Te Komiti Ingoa mō ngā Tārainga Takere Moana | Undersea Feature Names Committee (UFNC) recommendation

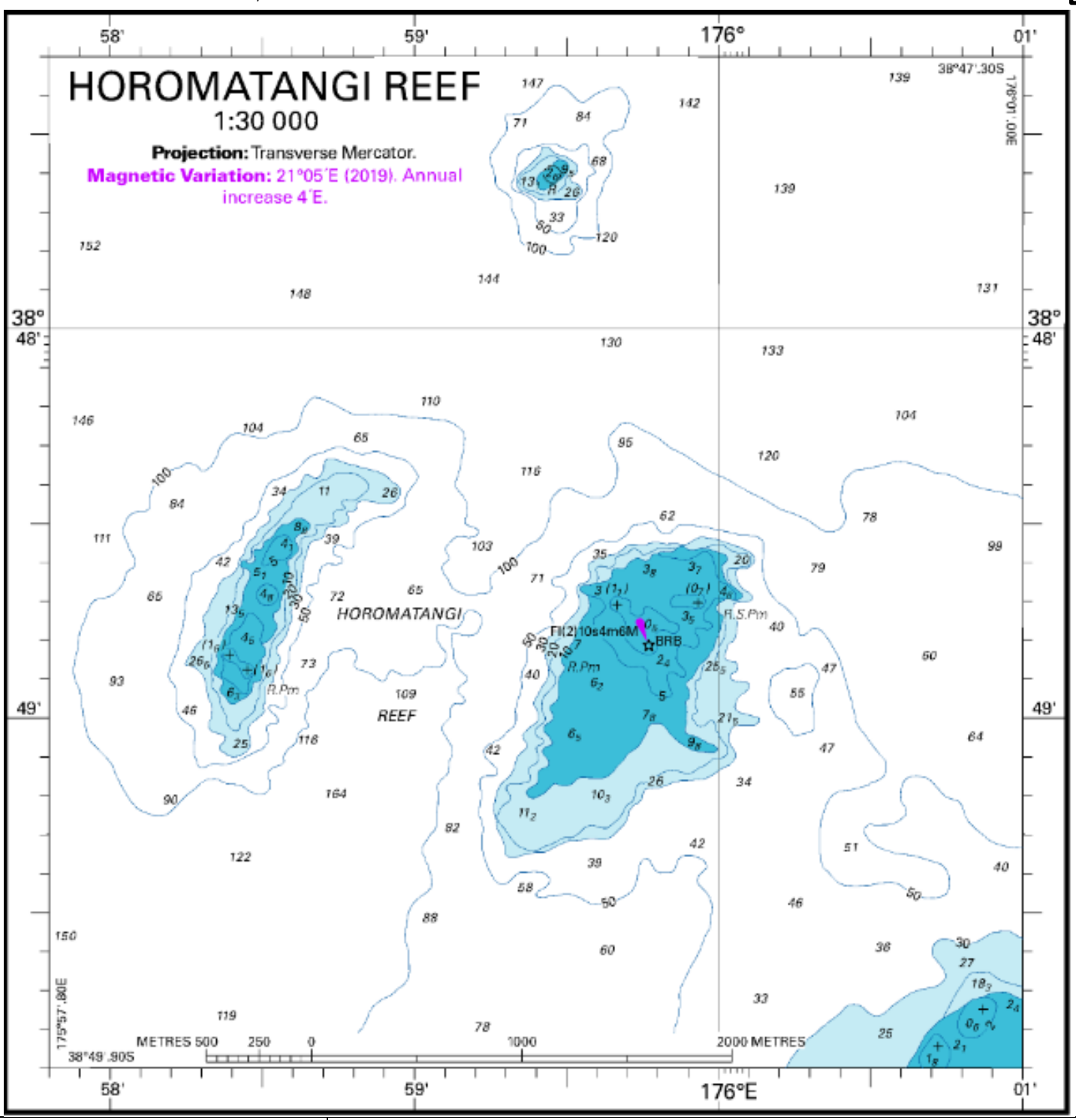
Summary of UFNC hui	At its 11 February 2026 hui, the UFNC declined to consider Horomatangi Reef, referring the name to the Board. The UFNC considered the name is outside of its remit, being an underwater feature in Lake Taupō / Taupōmoana (so not an undersea feature). See the Appendix at the end of this report for this name proposal.

Appendix - Horomatangi Reef

Current location and description	175 59 23.5E 38 48 12.7S. Reef in Lake Taupō. Feature shown on: NZTopo50-BG36 596008
Generic term discussion	Reef (or Reefs) appears to be the correct generic term. Scientific publications indicate that the feature is rising at 3mm/y or more and has experienced 165mm 'permanent' uplift 1979-2021. The eastern part of the feature may cease being an underwater feature in the foreseeable future although the Secretariat has not found precisely how shallow the depth is currently, to project when that might be.

Shown on inset of Chart NZ 232 as two shallow features 1.1km apart (at the 50m depth contour), connected at 100m depth. The western part has rocks at 1m under the chart datum, the eastern has rocks and soundings at 0m chart datum.

The Secretariat has not found any photos of the feature exposed above the lake surface. It's unclear precisely how shallow the feature is, ie ≤0.499-0m under lowest astronomic tide.



Generic term definitions from the *Cookbook for generic terms of undersea feature names* (noting this is a freshwater feature)	**Reef** Definition: A shallow elevation composed of consolidated material that may constitute a hazard to surface navigation. Dimensions: Can vary greatly from less than one square kilometres to 10,000s of square kilometres. Length to width ratio: Any length to width ratio, often elongate and in some cases very long (e.g. Great Barrier Reef). Depth: Less than 30 m, but in special cases may be as much as 50 m. Steepness: Variable. Comments: REEFS need to be hard and composed of consolidated material (not sandy). To fit definition of being avoided by shipping should be less than 30 m depth (or 50 m in some circumstances). Similar Features: Consider SHOAL definition if composed of unconsolidated material (sand).

Board's decision to accept the proposal and seek public submissions

At its 30 April 2026 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

The Board agrees to **alter** the existing unofficial recorded underwater name Horomatangi Reef at Lake Taupō / Taupōmoana to **Horomatangi Reefs**, based on:

- the feature being comprised of two distinct parts,
- 'reefs' rather than 'reef' being used already in many scientific publications, and
- confirmation of the orthography,

and

Notify as a proposal to **alter** for one month.

Additional information - feature	The feature/s are the site/s of the most recent eruptive activity of the Taupō Volcano.[1] There are geothermal vents on the south of the feature and the deepest part of Lake Taupō / Taupōmoana at 187m depth is south of the feature. An Earth Sciences New Zealand (GNS Science) GNSS station is installed on Horomatangi reef as part of the Geonet network.[2] Many scientific publications refer to Horomatangi Reefs, plural, because there are two distinct parts to the feature, eg: - Smith, R.T., Houghton, B.F. Vent migration and changing eruptive style during the 1800a Taupo eruption: new evidence from the Hatepe and Rotongaio phreatoplinian ashes. *Bull Volcanol* **57**, 432–439 (1995). https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00300987 - Ellis, S., Barker, S. J., Wilson, C. J. N., Hamling, I., Hreinsdottir, S., Illsley-Kemp, F., … Otway, P. (2023). Taupōinflate: illustrating detection limits of magmatic inflation below Lake Taupō. *New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics*, *66*(4), 571–588. https://doi.org/10.1080/00288306.2022.2076700 - Lamb, O., Bannister, S., Ristau, J., Miller, C., Sherburn, S., Jacobs, K., Hanson, J., D'Anastasio, E., Hreinsdóttir, S., Snee, E., Ross, M., Mestel, E., & Illsley-Kemp, F. (2024). Seismic characteristics of the 2022-2023 unrest episode at Taupō volcano, Aotearoa New Zealand. *Seismica*, *3*(2). https://doi.org/10.26443/seismica.v3i2.1125 - Otway, P. M., Illsley-Kemp, F., & Mestel, E. R. H. (2024). Taupō volcano's restless nature revealed by 42 years of deformation surveys, 1979–2021. *New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics*, *67*(1), 3–19. https://doi.org/10.1080/00288306.2022.2089170	
Additional information - name	'One of the atua brought by Ngatoroirangi, who came to Aotearoa on the Arawa canoe, was Horomatangi. When Ngatoro's sisters arrived from Hawaiki, the far-sighted atua recognised them at a great distance. Wishing to help them he dived into the sea at Whakaari (White Island), travelled underground to Lake Taupo, blew a huge jet of water and pumice high into the air, then dived back to the lake bed. As he dived into the tunnel he created a whirlpool, a disturbance that continued to be active four times a day, 5 km from Motutaiko Island and the Horomatangi Reef. Metamorphosing into a taniwha, he expelled his breath, which burst out of the ground at Wairakei, causing the Karapiti blowbole to erupt. The vast column of steam rose high into the air and then pointed towards Maketu, where Ngatoro's sisters were at that time. They interpreted the signal correctly and eventually reached their brother. Horomatangi, who took the new name of Ihumataotao, then became a black rock near Motutaiko Island.' Source: Reed, A.W. & Peter Dowling, Place Names of New Zealand, 2010. The Board's orthographic advisor has advised that Horomatangi is correct as it is. However, Taupo District Council have their offices on Horomātangi Street in Taupō[3] – the street name is official in addressing data with the macron. While street names are not in the Board's jurisdiction this inconsistency may be noted publicly.	

[1] Gibbs, M., Verburg, P., & Scott, B. (2024). Conductivity anomalies provide evidence of large scale hydrothermal venting in Lake Taupō. *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*, *58*(4), 649–677. https://doi.org/10.1080/00288330.2024.2307935
[2] https://www.geonet.org.nz/data/network/sensor/8/TGHM - access 5 January 2026
[3] https://www.taupodc.govt.nz/council/contact-us/our-whare - accessed 12 January 2026