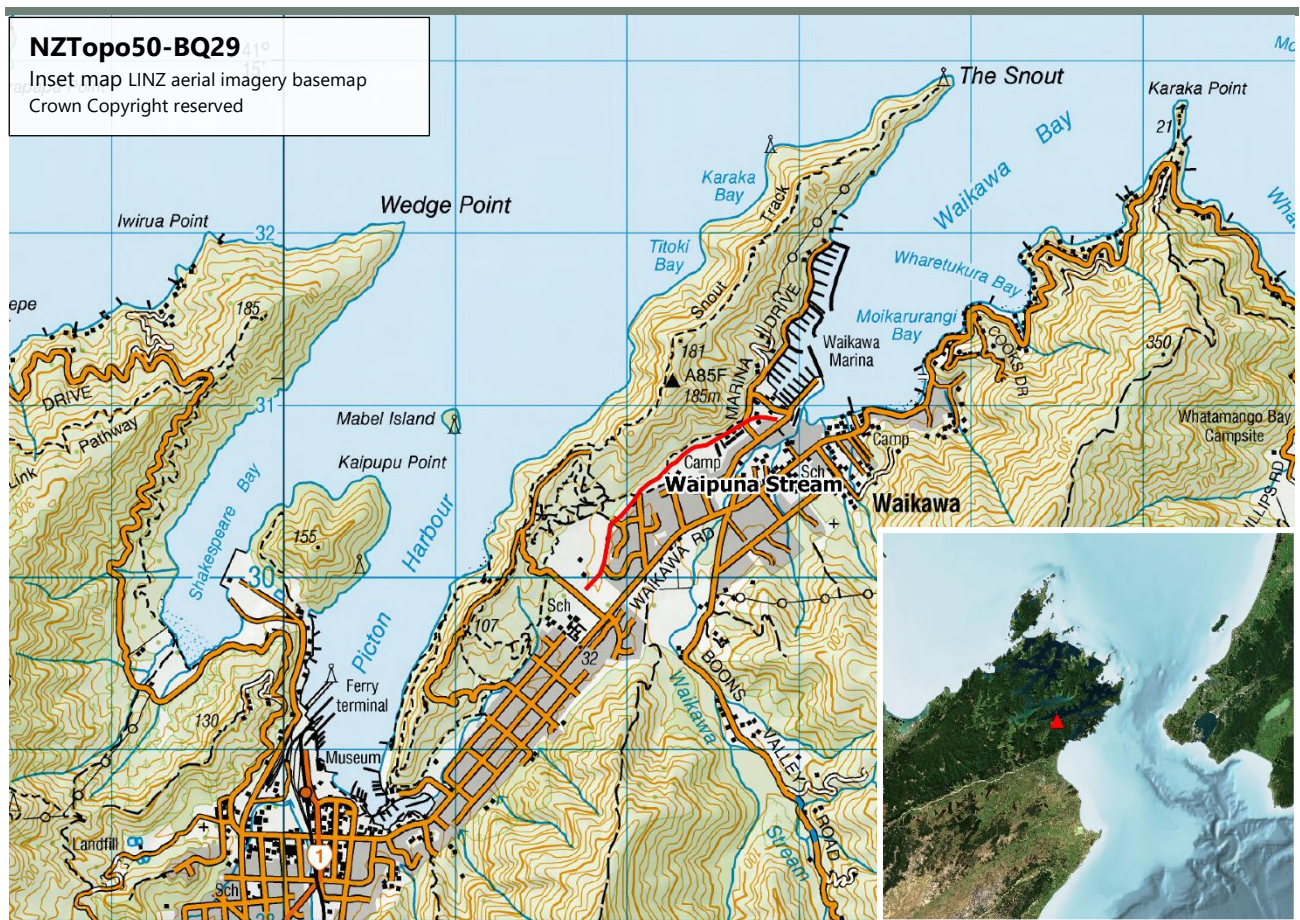


Proposal report considered by the Board on 15 September 2025 with the Board's decision for Waipuna Stream

[assign a new name to an unnamed feature]



Summary

The proposal from a local resident is to assign Waipuna Stream as the name of an unnamed waterway in Waikawa, a locality north of Picton. The proposer gives evidence that Waipuna Stream has been locally used since at least 1923 by his whānau who maintain ahikāroa¹ on this whenua. The proposer is uri² of Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui, who endorse the proposal as mana whenua.

The waterway warrants naming because it is in a developed area and has drainage infrastructure associated with it. It flows into Waikawa Bay and is a site of significance to the proposer's whānau specifically and Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui as a whole because of the cultural and ecological heritage.

¹ Burning fires of occupation, long undisturbed occupation, continuous occupation – title to land through occupation by a group, generally over a long period of time. The group is able, through the use of whakapapa, to trace back to primary ancestors who lived on the land. They held influence over the land through their military strength and defended successfully against challenges, thereby keeping their fires burning. Source: Te Aka Māori Dictionary, <https://maoridictionary.co.nz/word/13068>.

² Offspring, descendant, relative, kin, progeny, blood connection, successor. Source: [uri - Te Aka Māori Dictionary](#).

Board's decision

At its 15 September 2025 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

Accept the proposal to **assign Waipuna Stream** to an unnamed waterway in Waikawa, a locality north of Picton, based on:

- its significance in Waikawa and its ecological, cultural and historical significance in Waikawa Bay,
- long-term local use of the name since at least 1923,
- the Board's *Standard for New Zealand place names* encouraging contemporary Māori place names,
- endorsement from Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui who are mana whenua, and additional support from Rangitāne o Wairau and Ngāti Kuia,
- support from Marlborough District Council's Kaitohutohu, Hononga ā Iwi – Advisor, Iwi Relationships, and
- benefit to emergency services by reducing confusion between waterways in Picton,

and

Notify as a proposal to assign for one month.

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal

The proposer seeks to assign **Waipuna Stream** as the name of an unnamed waterway in north Picton. The proposer's whānau have ahikāroa on the banks of the waterway and were assigned the title to block Waikawa West B223a as traditional owners in the Waitohi Purchase Deed. The proposer and their whānau are deeply connected to the waterway as it has contributed culturally significant resources for many generations.

The proposal is for the Māori specific name Waipuna with the English generic term Stream. Waipuna means 'spring water' and is related to the natural spring discovered by an ancestor of the proposer on the whānau land flowing into the waterway. If assigned, Waipuna Stream would be a contemporary Māori place name as defined by the Board's draft Contemporary Māori place names guidance(see agenda item 21).

The proposer has provided:

- survey plans from a 1970s subdivision showing the location of the waterway,
- photographs showing the extent of the waterway,
- a letter of support from mana whenua Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui,
- resource consent applications for stormwater discharge outlets into the feature listed as an unnamed stream running through the fully developed Endeavour Heights subdivision, Ranui Street, Picton.

[Geographic feature type](#), location and extent of the feature shown on plans and maps

The feature is a naturally occurring waterway in the locality north of Picton, Waikawa. It is now significant to stormwater infrastructure for the surrounding subdivision.

The waterway first appears on a publication the Board considers authoritative as an unnamed stream on NZMS13 in 1909. It appears unnamed on ML366, SO366 (1896) and ML926, SO926 (1911) survey plans as it was one of the

boundaries for the Waikawa West No. 1 Subdivision. It remains unnamed on maps up to and including the current Topo50 maps.

The waterway now flows through the suburban locality of Waikawa in north Picton before being culverted under the marina and discharging into Waikawa Bay. It is 1.8km long.

[New Zealand Gazetteer](#),

associated place names and duplication

Waipuna Stream and Waipuna are duplicated many times in the *Gazetteer*.

Waipuna Stream for this feature does not appear on any official documents or publications or databases the Board considers authoritative. It has been in common use by the proposer's whānau as a contemporary Māori name for the stream.

Waipuna Stream is a recorded place name on seven features and is officially assigned to one feature, all in the North Island, the closest being over 250km away at Mount Ruapehu.

The nearest Waipuna name to the proposed waterway is Waipuna Bay to the east in Te Whanganui / Port Underwood. It shares no association to the proposed Waipuna Stream.

Other Waipuna names are:

Te Waipuna	Assigned	Gisborne; NZTopo50-BE45 713725
Waipuna (localities x2)	Recorded	Near Raetihi (township); NZTopo50-BJ33 881251 Grey River / Māwheranui, West Coast; NZTopo50-BT21 941138
Waipuna (hills x2)	Recorded	Whangaroa Harbour; NZTopo50-AV28 653199 Near Raetihi (township); NZTopo50-BJ33 891299
Waipuna Bay (x2)	Assigned	North Dunedin; NZTopo50-CE17 190269 Lake Rotoiti; NZTopo50- BE37 930850
Waipuna Caves	Recorded	Near Waiouru Army Training Area; NZTopo50-BK35 433219
Waipuna Creek (x3)	Recorded	Hokianga Harbour; NZTopo50- AW26 308716 Grey River / Māwheranui, West Coast; NZTopo50-BT21 933136 Clyde; NZTopo50-CC13 146902
Waipuna Creek Left Branch	Recorded	Grey River / Māwheranui, West Coast; NZTopo50-BT21 966098
Waipuna Creek Middle Branch	Recorded	Grey River / Māwheranui, West Coast; NZTopo50-BT21 961089
Waipuna Creek Right Branch	Recorded	Grey River / Māwheranui, West Coast; NZTopo50-BT21 938074
Waipuna Ecological Area	Validated	Grey River / Māwheranui, West Coast; NZTopo50-BT21 988068

Waipuna Pa	Recorded	Taiharuru, Whangārei; NZTopo50-AX31 408452
Waipuna Saddle	Approved	Banks Peninsula; NZTopo50-BX24 839597
Waipuna Saddle Scenic Reserve	Validated	Banks Peninsula; NZTopo50- BX24 842592
Waipuna Scenic Reserve	Validated	Near Te Kūiti; NZTopo50-BF32 762568

Consultation with iwi

The proposer is uri of Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui so has worked extensively with them before making the proposal. See their letter of support in supporting information.

Rangitāne o Wairau requested that the proposer engage with them directly. With permission the Secretariat facilitated an exchange of details and representatives from Rangitāne arranged to meet with the proposer. Both sides reported their meeting on 12 August 2025 to have been very positive and Rangitāne confirmed their support for the proposal.

Representatives from Ngāti Kuia wished to verify and then support the perspective of Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui. They have connected with Te Ātiawa directly before preparing a formal letter of support. See letter of support in supporting information.

The Secretariat also informed Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Koata of the proposal by email on 25 July 2025 but has not yet received a response.

Consultation with others

The Secretariat approached the Marlborough District Council for comment given the feature to be named is in populated locality north of Picton and the proposer included council documents in their proposal. Ruihana Smith, Kaitohutohu, Hononga ā Iwi – Advisor, Iwi Relationships, gave strong support for the proposal, stating they had been on a site visit to the unnamed feature with the proposer, who is a Te Ātiawa kaumatua, and considered the proposal appropriate.

Advice on orthography³

Waipuna is a compound word meaning ‘spring waters’. The meaning comes from the punawai (spring) found on whānau land by an ancestor of the proposer. The water from this spring flowed into this waterway. The Board’s Te Taura Whiri i Te Reo Māori licensed translator confirmed the orthography ‘waipuna’ with the literal meaning ‘natural spring’.

[Standard for NZ place names](#) criteria

1.1 Acceptable names

(b) The NZGB encourages contemporary Māori place names and the restoration of original Māori place names.

Waipuna Stream has been in long-term local use since at least 1923. This is a contemporary Māori name supported by the strong cultural connection of the proposer’s whānau to the feature and the endorsement of mana whenua Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui.

1.3 Undesirable names and other considerations

³ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

(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.

Secretariat assessment is that this section in the Standard should take precedence over 1.3(b) (new names should be distinctive and preferably unique) due to the long-term local use of this name by the whānau of the proposer and their deep connection to the feature. Waipuna Stream is distinctive to Te Tau Ihu and the region. No name is listed on any publication or database the Board considers authoritative, so no name meets the threshold of recorded in terms of section 4 of the NZGB Act 2008. Secretariat research found one reference to the use of 'Endeavour Stream' in a characterisation study funded by the Ministry for the Environment, however neither mana whenua nor council consultation on the feature identified common local use of this name. Public consultation in terms of section 16 of the NZGB Act 2008 is another opportunity to identify if there are any other local use names.

(h) Minor features or places of low importance or physical significance should not be named.

This waterway is not a large feature at 1.8km long but it is significant as it is in populated Waikawa and is used as a stormwater outlet for the Endeavour Heights subdivision. It is deeply significant to the proposer's whānau as it borders their ancestral land and has historically been used for subsistence and as a source of valuable resources in the traditional Māori economy. It is also significant to Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui who have carried out extensive ecological monitoring into the health of the waterway.

Emergency services implications

Assigning a name would give the waterway a reference that could be useful in an emergency. Naming the waterway could reduce confusion with other waterways in Picton. Waipuna is not duplicated on similar features nearby. Given the duplicated Waipuna Stream names are all in the North Island but geographically distant, it is unlikely there would be confusion to emergency services caused by duplication.

Cost implications

If the proposal proceeds, there should be no significant concerns because of cost. Any signs, promotional material, maps, databases, websites, etc would be new references to the name as the feature is currently unnamed. The district council would have the choice to create signage for the feature. There are no addressing implications from the proposal and therefore no cost implications associated with addressing changes.

Media

The waterway is in the populated locality of Waikawa so community interest is likely. A small amount of local media coverage in Picton is likely if the Board accepts the proposal and a media release could be issued. Issuing a media release also increases the likelihood that any other local use names are identified through the public consultation process.

Supporting information

1. Proposal Form for Waipuna Stream – 2025-06-11

- a. Old maps stream
- b. MDC Documents Unnamed Creek Stream
- 2. Photograph – Admiralty Place to Rohe Drive – 2025-06-13
- 3. Photograph – Rohe Drive to Ranui Street – 2025-06-13
- 4. Photograph – Ranui Street to Huia Street – 2025-06-13
- 5. Photograph – Huia Street to Marina Drive – 2025-06-13
- 6. Photograph – Marina Drive to Waikawa Bay – 2025-06-13
- 7. Photograph – Whānau Land 1970's – 2025-06-13
- 8. Email w Te Taura Whiri i Te Reo Māori licensed translator – Waipuna orthographically fine meaning natural spring -2025-08-20
- 9. Email from Ruihana Smith Advisor Iwi Relationships Marlborough District Council – supports proposal – 2025-07-04
- 10. Email to Waihoroi Shortland – Place name proposals Rotoiti and Waipuna Stream -2025-07-01
- 11. Letter from Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui – support for proposal – 2025-06-20
- 12. Correspondence with Ngāti Kuia – tautoko Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui – 2025-08-05
- 13. Correspondence w Rangitāne o Wairau – positive meeting with the proposer, happy to support – 2025-08-19
- 14. Waitohi and Waikawa Streams Characterisation study