


Submissions considered by the Board on 22 June 2023 for Te Kamo (suburb)

[altered from Kamo, possibly with a defined extent]



 Boundary of the area named Kamo in the suburbs and localities dataset (indicative, for reference)

Summary

At its hui on 2 December 2022 the Board accepted a proposal on behalf of Ngāti Kahu-o-Torongare and several hapū to alter the unofficial recorded suburb name of Kamo in Whangārei to Te Kamo.

During the public notification period between 18 January 2023 and 18 April 2023 the Board received 651 submissions, with 116 submissions supporting and 535 submissions objecting to the proposal. A strong local response is evident with the majority of submitters being residents of Kamo or elsewhere in Whangārei.

The main reasons in the supporting submissions are largely based on the same reasons that the Board accepted in the original proposal. The objecting submissions primarily support the existing name based on concerns around the costs of change, long term use of the name, and their strong personal associations. All reasons are responded to below and not considered to outweigh the original reasons why the Board accepted the proposal.

Notably, some objecting submissions refer to alternative origins for the name Te Kamo, which a (supporting) submission from the proposers themselves also acknowledges have validity. However, the spelling is the same for some of those other traditions, ie including 'Te', and the Board has previously noted the documentary evidence such as the Crown Purchase Deed using 'Te Kamo'.

Submitters were invited to suggest an appropriate extent (boundaries) of the suburb. However, there were very few useful responses and no consistent view emerged. The Board is therefore advised not to proceed with defining the boundary, noting Whangārei District Council had not been able to assist.

During the consultation period the proposers held a 'Hui-a-hapū', an outcome being to include new and specific boundaries for Te Kamo in their submission.

These differ entirely to the loose description originally provided. Therefore, the Board may alternatively consider agreeing in principle with these boundaries, subject to refinements in consultation with the proposer and subject to council support. This would mean it may be some time before the Board's decision is recommended to the Minister for Land Information. There may also risk in recommending boundaries which haven't been publicly consulted on.

Secretariat recommendations

At its 22 June 2023 hui the Board resolved the recommendation and Option 1, amending 'narrative' to 'narratives' in the third bullet point, to reflect other kōrero that emerged from the consultation process.

Recommendation: **Consider** the **651** submissions and their reasons on the proposal to **alter** the unofficial recorded name Kamo to **Te Kamo** as the official name of a suburb in Whangārei,
and
Reject the **535** objecting submissions, including the submission making an alternative proposal for 'Pohe', based on the reasons provided not outweighing the reasons the Board originally accepted for the proposal, being:

- 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,
- recognising the traditional narratives and cultural values associated with the name and the area that it originally applied to, and
- giving effect to the Board's strategic goal to officially name all suburbs and localities,

and
Noting in further response to the objecting submissions, that there is no legal obligation for businesses to change their names, so may do so if or when they're ready, and costs for altered names being minimal for digital records and absorbed over time for physical products and infrastructure through regular replacement/maintenance cycles,
and
Noting that there are other stories that Te Kamo refers to an event, not a tupuna, but that the spelling would still be Te Kamo, and that the Gazetteer could include a note to acknowledge this,
and
Confirm the Board's earlier decision to alter the unofficial recorded name Kamo to **Te Kamo** as the official spelling of the name of a suburb in Whangārei,
and
Report the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

~~AND EITHER~~

Option 1

Not decide on the extent of the suburb, based on the limited and variable responses in the submissions indicating no clear idea of community views, noting Whangarei District Council has not sought to define the boundaries, and that the primary aim of the proposal was to restore the full original name.

OR

Option 2

~~**Agree in principle** with the boundaries the proposers have suggested in their supporting submission, **subject** to refinement in consultation with the proposers and support from Whangarei District Council, without re-notifying for submissions.~~

Background

Board's decision on Proposal

The following is an abridged extract from the minutes of the Board's hui on 2 December 2022:

'The proposer had provided, at the Board's request, more information about Te Kamo, who was a tupuna, but there was no whakapapa or placement, and there appears to be gaps in the kōrero. However, the proposers had given the Board what they wanted it to know. The original name of the land and kāinga (village) was Te Kamo Block [the appellation for the Crown purchase] and the whakapapa of Ngāti Kahu-o-Torongare traces back to Te Kamo. 'Te' is more than the definite article – it is a formal and significant part of a Māori name. It elevates the name of the person and gives the name status and mana. Retaining 'Te' is an important matter in regard to a Māori name in much the same way as 'Mac' or 'Mc' is to a Scottish name, and this should be clearly explained when the proposal is notified. The Board agreed to accept the proposal subject to the observer from Te Puni Kōkiri seeking further kōrero about the whakapapa of Te Kamo given he was a leader of the hapū of Ngāti Kahu-o-Torongare.'

Notification

Advice to mana whenua

On 19 December 2022 the Secretariat advised Te Rūnanga ā Iwi o Ngāpuhi, Ngātiwai Trust Board and Whangarei District Council that on 18 January 2023 the Board would publicly notify the proposal for submissions for three months. Ngāti Kahu-o-Torongare¹ made a submission in support of the proposal.

Advice to MPs

On 18 January 2023 the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Te Tai Tokerau and Whangārei and all adjacent electorates that the proposal was open for submissions until 18 April 2023.

Public notification including social media

The Board advertised the proposal:

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#), [Sunday Star Times](#), [Whangarei Leader](#) and [Northern Advocate](#),
- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ² [Consultation](#) and [Facebook](#)TM pages, and the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.

¹ A hapū of Ngāpuhi

² Land Information New Zealand

Media

The Board released a [media advisory](#) in te reo Māori and English on 18 January 2023, which was also posted on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website. The proposal appears to have had little media attention following notification, with only one article:

- [To Te or not to Te? Kamo could become Te Kamo](#)
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Submissions

Summary

During the notification period between 18 January 2023 and 18 April 2023 the Board received 651 submissions, with 116 supporting submissions and 535 objecting to the proposal.

The reasons in the submissions are categorised below with similar and overlapping themes grouped together. Some comments are made on the objecting reasons.

As there is no existing boundary/extent for Kamo, and no extent was proposed, comments from all submissions on possible boundaries are summarised together.

Full copies of all submissions are in the Supporting information.

Local engagement

This table has the location of all submitters based on volunteered information, which is collected to inform on the level of local community engagement.

This proposal attracted a strong local response:

	Kamo/Whangārei	Rest of NZ	International	Unknown	Total
Supporting	97	19	0	0	116
Objecting	443	63	1	28	535
Total	540	82	1	28	651

Affiliation field

The online submission form has a voluntary option for affiliation for the reference of the Board when considering submissions. 56% of the supporting submissions and 43.2% of the objecting submissions filled it in, even if to state 'none'. The submission spreadsheets in Supporting information have the affiliation information where it has been provided.

Validity of submissions

Fifteen submitters made multiple submissions. For the counts in this report and in the summary spreadsheet in Supporting information, they are concatenated as one submission (and identified for the Board's reference).

There are several identical and near identical submissions mostly referring to the sale of the Te Kamo Block.

The proposal was notified at the same time as the proposals for Te Awa o Mokotūāraro, Kororāreka and Ngāmoko Stream. 11 objecting submissions were received during the consultation period which did not specify which proposal they were objecting to. At its 26 April 2023 hui the Board discounted them while considering submissions for Te Awa o Mokotūāraro, but they are included again in Supporting information for reference.

Two submissions (one supporting and one objecting) were received just after the close-off date and were accepted by the Chairperson in terms of Delegation #6³. They are included in the counts.

One abusive and racist submission was removed under instruction from the Chairperson.

³ Delegation #6, Delegations schedule version 8 – 2019-04-11 (Linzone ID: A3473630). The Board may delegate any of its powers, functions, and duties in terms of Schedule 1, clause 6 NZGB Act 2008.

Summary of the 116 supporting submissions

The reasons in the supporting submissions are summarised below, with related themes grouped together. The supporting submissions generally reflect the same reasons in the original proposal and the reasons the Board originally accepted the proposal. There is a submission from Ngāti Kahu-o-Torongare (the proposers) with some additional information not previously advised to the Board.

Summarised reasons and grouped themes	#
Should correct the name/spell personal names correctly. Long term use isn't a good reason not to fix things. This is a very minor change.	78
Recognises the history of the place. It's the original name.	40
Shows Treaty partnership, supports aspirations of mana whenua, local hapū.	26
Adding [Te] aids pronunciation. Incorrect pronunciation is disrespectful. Sounds better anyway.	15
Based on their personal connection to the name and place. The name will build on these connections, build community. Uphold the mana of the land.	11
Supports te reo Māori.	5
All place names should be original Māori names. Reference to decolonisation. Will help make places culturally safe.	3
Generally supports <i>[These submissions may not meet the requirement to provide reasons for supporting]</i> .	3
Consistency with the name of the local high school.	3
Supports conditionally, ie as long as updates to things like signage are made in a fiscally responsible way.	2
Unrelated comment on other names.	2
Because the local council supports the proposal already.	1
Notes that there are other stories that Te Kamo refers to an event, not a tupuna.	1

Summary of the 535 objecting submissions and the Secretariat's comments

Summarised reasons and grouped themes	#	Secretariat comments
Costs to businesses, associated place names, costs to change signs, cost in general. Some citing specific costs since they run businesses named 'Kamo'. There are higher priorities. It's spending a limited pool of ratepayer money on frivolous things, just like the previous council. Will have to cut down a forest for all the paperwork.	273	There is no legal requirement for businesses to change their names when associated place names are altered. They can choose if and when they change their names. The Board and the statutory process for place naming is funded by central government as a public service. There may indeed be some cost to the local authority in eventually updating any signage it is responsible for. However, the cost to update electronic documents is minimal, and to absorb costs, updates on physical products such as road signs are only expected to be made during regular maintenance and replacement cycles.
Historic values/associations of existing name. Long term use (150+ years). Citing Kamo Brickworks.	177	The Board carefully considers long term use of names and the potential disruption a change might cause, especially for populated places. The Board has a

<p>Was founded as 'Kamo', wasn't intended to be 'Te Kamo'. 'Kamo' is its own place with its own identity. Proposal ignores that 'Kamo' for the suburb is a European construct with a European heritage.</p> <p>Just 'Kamo' is still named for and recognises the Māori history.</p>		<p>statutory purpose to 'provide appropriate recognition to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features' and is not attempting to 'erase history'. At the same time, it makes decisions on what it considered to be appropriate now and going forward based on current good practice and place naming <i>Standards</i>.</p> <p>While Kamo is a Māori name and reflects the Māori history it is still shortened from Te Kamo. The Board has statutory functions to encourage the use of original Māori names, and to alter names to correct their spelling.</p> <p>All replaced names affected by Board decisions remain discoverable in the New Zealand Gazetteer.</p>
<p>Personal associations with 'Kamo'. Grew up in/moved to 'Kamo', not 'Te Kamo'.</p> <p>The Board's process is irrelevant as the people actually living there call it Kamo and will continue to do so. It's Wellington bureaucrats tinkering with real people's lives.</p>	<p>154</p>	<p>Place names have great significance in personal identity and the views of locals likely to be most affected by changes to populated place names are important. However these views are one of many considerations the Board takes into account, and other reasons to alter a name may be more compelling. The Board agreed with the reasons provided for the proposal at its 2 December 2022 hui.</p> <p>Official names are required to be used on official documents. People are indeed likely to continue using Kamo, but over time they would increasingly adopt Te Kamo.</p> <p>The Board is comprised of members across New Zealand with skills and expertise relevant to place naming, representing diverse interest groups with a stake in the naming of the land.</p>
<p>Woke Nonsense/Ridiculous.</p> <p>Pandering to radicals. Pandering to minority.</p> <p>It's divisive, it's unworkable co-governance and apartheid.</p> <p>Slippery slope arguments.</p>	<p>91</p>	<p>The Board carefully considers all proposals and the rationale provided on a case by case basis, in terms of the statutory framework and criteria in the place naming <i>Standards</i>.</p> <p>Corrections to place names may be resisted but typically are accepted and come into everyday use over time.</p>
<p>Proposal is inaccurate. Proposal lacks justification. 'Could seriously consider the proposal if it had more evidence.'</p> <p>Proposal lacks evidence of Te Kamo as a historic figure.</p> <p>Has Māori whakapapa and has never heard of Te Kamo being a person.</p> <p>Te Kamo (the historical figure) did not actually have an association with the place.</p> <p>Kamo is correct, his name wasn't Te Kamo.</p> <p>Kamo was a Ngāpuhi slave captured in the south.</p>	<p>69</p>	<p>At its 2 December 2022 hui the Board discussed at length the strength of the kōrero provided in the proposal, having already deferred it for more information at its 26 July 2022 hui.</p> <p>Following a 'Hui-a-Hapū' during the consultation period the proposers Ngāti Kahu-o-Torongare made a supporting submission that acknowledges 'diversity in the meaning of Te Kamo' and that 'hapū narratives also refer to an event in our tribal our prehistories which gave rise to the placename Te Kamo'. This may be the same as what some of the objecting submission refer to.</p>

<p>It's inappropriate to name after Te Kamo, as he was well known for having hanged his wife from a pūriri tree - the 'Te' in a personal name is meant only for those worthy of it.</p> <p>'Kamo' refers to the 'blink' or the 'whites of the eyes' of a woman who survived being hanged by her husband from a pūriri tree on Grant Street (not that the chief's name was Te Kamo) - a narrative from Ngāi Tahu who are ahi kā, here before Ngāti Kahu o Torongare.</p> <p>Is Te Kamo just an alias of Reihana Rēweti, a Te Āti Awa from Port Nicholson?</p> <p>Kamo refers to the bubbling springs (cf Springs Flat, Kamo Springs, Soda Spring) and the details in the proposal are just made up.</p>		<p>While this does not appear to affect the spelling of the proposed name (Te Kamo), the Board may wish to consider further investigation/validation of the alternative narratives. These narratives could be included in the Gazetteer should Te Kamo become official.</p>
<p>Objects without reasons/minimal reasons (eg, 'not necessary')</p>	<p>59</p>	<p>While objecting submissions can support the existing name, they still require reasons. Submissions with no reasons do not meet the requirement of section 17 of the NZGB Act 2008.</p>
<p>Kamo is well known. Change will be confusing, including for tourists.</p> <p>Too many changes to place names. Will cause unrest, unnecessary emotional stress on top of myriad other pressures.</p>	<p>56</p>	<p>The proposed correction to the name while important, is relatively minor. It is unlikely to cause confusion.</p>
<p>Objects to Māori place names.</p> <p>Objects to altering to a Māori place name.</p> <p>Objects to te reo Māori.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>The existing name is a Māori place name.</p>
<p>Māori sold the land to the Crown. All naming rights passed to the Crown.</p> <p>Te Kamo (the name) wasn't on the title, Te Kamo (a person) wasn't a signatory.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Historic land sales are unrelated to the current statutory process to officially name places. The Board represents the Crown in its authority to officially name places.</p> <p>Te Kamo (the name) was on the original Crown purchase deed, Te Kamo (the person) was indeed not a signatory.</p>
<p>Should decide by referendum, the Board has no right to change the name.</p> <p>Efforts have not been made to properly consult, need a mail out to all residents. The older population who have a greater investment in the name and place are ignored and unable to participate.</p> <p>Should only accept natural change in use by local people over time.</p> <p>While the prior Mayor supported the proposal, does the newly elected council?</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board is a statutory Board established by the New Zealand government to make decisions on official place names.</p> <p>It follows a notification process set out in its legislation. The proposal was open for three months and widely notified in national and local publications, online including social media and advice was sent directly to mailing lists including Electorate MPs. The proposal has been reported on in the news media.</p> <p>Numbers of submissions, relative numbers of objecting and supporting submissions, and ensuring local engagement are all factors for the Board to consider.</p>

		<p>However, the reasons provided matter most – the process is not a vote.</p> <p>Prior to notification Whangarei District Council was advised that the proposal had been accepted and would open for submissions over three months. No new correspondence or formal submission was received from the Council.</p>
Will cause addressing/postal difficulties.	13	The Board invited submissions on boundaries to real world use of the place name, and aid accurate addressing.
Need to be future focused instead of reverting.	11	The Board makes decisions on what it considers to be the most appropriate official name going forward.
[Te] = The, change doesn't make sense.	10	'The' is only one meaning of Te. [Te] can also form part of a personal name, being a mark of respect or notability, as in the proposed Te Kamo.
<p>Kamo is easier to say. Doesn't need to be more complex.</p> <p>Adding the [Te] will not achieve stated aim of changing pronunciation so why do it?</p> <p>The [Te] will make it 'Tee/Tea Car-mo' compounding the bad pronunciation.</p>	8	<p>Te Kamo is not considered to be a complex name.</p> <p>While the Board does not have any statutory role to correct people's pronunciation, it does have functions to encourage the use of original Māori names and to alter names to correct spelling. Raised awareness of the original Māori name through the statutory process may help with pronunciation.</p>
Will be confused with Te Kamo Street in Ruakākā.	2	It is unlikely that a street in Ruakākā would be confused with a populous suburb in Whangārei.
Māori not indigenous.	1	Noted.
Proposed alternative name: Pohe – a verifiably important leader in the area with a pā on Hurupaki (hill) adjacent to the suburb.	1	Noted. Based on the strong local response in relation to Kamo or Te Kamo, it is unlikely that another name would be preferable.

Summary of comments on the extent/boundary for the proposed Te Kamo

Submitters were invited to suggest an appropriate extent (boundaries) for Te Kamo. The main online submission form included an extra question and field which 123 submitters filled in. Only two of the submissions by mail and email made a comment on boundaries.

Unfortunately, nearly all the entries were:

- further comments on the proposed name and in many cases just writing 'Kamo',
- stating n/a, they had no idea or that they didn't care,
- stating that they support the existing boundaries (there aren't any),
- ambiguous, incoherent, spurious, or confused by the question.

Other submitters wrote that not enough information was available to come to a view, or that boundaries did not need to be defined. Others responded they 'deferred to the experts/hapū'.

26 of the 652 submissions provided interpretable views, which are mapped out in Supporting information. Suggestions are depicted with lines or points to provide an overall view, and all the comments are combined together on the last map. Most submissions only partially described an extent, typically some cardinal points or parts they consider Kamo or Te Kamo should be inclusive or exclusive of.

Based on the limited and disparate suggestions the Board could opt to decline to define a boundary, also noting Whangarei District Council has not offered a definition of the boundaries. It may be best for the Board to focus on the name and not the boundaries as it has done for many past populated place name proposals.

An exception is that following a 'Hui-a-hapū' at Ngararaitunua Marae the proposers have produced new boundaries. These differ to the loose description originally provided and may be appropriate. However, they would require further work. For example, they cut through and exclude Whau Valley Road at the southwest, which would then have to be an enclave of another suburb accessible only by going through 'Te Kamo'.

Two submissions suggest the former Town of Kamo boundaries had some merit.

If the Board agreed with these or any other boundaries extra time will be required to refine the suggestions and seek support from Whangarei District Council. There could be some risk in requesting the Minister for Land Information to assign boundaries which have not been consulted on publicly.

Supporting information

1. Pou Taunaha report – Te Kamo – 2022-07-26
2. Pou Taunaha deferred report – Te Kamo – 2022-12-02
3. Submission summary spreadsheet
4. All submissions received via the online platform
5. Supporting submissions received via email and post
6. Objecting submissions received via email and post
7. Eleven miscellaneous objections (no proposal specified)
8. Responses to boundaries (mapped with lines and points)