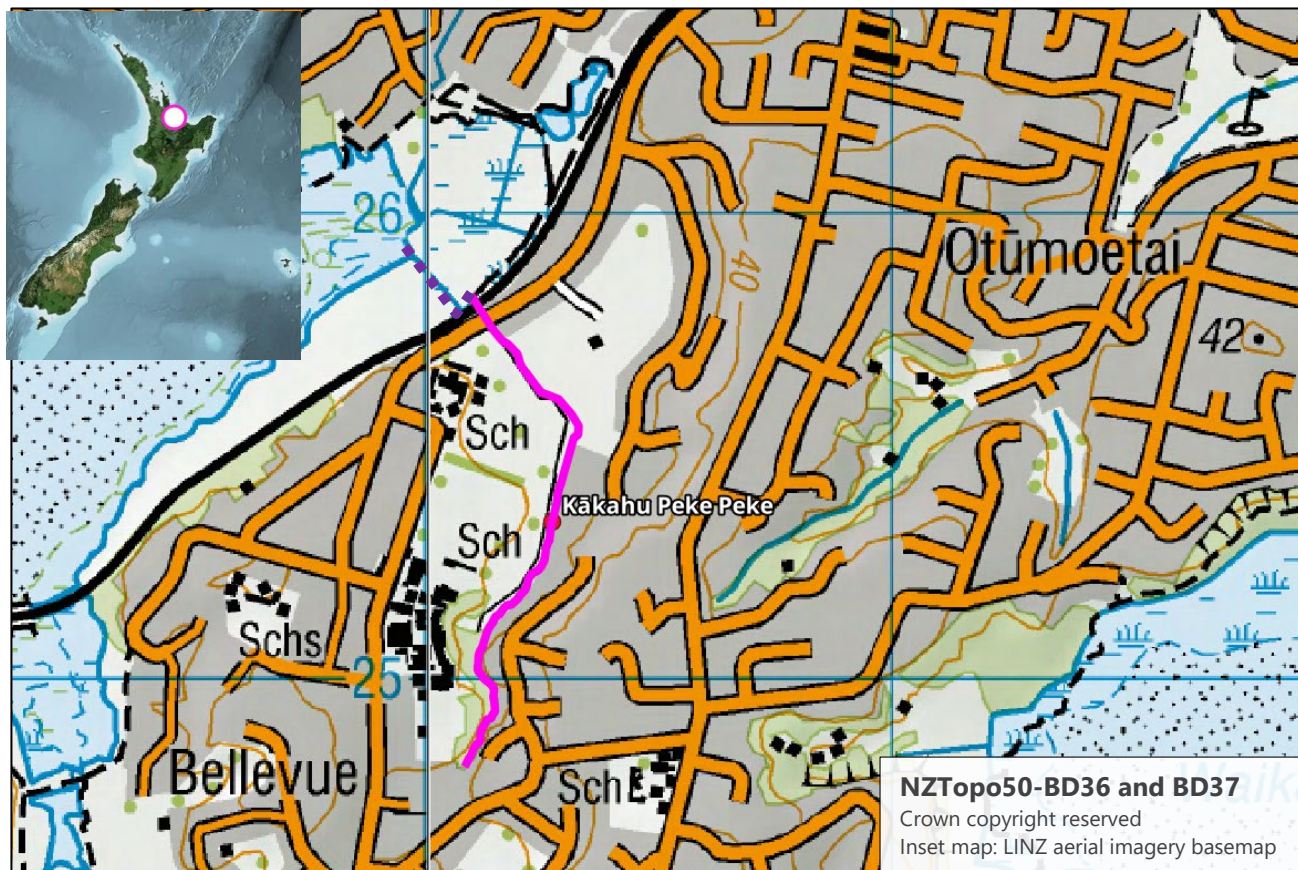


Proposal report considered by the Board on 30 April 2026 with the Board's decision for:

Kākahu Peke Peke

[new name]



Summary

The proposal from Ed Clayton, Asset Planning Engineer for Tauranga City Council, is to assign the contemporary Māori name Kākahu Peke Peke as the official geographic name of an unnamed stream in Otūmoetai, Tauranga. The stream is partially buried in a culvert (stormwater pipe) but will be daylighted¹ as part of the Carlton Street Reserve stormwater replacement works. The proposal has the endorsement of Tauranga City Council.

Mana whenua Ngāi Tamarāwaho (a hapū of Ngāti Ranginui) gifted the name Kākahu Peke Peke. For generations they used the stream and associated springs for drinking water, bathing and clothes washing and at times they needed to move between the springs due to the varying water levels. The name Kākahu Peke Peke is taken from the following whakataukī (proverb) that likens the moving of clothes from one spring to another to the moving of a kākahu (cloak) from one whānau to another:

*'I tenei wa kei a koe tenei kākahu
Kei tetei rangi*

¹ Daylighting is the process of opening and restoring a previously buried watercourse, which has at some stage been obscured or diverted by urban infrastructure such as stormwater pipes, bridges or culverts.

Kei a ratou tena kākahu peke peke'

The Secretariat also advised Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi and Ngāti Pūkenga about the proposal, seeking any feedback. Ngāti Pūkenga advised that they support the name that Ngāi Tamarāwaho had gifted. No responses have been received to date from Ngāti Ranginui or Ngāi Te Rangi.

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licenced translator confirmed the orthography as Kākahu-pekepeke, with a hyphen required and 'pekepeke' being one word. Ngāi Tamarāwaho have confirmed support for the updated orthography of the name. The proposed name doesn't include a generic term as recommended by the Board's *Generic Terms Policy and Standard for New Zealand place names* for natural features, either separately or embedded within the name.

Board's decision

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

Decline the proposal to **assign Kākahu Peke Peke** as the official geographic name of an unnamed stream in Otūmoetai, Tauranga, based on:

- a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licenced translator confirming Kākahu-pekepeke as the standardised orthography,

and

Accept a new proposal from the Board to **assign Kākahu-pekepeke** as the official geographic name of an unnamed stream in Otūmoetai, Tauranga, based on:

- confirmation of the standardised orthography by a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licenced translator,
- endorsement from mana whenua Ngāi Tamarāwaho who gifted the name and confirmation that they support the orthographic advice for Kākahu-pekepeke,
- the cultural and historical significance of the stream,
- the Board's *Standard for New Zealand place names* encouraging contemporary Māori place names,
- additional support from Ngāti Pūkenga (notwithstanding the updated orthography),
- endorsement from Tauranga City Council Chief Executive Marty Grenfell (again, notwithstanding the updated orthography), and
- omission of a generic term being unlikely to impact on feature identification or emergency response,

Subject to confirmation of the extent of the stream extending northwest into Matua Salt Marsh and draining into Tauranga Harbour,

and

Notify as a proposal to **assign** for two months.

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal

The proposal is from Ed Clayton, Asset Planning Engineer – Three Waters, Sustainability and Waste for Tauranga City Council. It seeks to assign Kākahu Peke Peke as the official geographic name of a partially buried stream in Otūmoetai, Tauranga. The stream is currently classified as a council stormwater drain asset but the culverted section will be daylighted as part of the council's Carlton Street Reserve stormwater renewal project.² Two pedestrian bridges will be constructed over the stream and its banks will be planted. The proposer notes that daylighting the stream will significantly enhance its ecological function, habitat and mana.

Mana whenua Ngāi Tamarāwaho (a hapū of Ngāti Ranginui) gifted the name Kākahu Peke Peke which is a contemporary Māori name as provided for in the Board's *Standard*. The proposer advises that the name 'reflects the deep cultural and historical significance of the waterway and its longstanding role within the rohe. The name is rooted in traditional practices and oral history, and its adoption will honour the mana of the hapū and enhance the visibility of Tauranga Moana's Māori heritage.'

Ngāi Tamarāwaho used the waterway and associated puna (springs) for drinking water, clothes washing and bathing. As the springs could vary in their level of water, people had to move from one spring to another, leading to this whakataukī:

'I tenei wa kei a koe tenei kākahu

Kei tetehi rangi

Kei a ratou tena kākahu peke peke'

The whakataukī likens the moving of clothes from one spring to another to moving a kākahu (cloak) from whānau to whānau. This gives people comfort in times of spiritual need, such as following a family member's death.

The proposer has provided:

- a map showing the proposed extent of the stream once daylighted,
- evidence of correspondence with Ngāi Tamarāwaho about the proposed name and its meaning,
- an internal council memorandum seeking endorsement for the proposal from Tauranga City Council Chief Executive Marty Grenfell and the requested endorsement.

Names shown on plans and maps

Topographic maps do not name the stream, noting it has been partially buried in a culvert for ~50 years plus. No survey plans appear to name the water course, though some note the course of the stormwater drain (eg DPS 3178 (1954), SO 42012 (1962)). DP 15683 (1921) shows the stream (unnamed) prior to it being channelled.

² Refer to '[Carlton Street Reserve Stormwater Renewal](#)', Tauranga City Council, accessed 25 March 2026. The [draft design](#) for the stormwater daylighting shows the section of the stream that will be daylighted.

Statutory map A28 Plan of the District of Tauranga³ records Papahenga as the name of the swamp at the head of the estuary in Otūmoetai. The lower extent of the stream was formed in draining the swamp.

Location of the feature, generic term

The stream flows in a north then north-westerly direction, passing through a culvert under Ngatai Road and the East Coast Main Trunk line in Otūmoetai, Tauranga, where it drains into Matua Salt Marsh⁴, Tauranga Harbour. The feature is currently partially buried in a culvert (stormwater pipe) on Council-owned land⁵ between Carlton Street Reserve and Sherwood Vale, Otūmoetai. The rest of the stream is above ground, including a small section at its source before the buried section’.

The buried section will soon be daylighted just to the west of the existing culvert, as part of stormwater renewal works. The proposed extent of the stream encompasses the section that will be daylighted plus the above ground sections at either end of the currently buried section.⁶

The proposal has not included the above ground channel through Matua Salt Marsh to the main channel of the estuary (as shown by the dotted purple line on the map on page 1 of this report). Should the Board accept the proposal, the Secretariat recommends including the full continuous extent of the feature, which will need to be confirmed by the proposer.

The proposal does not include a generic term as encouraged by the Board’s *Generic Terms Policy* and 1.4 of the *Standard for New Zealand Place Names*. However, the Board has made some stream names official without a generic term, mostly for relatively minor features. Recent examples include [Kā Pūtahi](#) in Christchurch and [Rukuwai](#) in Te Kauwhata. This proposal is considered consistent with these recent proposals.

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

The stream is not named in the *NZ Gazetteer* and there are no associated names.

There are several ‘Kakahu’ (or ‘Kākahu’) named features that partially duplicate the proposed name, the nearest being [Kakahu Stream](#), ~11km northeast of Tīrau and 36km southwest of the proposal. There are also two ‘Pekepeke’ names, being Pekepeke (hill) and Pekepeke Stream southwest of Murupara. The distance of these partial duplications means there’s no potential for confusion.

Research, history and references to the feature

Tauranga City Council’s website has a project page on the Carlton Street Reserve stormwater renewal works which details the imminent daylighting of

³ <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena/search/#/entity/aims-archive/R22822519>, accessed 27 March 2026.

⁴ Local use name. Also known as Papahenga – Matua Saltmarsh, see: <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/walkways/ot%C5%ABmoetai-and-matua-reserves>, accessed 27 March 2026.

⁵ Local purpose reserve (drainage) – see ‘Carlton Street Reserve’ in the 2019 Tauranga Reserves Management Plan – [Part C, Reserve Specific Information](#), Tauranga City Council, accessed 26 March 2026.

⁶ The Secretariat understands that there is a further section of the stream to the south which is buried and has the potential to be daylighted at a future date – personal communication with Ed Clayton, Tauranga City Council, 25 March 2026.

the culverted section of the stream.⁷ The webpage also notes that an application will be lodged with the Board to name the stream Kākahu Peke Peke, reflecting 'the cultural and historical significance of the waterway'.⁸

The proposed name (albeit with variations in orthography) and its kōrero has some profile in the Otūmoetai and wider Tauranga area, noting that:

- Kākahu Peke Peke is the name of a whakairo (carving) at Ōtūmoetai School, commissioned in 1991 and carved by Kerry Wilson. The whakairo represents 'the springs and the Māori people who drank, bathed and washed in its waters'.⁹
- Kākahu Pekepeke is the name of a popular annual primary school rugby 7's tournament in the Western Bay of Plenty.

Consultation with iwi and others

The proposer has worked in partnership with mana whenua Ngāi Tamarāwaho who gifted the name Kākahu Peke Peke for the stream. The council did not undertake any wider community consultation. While the naming of geographic features is outside the scope of the [Tauranga City Council Naming Policy](#) (revised 2025), this policy guided the council's proposal to the Board. Noting that to recognise the significance of names provided by mana whenua, the council doesn't consult on names proposed by mana whenua for the purposes of obtaining wider community support.

On 11 February 2026 the Secretariat also wrote to these Tauranga Moana iwi about the proposal, seeking their views:

- Ngāti Ranginui
- Ngāi Te Rangī
- Ngāti Pūkenga

Ngāti Pūkenga advised that they support the name gifted by Ngāi Tamarāwaho as mana whenua. No response has been received yet from Ngāti Ranginui or Ngāi Te Rangī.

Advice on orthography¹⁰

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator has confirmed that the orthography should be Kākahu-pekepeke. They advised that:

- a hyphen is required as it's a proper noun of seven or more syllables, and
- [pekepeke](#) ('to jump up and down, jump about, hop') should be one word.

The Secretariat advised the proposer of the orthographic advice and they consulted with Ngāi Tamarāwaho hapū. Ngāi Tamarāwaho have confirmed support for the standardised orthography, Kākahu-pekepeke. Refer to supporting information for this written confirmation.

⁷ ['Carlton Street Reserve Stormwater Renewal'](#), Tauranga City Council, accessed 25 March 2026.

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ ['He Kōrero Tuku Iho'](#), Ōtūmoetai Primary School, accessed 25 March 2026. Refer to page 20.

¹⁰ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

Relevant sections from the [NZGB Act 2008](#) and the *Standard for New Zealand place names*

Section 3(e) of the NZGB Act 2008 provides for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features.

1.1 Acceptable names

(a) Names that reflect New Zealand's exploration, events, tradition and history, and its diverse and inclusive society and culture.

Secretariat comment: the proposed name reflects the cultural and heritage values of the feature to mana whenua Ngāi Tamarāwaho. It speaks to their traditions of drinking, bathing and washing clothes in the stream and associated puna.

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

Secretariat comment: Kākahu Peke Peke is a contemporary Māori name gifted by mana whenua Ngāi Tamarāwaho.

1.3 Undesirable names and other considerations

(b) New names should be distinctive and preferably unique.

Secretariat comment: the name is both distinctive and unique.

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

Secretariat comment: while a relatively minor feature that has been partially buried for many years, the waterway is of deep cultural and historical significance to Ngāi Tamarāwaho. It is also located adjacent to a popular walking path and daylighting of the buried section of the waterway will enhance the ecological and amenity values of the path. Naming the feature would be consistent with recent Board decisions to assign contemporary Māori names to smaller waterways, such as [Waipuna Stream](#) and [Rukuwai](#).

Concerns or issues for emergency services

Naming the feature might assist with emergency response, noting its location adjacent to a popular walking path. The lack of a generic term shouldn't adversely impact on feature identification in this case.

Media

Some media attention is possible, given Tauranga City Council publicity about the Carlton Street Reserve stormwater renewal.

Supporting information

1. Proposal for Kākahu Pekepeke – 2025-11-07
2. Email from Ngāti Pūkenga – support proposal – 2026-02-11
3. Email with orthographic advice – 2026-01-26
4. Email confirming Ngāi Tamarāwaho support the orthographic advice – 2026-03-24