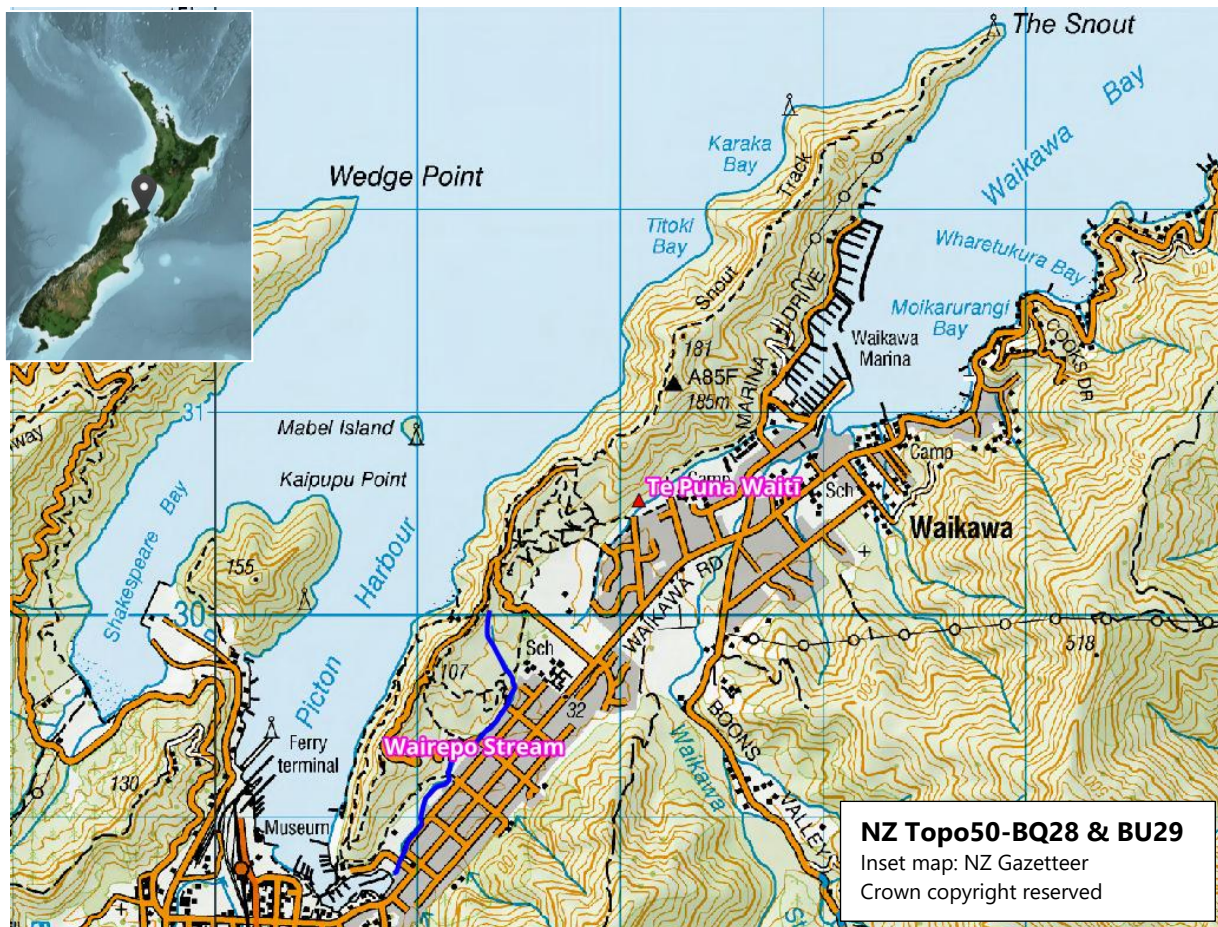


Proposal report considered by the Board on 30 June 2026 with the Board's decision for:

Te Puna Waitī (spring), Wairepo Stream

[new names]



Summary

The proposals from a local resident are to assign Te Puna Waiti and Wairepo Stream as the names for an unnamed spring and waterway in Waikawa (locality), northeast of Picton. They follow a proposal from the same proposer for Waipuna Stream, made official in 2025, noting that the unnamed spring flows downhill to Waipuna Stream. Both new proposals are for features in the Victorian Domain Reserves (managed by the Marlborough District Council with Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui having a statutory acknowledgment over part). The proposer is uri of Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui, who endorse the proposals as mana whenua. Both features are of historical, cultural and ecological significance - to the proposer's whānau and Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui more broadly. The proposed names are contemporary Māori names that reflect the history and significance of the features. A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator confirmed the orthography for Wairepo Stream and advised that the standardised orthography for Te Puna Waiti was Te Punawaiti. The proposer supports the updated orthography and the letter of support from Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui is for 'Te Punawaiti and Wairepo Stream'.

The Secretariat also advised Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa, Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Kuia and Ngāti Koata about the proposals. Rangitāne o Wairau advised that they did not support progression of the proposals without further engagement. They also advised that they would refer the proposals to their internal naming group and provide a formal response. The proposer subsequently engaged directly with Rangitāne o Wairau, with a site visit in February 2026. While the proposer, Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui and the Secretariat have followed-up with Rangitāne o Wairau since this engagement, no formal response has been received to date.

Board's decisions

At its 30 June 2026 hui the Board made these decisions on the proposals:

Accept the proposal, as amended with the correct orthography, to **assign Te Punawaiti** as the official geographic name of an unnamed spring in Waikawa (locality), northeast of Picton, based on a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator confirming Te Punawaiti as the standardised orthography, based on:

- the spring's cultural, historical and ecological values,
- the Board's *Standard for New Zealand place names* encouraging contemporary Māori place names,
- confirmation of the standardised orthography by a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator and the proposer supporting this orthography, and
- support from mana whenua Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui, who are mana whenua, for the standardised orthography Te Punawaiti.

and

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

AND

Accept the proposal to assign **Wairepo Stream** as the official geographic name of an unnamed stream in Waikawa (locality) northeast of Picton, based on:

- the stream's cultural, historical and ecological values,
- the Board's *Standard for New Zealand place names* encouraging contemporary Māori place names,
- confirmation of the standardised orthography by a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator, and
- support from Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui who are mana whenua.

and

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

Secretariat assessment

The proposals

The proposer seeks to assign the contemporary Māori names **Te Puna Waiti** and **Wairepo Stream** to an unnamed spring and stream in Waikawa (locality), northeast of Picton.¹

The proposer is uri of Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui and their whānau is deeply connected to the features and the wider area. They also proposed Waipuna Stream in Waikawa, which the Board assigned as an official name in December 2025.

The proposer advises that Te Puna Waiti is the only natural, undisturbed spring in Victoria Domain, historically used by his whānau and the community for drinking water and to sustain market gardens. They proposed the name Te Puna Waiti, noting that Waiti is one of the stars in the Matariki cluster, *'representing freshwater, including springs, rivers, and lakes, and the creatures and foods that thrive in these environments. The word "Waiti" combines wai (water) and ti (sweet), symbolizing the essential and life-sustaining nature of freshwater and its connection to all living things.'*

They proposer states that Wairepo Stream has historical connections and needs protection and recognition *'as a stream that supports biodiversity'*. It was an important mahinga kai for Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui. The proposed name is a reference to the several swamps and wetlands (repo) that the stream passes through.

The proposer has provided:

- a detailed history of their whānau connection to the spring and stream and the tikanga behind the proposed contemporary Māori names,
- maps and land tenure information for Waikawa West Section B1 (on which Te Puna Waiti is located),
- photographs of the features and a Victoria Domain sign,
- a letter of support from mana whenua Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui, and

¹ The Board received the proposals in January 2026 but they were deferred pending a letter of support from Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui as mana whenua and wider iwi consultation requirements.

- evidence of consultation with Rangitāne o Wairau.

Names shown on plans, maps and charts

Topographic maps and survey plans in the area do not show the spring. The southern end of the stream appears unnamed on SO² 1323 (1921) and is shown with the descriptor 'Tidal Creek' on SO 4940 (1970). SO plans and deposited plans (DP) from the 1970s-1990s also show part of the stream further north, labelling it only as 'creek' or 'stream'. For example, DP 4282 (1973), DP 6745 (1985), SO 6856 (1989) and DP 8310 (1991). It has remained unnamed on maps up to, and including, the current NZTopo50 maps.

Location and extent of the features, generic terms, [geographic feature types](#)

The features are a spring and waterway in Waikawa (locality), northeast of Picton. Both features are in the Victoria Domain Reserves.³ While they are minor geographic features, they have historical, cultural and ecological significance.

Spring: The spring is in bush ~70m north of the Picton-Waikawa Track where it runs between Ranui Street and Huia Street in 'Ranui Street' recreation reserve, now home to the Waitohi Picton Community Garden.⁴ The spring's location has been established via coordinates recorded through pin drops on the proposer's phone. These match the location of the Picton Dawn Chorus' marker 506 at the spring (recording the presence of a trap site).⁵ See supporting information.

The proposed name includes the Māori generic [puna](#) which appropriately describes the feature. Noting that the Board's *Standard* (1.4(c)) advises that some Māori place names include the generic term as part of the specific name 'which is acceptable'.

Stream: The stream flows generally south then southwest for ~1.6km from south of the main Victorian Domain carpark to the southeastern head of Picton Harbour. The stream's source is ~240m south of the carpark. The area where the stream flows into Picton Harbour (at the site of Waikawa Marina) was originally part of a tidal lagoon known as Kaiaua Lagoon.⁶

The generic term [Stream](#) accurately describes the feature, and is used for similar features within Waikawa, namely Waipuna Stream and Waikawa Stream. While tautology exists, it is acceptable to identify the feature and the generic term 'Stream' is part of the proposal.

[New Zealand Gazetteer](#),

Neither feature is named in the *NZ Gazetteer* and there no associated place names.

² Survey Office plan

³ Marlborough District Council, 2021, '[Victoria Domain Reserves Management Plan \(Waitohi/Picton and Waikawa\)](#)', accessed 5 June 2026. See also '[Victoria Domain](#)', Marlborough District Council, accessed 5 June 2026.

⁴ '[Victoria Domain Reserves Management Plan \(Waitohi/Picton and Waikawa\)](#)', pages 5-6 – also referred to as the 'Huia Street Reserve'. See also '[Waitohi Picton Community Garden Project](#)', Envirohub Marlborough and '[Community garden returns to its roots](#)', Marlborough App, 6 July 2024, both accessed 5 June 2026.

⁵ See [Picton Dawn Chorus – Trap Map](#), accessed 5 June 2026.

⁶ Cawthron Institute, 2016, [Picton Bays Environmental Information and Health Assessment](#), Report No.2805, accessed 5 June 2026. See also supporting information – document 11. The lagoon is shown on SO 770 (undated).

associated place names and duplication

There are several 'Te Puna' named features in the *NZ Gazetteer* that partially duplicate the proposed name, the only other spring name being Te Punaatuhoe in Rotorua. There are also three 'Waiti' official names in the *NZ Gazetteer* that partially duplicate the proposed name:

- Waiti Stream at Te Henga / Bethells Beach
- Waiti Bay at the northeastern tip of Waiheke Island
- Waiti Bay, southeast of Raukura Point, Firth of Thames

The distance of these partial duplications from the proposal means there's no potential for confusion.

There are no other streams named Wairepo Stream in the *NZ Gazetteer*. However, there are several 'Wairepo' named features that partially duplicate the proposed name:

- Wairepo Arm, Wairepo Bay and Wairepo Creek, all south of Twizel,
- Wairepo Creek ~20km south of Clinton,
- Wairepo Creek ~17km northwest of Kaikohe.

There are also three streams named Waireporepo Stream, all in Te Ika-a-Māui North Island. The distance of these partial duplications from the proposal means there's no potential for confusion.

If made official, there may be some confusion between Wairepo Stream, Waipuna Stream and Waikawa Stream, given their proximity in Waikawa. But they are different words.

Research, history and references to the features

Various sources attest to the cultural, historical and ecological significance of the wider landscape in which the spring and stream are located, now the Victoria Domain Reserves. Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui have a statutory acknowledgement ('Waikawa Stream and its tributaries') over part of the domain.⁷ Their Deed of Settlement notes that Victoria Domain was 'another important mahinga kai where sardines were plentiful'.⁸

An ecological assessment of Victoria Domain notes that native fish such as eels, galaxiids and bullies occur in most streams and wetlands within the domain.⁹ The Victoria Domain Reserves Management Plan includes reference to 'Hampden Street Stream' which must be the proposed Wairepo Stream, given the stream's proximity to Hampden Street.¹⁰ No other references have been found to the name 'Hampden Street Stream'.

Consultation with iwi and others

The proposer is uri of Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui and consulted with them about the proposals. See their letter of support in supporting information.

⁷ See [Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui Deed of Settlement: Attachments](#), page 33. For a map, see: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/proposed-marlborough-environment-plan/statutory-acknowledgements>.

⁸ [Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui Deed of Settlement: Documents](#), pages 13-14.

⁹ 'Victorian Domain – Ecological Assessment Report', 2004, accessed 5 June 2026. See page 2.

¹⁰ See ['Victoria Domain Reserves Management Plan \(Waitohi/Picton and Waikawa\)'](#), page 17.

In February 2026 the Secretariat also wrote to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa, Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Kuia and Ngāti Koata about the proposals.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa acknowledged the Secretariat's email and advised they would let us know if they had any comments, but no further response has been received.

Rangitāne o Wairau advised the Secretariat that the proposer had not engaged with them about the proposals and stated 'Rangitāne does not support progression of the proposals without further engagement'. They also advised that they would refer the proposals to their internal naming group and provide a formal response, requesting the Board to defer any decision until that process was complete. Refer to the email in supporting information for their full response. The Secretariat subsequently advised the proposer of the need to engage directly with Rangitāne o Wairau. The proposer and Robbie McKinney, Kaitohu Taiao/Environmental Advisor for Rangitāne o Wairau subsequently met near the features on 20 February 2026. See the proposer's email in supporting information for further details.

The proposer, Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui and the Secretariat have followed up with Rangitāne o Wairau to understand their position on the proposals (see supporting information) following the 20 February 2026 site visit. No response has been received as at early June 2026.

Ruihana Smith, Kaitohutohu, Hononga ā Iwi – Advisor, Iwi Relationships for Marlborough District Council is aware of the proposals and has no concerns, advising 'from a cultural perspective I am in support of the proposed names'.

Advice on
orthography¹¹

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator advised that the correct orthography for Te Puna Waiti is **Te Punawaiti**, with reference to rule 3.4 of the orthographic guidelines (page 14). This rule states: 'For names beginning with 'Te', this is always written as a separate word, and the number of syllables in the *rest* of the name (following rules 3.1 and 3.2 above) determines whether the remainder of the word is hyphenated'.

The translator advised that Wairepo Stream is the correct orthography.

The Secretariat advised the proposer of the orthographic advice for Te Puna Waiti in March 2026. They've confirmed their support for the standardised orthography Te Punawaiti, as have Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui as mana whenua.

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

(b) Contemporary Māori place names and the restoration of original Māori place names.

¹¹ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

1.3 Undesirable names and other considerations

(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 comment: only one reference has been found to a local use name for the stream - 'Hampden Street Stream'. This appears in the Victoria Domain Reserves Management Plan. It's not clear how widely used this name is. 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 that might take precedence over Wairepo Stream.

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

Secretariat comment: while they are minor geographic features, the spring and stream are in Victoria Domain, an area of high amenity value. The features also have other values, particularly to Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui, and naming is therefore considered appropriate to recognise their mana and mauri. Naming would also be consistent with Board advice and decisions for similar features. For example: [Te Wai o Tūranga](#) (spring), [Waipuna Stream](#), [Rukuwai](#) (stream) and the current proposal for Kākahu-pekepeke (stream).

Concerns or issues
for emergency
services

Naming of the features might assist with emergency response.

The spring is in bush adjacent to the recently established Waitohi Picton Community Garden, in the 'Ranui Street' recreation reserve.¹²

The stream flows through Victoria Domain and the adjacent Memorial Park, both parts of the highly popular Victorian Domain Reserves, known for their extensive track network. Part of the stream runs adjacent to the Picton-Waikawa Track within the domain.

Cost implications

There are some cost implications should Marlborough District Council wish to update signage for Victoria Domain to name the spring and stream (and the recently named Waipuna Stream which is partially within the domain). However, any signage updates and updates to other Victoria Domain publications could be done as part of routine maintenance.

Media

Some media attention is possible, noting media coverage of the proposer's recent successful proposal for Waipuna Stream, also in Waikawa, Picton.¹³

¹² Also referred to as the 'Huia Street Reserve'. Part of Victoria Domain Reserves,

¹³ ['Waipuna Stream's name gets official recognition'](#), *Marlborough App*, 1 February 2026.

Supporting information

Te Puna Waiti proposal

1. Proposal for Te Puna Waiti – 2026-01-08
2. Email from the proposer with photographs of the spring – 2026-01-08
3. Email from the proposer regarding coordinates for Te Puna Waiti-2026-01-29
4. Email from the proposer confirming support for the orthography Te Punawaiti-2026-06-05

Wairepo Stream proposal

5. Proposal for Wairepo Stream – 2026-01-08
6. Email from the proposer about the stream's extent (with photos appended) – 2026-01-08

Both proposals

7. Email with orthographic advice – 2026-02-02
8. Email from Rangitāne o Wairau – 2026-02-13
9. Email from the proposer regarding a site visit with Rangitāne o Wairau – 2026-02-20
10. Letter of support from Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui for the proposals – 2026-05-01
11. Follow-up email from the proposer to Rangitāne o Wairau – 2026-05-04
12. Follow-up email from the Secretariat to Rangitāne o Wairau – 2026-05-20
13. Email from Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui regarding Secretariat queries-2026-06-08