would then be considered an objection).

Summary of the 85 objecting submissions with Secretariat comments

None of the objecting submissions stood out for special attention by the Board. Nearly all objections fall into these general categories:

- Long term use of Takanini.
- Waste of time and money. Public money can be spent in more useful ways. Should provide a cost-benefit analysis.
- Anti-Māori sentiments, and that the proposal is pandering to a minority and is divisive. They claim people don't understand or want to use the Māori language or place names.
- That the change will confuse people and services.
- Businesses will have to change their names and contact details.
- That the consultation is a sham and should be subject to a referendum vote.
- That Māori didn't have a written language (ie, why should we consider 'Takaanini' to be the correct spelling?). 'This is an English speaking country' and similar.

Secretariat response: te reo Māori has been a written language for 200+ years and there are modern orthographic standards for how it is written. Te reo Māori is a unique taonga and an official language. Takaanini as place name post-dates the development of te reo Māori as a written language and the extensive documentary evidence for the Takaanini spelling was noted in the Board's proposal report.

- Alternative proposals: 'Given the local demographics it would be more respectful to change to a Sikh name'.

Secretariat response: Anyone may propose an alteration to an existing name, but it would require strong reasons to outweigh the Board's consideration of this spelling correction to the existing name. The submission did not propose any name as an alternative.

The objecting submissions also gave these additional reasons to the standard categories:

- It's a slippery slope if the Board is going to spend energy on a proposal to just add another [a], ie it would have to correct the spelling of incorrect names everywhere.

Secretariat response: it is a principal function of the Board to investigate and determine the correct spelling of place names ([s.10\(1\)\(c\)\(ii\) NZGB Act 2008](#)). The Board will consider any proposals that meet minimum requirements.

- Could save money by instead adding a macron to the 2nd [a] in Takanini so that new signage won't be needed.

Secretariat response: the spelling Takaanini is the correct standardised orthography, being a word compounded from taka and ānini. The double vowel is not a substitute for a macron in this instance.

Takaanini Railway Station

Summary of the 79 supporting submissions with Secretariat comments

The reasons in the supporting submissions for the railway station are very generalised and are similar to reasons given in support of altering the suburb name, ie., they support correcting the spelling as the feature is named for Ihaka Takaanini, to show respect to mana whenua, promote te reo Māori, etc.

Summary of the 61 objecting submissions with Secretariat comments

None of the objecting submissions stood out for special attention by the Board.

The submissions mostly fit into the same general categories as for the suburb with little comment on the name for the railway station specifically.

One objecting submission considers that the Board should have legally compelled Auckland Transport to change the signs back to the current official name (Takanini Railway Station) in 2018.

Secretariat response: in 2018 the Board Chairperson did not consider it a priority to write a compliance letter to Auckland Transport. The actions for compliance or non-compliance will be settled by the final determinations on these proposals.

Supporting information

1. Board proposal report – Takaanini – 2024-04-30
2. Submissions summary spreadsheet for Takaanini (245 submissions)
3. Submissions summary spreadsheet for Takaanini Railway Station (140 submissions)
4. Unedited copy of original online Qualtrics platform submissions output for Takaanini
5. Unedited copy of original online Qualtrics platform submissions output for Takaanini Railway Station
6. Copies of original direct supporting email submissions (both proposals)
7. Copies of original direct objecting email submissions (both proposals)
8. Nine miscellaneous objections (no proposal specified)
9. Correspondence with [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) (original proposer)