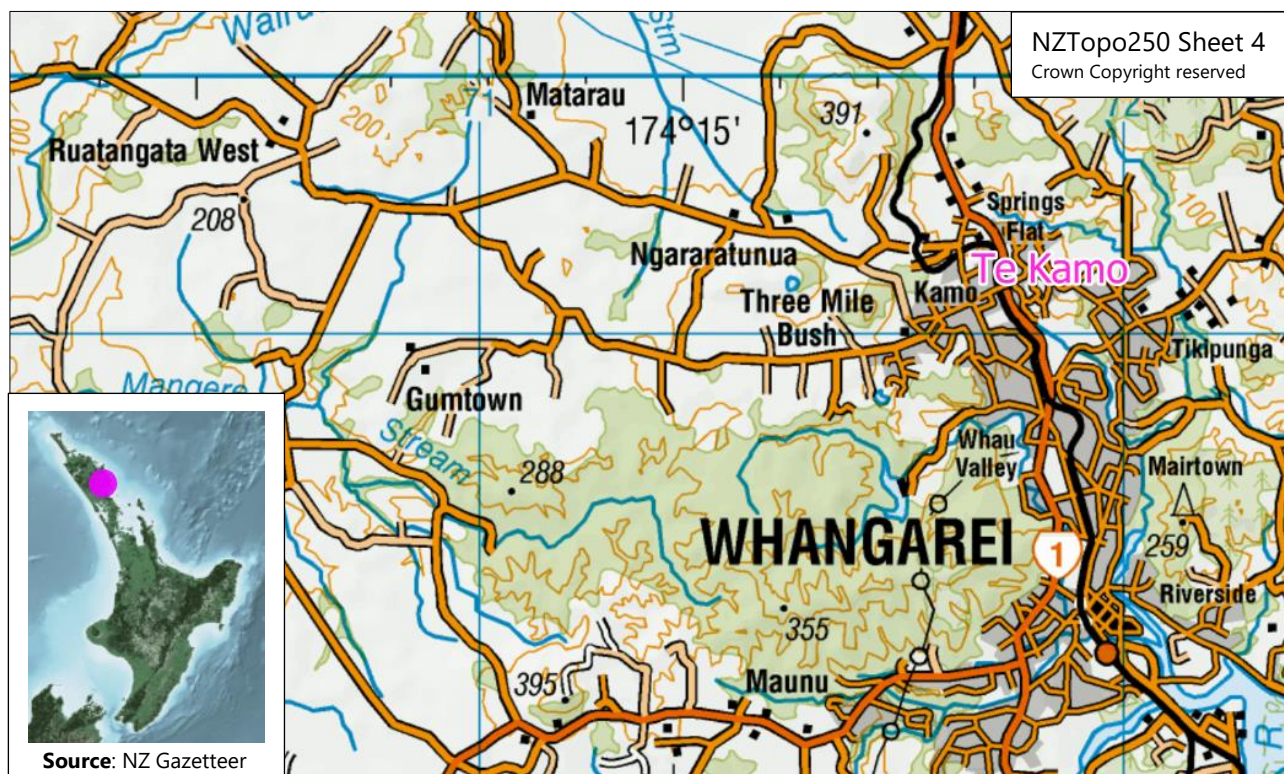


# Proposal considered by the Board on 26 July 2022 for Te Kamo (locality)

[altered from Kamo]



## Summary

The proposal made on behalf of Ngāti Kahu-o-Torongare and several hapū from Terenga Paraoa (Whangārei), is to alter the unofficial recorded name of Kamo in Whangārei to the correct original Māori name, Te Kamo, and to define its western extent to reflect the original Te Kamo Block. The proposer is concerned that Kamo lacks a traditional narrative and is mispronounced.

The proposer advises that Te Kamo is a tupuna who was a prominent leader in the area and has provided evidence of support for the proposal from Whangārei hapū kaumātua.

The 1858 Deed of Sale records Te Kamo. However, since 1859 only Kamo has been shown on survey plans and official maps, so it has been in long term use (163 years). The proposer has advised that the associated place name, Kamo Springs, will be the subject of a different proposal in the future.

The proposer considers the locality as being bound by Springs Flat to the north, Tikipunga to the east, Whau Valley to the south and Ruatangata West to the west. Extending the boundary as far west as Ruatangata West would incorporate the unofficial recorded localities, Three Mile Bush, Gumtown, Ngararatunua and Matarau. However, they could still be used by the local community.

Whangārei District Council's (WDC) current use of Kamo for addressing, which is from the FENZ Localities dataset<sup>1</sup>, covers a smaller area than that provided by

<sup>1</sup> Fire and Emergency New Zealand currently maintains the Localities dataset for responding to emergencies. Toitū Te Whenua LINZ uses it for addressing and NZ Post sometimes uses it for delivering mail.

the proposer. WDC doesn't have a defined boundary for the locality itself and hasn't been prepared to commit to one.

Altering Kamo to Te Kamo would raise awareness of the history of the name and its traditional narrative to correct a grievance of mana whenua that the name is spelled incorrectly. The alteration is unlikely to cause identification issues when communicating with emergency services as they rely on digital technology to locate an emergency.

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## Secretariat recommendation

At its 26 July 2022 hui the Board deferred making a decision and requested more information on the tupuna, Te Kamo.

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**Accept** the proposal to ~~alter~~ the recorded unofficial name Kamo to **Te Kamo** as the official name of a locality generally bounded by Springs Flat to the north, Tikipunga to the east, Whau Valley to the south and Ruatangata West to the west in Whangārei, based on:

- ~~the Board's functions to determine the correct spelling of place names, and to collect original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps,~~
- ~~advice from mana whenua and evidence on the 1858 Deed of Sale of Te Kamo being an original Māori name,~~
- ~~the general boundaries proposed being the best that can be determined before public consultation,~~
- ~~recognising the traditional narrative and cultural values associated with the name and the area that it originally applied to, and~~
- ~~giving partial effect to the Board's Strategic goal to officially name and define all suburbs and localities,~~

**and**

**Notify** as a proposal to alter for three months.

**Noting** that:

- ~~Whangarei District Council's current use of Kamo from the FENZ Localities dataset covers only the southern part of the proposer's extent,~~
  - ~~Whangarei District Council's GIS<sup>2</sup> is based on the FENZ Localities dataset which uses Kamo,~~
  - ~~more than half of the rural part of the extent provided by the proposer falls within localities named in the FENZ Localities dataset as Ngararatunua, Matarau and Ruatangata West,~~
  - ~~extending the boundary north and as far west as Ruatangata West would incorporate a rural component including the unofficial recorded localities, Three Mile Bush, Gumtown, Ngararatunua and Matarau which may still be used by the local community. This would effectively extend the existing Kamo locality that is defined in the FENZ Localities dataset,~~
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<sup>2</sup> Geographic Information System

- ~~to date Ngāpuhi and Ngātiwai have not provided their views; however, they will have an opportunity to do so if the Board accepts the proposal and it is publicly notified,~~
- ~~objections to the name being altered have already been received through a petition provided by the proposer, and~~
- ~~the proposer's advice that the associated feature, Kamo Springs, will be the subject of a separate proposal.~~

## Secretariat assessment and advice

### The proposal

The proposal, made on behalf of Ngāti Kahu-o-Torongare<sup>3</sup> and several hapū from Terenga Paraoa (Whangārei), is seeking to alter Kamo to the correct the original Māori name, Te Kamo, and to define its extent to generally align with the original Te Kamo Block. The proposer advises that Te Kamo is a tupuna who was a prominent leader in the area.

The proposer advises that Kamo lacks a traditional narrative and is concerned about some of the community's poor pronunciation of Kamo.

The proposer has provided a copy of the 1858 Deed of Sale of Te Kamo Block. The proposer advises that after the sale the European settlers left off the 'Te' and subsequently just used Kamo.

The proposer has also provided:

- the traditional narrative of Te Kamo,
- evidence of support for the proposal from Whangārei hapū kaumātua,
- a media article informing the community of the proposal and the Mayor of Whangarei District Council's support for it, and
- correspondence, an editorial, and a petition objecting to the proposal.

The proposer advises that his discussions with some WDC councillors indicate that they support a traditional narrative being added through the ancestral name.

### Names shown on plans and maps

Since 1859 Kamo has been shown on survey plans and official maps.

Map/plan	Date	Name
<a href="#">Plans of Land Purchases in the North Island of New Zealand</a>	1858	Te Kamo Block
SO 761	1859	Kamo
DEED W37	1881	Kamo
NZMS 13	1923, 1951	Kamo Town District [appellation]
NZMS 1, N20	1943, 1957, 1964, 1977	Kamo
NZMS 260, Q06 Pt R06	1988	Kamo

<sup>3</sup> A hapū of Ngāpuhi

[Geographic feature type](#), generic term, location and extent of the feature

The proposer advises that Kamo, which is approximately 5km northwest of Whangārei CBD, is commonly referred to as a township or village. As it is both urban and rural in character it meets the definition of a locality in the NZGB Act 2008. The proposer has suggested 'Te Kainga o Te Kamo' in later correspondence, but Kamo has not historically had a generic term, so the Board should not be distracted by this later suggestion.

The proposer describes the locality as being bound by Springs Flat (locality) to the north, Tikipunga (suburb) to the east, Whau Valley (suburb) to the south and Ruatangata West (locality) to the west – see page 1 of Appendix A which has those places marked. Extending the boundary as far west as Ruatangata West would incorporate a rural area including the unofficial recorded locality names, Three Mile Bush, Gumtown, Ngararatunua and Matarau, which may continue to be used by the community. The geography around the additional rural area may extend down to Pukenui Forest in the south, the small hills to the west around Ruatangata West and the low-lying area to the north. The central point of the locality would need to be moved west from where it is currently.

Neither the proposer nor WDC are prepared to commit to a more detailed definition of the extent. Explicit definition of the boundaries is likely to create additional concerns from potential objectors, especially in relation to their address.

The 2018 census recorded 9855 people as living in Kamo.<sup>4</sup> In an email to the proposer WDC noted that recent projections anticipate it will be Whangārei's second largest urban area with an expected population increase of 33%.

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[New Zealand Gazetteer](#),

associated place names and duplication

[Kamo](#) is an unofficial recorded name in the Gazetteer. [Kamo Springs](#) is the unofficial recorded name of the water springs at the northern end of Kamo. The proposer has advised that Kamo Springs will be the subject of a different proposal in the future.<sup>5</sup> There are no other duplications of Kamo.

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Research, history and references to the feature

The Board's archives record that in 1961 the Board agreed to alter Ruatangata Railway Station to Kamo Railway Station but didn't gazette the alteration as the station was already operational. KiwiRail has advised that the station is no longer there.

The local secondary school is known as Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kamo and the local kindergarten is Te Kamo Kindergarten.

A television news item records that Kamo was originally a mining town established in the late 1800s and became part of Whangārei township in 1965.<sup>6</sup> WDC's District Plan records that Kamo has a strong local identity based on its coal mining history.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Based on the 2018 census combining statistical areas of Kamo, Kamo West, Granfield Reserve and Kamo Central, a greater area than the loose extent described by the proposer.

<sup>5</sup> Personal communication 8 June 2022

<sup>6</sup> 1news, 26 April 2021, [Calls for Whangārei township of Kamo to get a new name](#). Accessed 13 June 2022

<sup>7</sup> Whangārei District Council, 2015. [Kamo Walkability Environment](#). Accessed 14 June 2022

Fletcher<sup>8</sup> describes Kamo as a place in Whangārei.

Reed<sup>9</sup> records Kamo as *lit.* 'bubbling up', referring to the mineral springs in the vicinity. If this entry isn't considered accurate, the Gazetteer may be updated with the proposer's advice that it is named for a tupuna.

A kōrero referenced in a media article is that Kamo means 'wink, blink, eye, eyelid, or eyelash', referring to a local chief who went on a trip leaving behind his partner. On returning, he discovered his partner was being unfaithful. It is said the chief took his partner and hung her from a pūriri tree. By the time the rest of the travelling party returned, the chief's partner was almost dead, but managed to flutter her eyes, or kamo.<sup>10</sup>

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Consultation with iwi and others

Noting the comments of WDC's Mayor's in the media and evidence of support from Whangārei hapū kaumātua, to date Ngāpuhi, Ngātiwai haven't provided their views. WDC has also not provided its views on the proposed name and has been unwilling to comment on the proposed extent – see the Council's email of 20 June 2022 in Supporting information. However, they will have an opportunity to do so if the Board accepts the proposal and it is publicly notified.

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Advice on orthography<sup>11</sup>

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator has confirmed the orthography of Te Kamo.

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Relevant sections from the [NZGB Act 2008](#)

Section 3(e) provides for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features. Under section 10(1)(e) a principal function of the Board when it alters a place name is to investigate and determine the feature's extent.

Other functions of the Board under section 11(1) are to: (b) examine cases of doubtful spelling of names and determine the spelling to be adopted on official charts or official maps, and (d)&(e) to encourage the collection and use of original Māori names on official charts and maps.

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[Standard for NZ place names](#) criteria

### 1.1 Acceptable names

- (a) Names that reflect New Zealand culture, society, exploration, events, tradition, and history. The NZGB encourages the restoration of original Māori place names.
- (b) The surname or traditional ancestral Māori name of a person who has been deceased for at least two years, was a notable leader, of good character, and/or contributed to, or had a strong association with the feature, place or area.
- (c) Names that recognise the priority of discovery of significant places, including those of Māori pre-European contact.

*In a media interview the proposer described Te Kamo as a prominent leader in the area, who would often gather together hapū elders to discuss issues and find resolutions and likened his role to that of a mayor. Altering Kamo to Te Kamo*

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<sup>8</sup> Waikato University, [Index of Māori Names](#). Accessed 14 June 2022.

<sup>9</sup> Reed, A.W. & Dowling, P. (ed.) (2010). *Place names of New Zealand*. North Shore: Penguin Group.

<sup>10</sup> The Northern Advocate, 12 April 2021. [Mana whenua seeking name change for Whangārei township of Kamo](#). Accessed 15 June 2022.

<sup>11</sup> The conventions and rules of how to write a language



would acknowledge and raise awareness of the history of the name and its traditional narrative.

### 1.6 Altered names

A name may be altered when:

- it is culturally inappropriate
- it corrects a significant wrong or grievance

*Noting that Kamo has been in long term established use, altering it to the correctly spelled original Māori name would remedy a grievance of mana whenua that the name is spelled incorrectly.*

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Addressing implications and concerns or issues for emergency services

WDC has advised that it uses Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's Addressing data, which is based on the Localities dataset. New Zealand Post uses a completely different postcode area for Kamo than what is in the Localities dataset.

The area named Kamo in the Localities dataset covers a different extent than that proposed. See page 2 of Appendix A for a map showing the boundary of the FENZ locality. From an emergency response and addressing perspective, more than half of the extent provided by the proposer falls within the localities named Ngararatunua, Matarau and Ruatangata West in the Localities dataset.

Altering Kamo to Te Kamo is unlikely to cause identification issues when communicating with emergency services as they deal with many different place name pronunciations and rely on digital technology to locate an emergency.

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Cost implications

If the proposal proceeds, there should be no significant concerns because of cost. Updates to signs, promotional material, maps, databases, websites, etc would be done over time during routine maintenance.

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Media

There is likely to be media coverage if the Board accepts the proposal. Therefore, the Board may consider a media release when it publicly notifies the proposal.

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## Supporting information

1. Proposal for Te Kamo – 2021-08-29
2. Email with orthographic advice – 2022-06-08
3. Email from Whangarei District Council – not able to define extent – 2022-06-20