

# BRF 24-170 Decision to approve Mitiwai Stream as official

**Ki / To:** Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Land Information

**Rā / Date:** 8 February 2024

## Ngā mahi matua kia mahia/key actions required

Minita/Minister	Key action required: Agree/note/forward	Deadline when this action should be completed by
Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Land Information	<b>Confirm</b> the decision of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa to approve Mitiwai Stream as an official place name	There is no deadline for your decision

## Toitū Te Whenua Whakapā/contacts

Ingoa/Name	Tūnga/Position	Nama waea/ Contact number	Whakapā tuatahi/first contact
Anselm Haanen	Board Chairperson	04 4600376 or 027 249 5901	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wendy Shaw	Board Secretary	04 4600581 or 027 4807082	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Ngā kōrero a te Minita/Minister's comments

## Pūtake/Purpose

This briefing seeks you to make the final determination on approving an unofficial recorded place name, Mitiwai Stream, as an official place name.

## Pānui whāinga/Key messages

- 1 'Recorded' place names are those shown on maps and charts (and other authoritative publications or databases), having been depicted and used for many decades, but which have not been formally determined by the Board.
- 2 Mitiwai Stream is one such unofficial name. It was depicted on official maps up to the 1970s when Matauwai Stream began to be shown instead.
- 3 The 4km long stream flows into the Tasman Sea just south of Kawhia Harbour. Refer to the **Location map** at the end of this report.
- 4 The proposer represents local hapū Ngāti Mahuta ki te Hauāuru and Ngāti Rangitaka and Te Kōraha Marae. They confirmed that Mitiwai is the correct name and provided their kōrero behind the name, advising that they have never heard of 'Matauwai'. Two other marae and Waikato-Tainui also support the proposal.
- 5 The investigations of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (the Board) suggest the change to Matauwai Stream was a mapping error between the 1<sup>st</sup> (1953) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (1974) editions of the official topographic map NZMS 1, sheet N73 Kawhia.
- 6 The Board publicly notified the proposal in August 2023 and received four supporting submissions and one objecting.
- 7 The objector supported the current name used on recent maps, citing costs to the taxpayer to change the name. The Board rejected this objection as it did not consider these reasons to outweigh the reasons for proposing Mitiwai Stream as the official name.

## Tohutohu/Recommendations

### It is recommended that you:

- 1 **whakamana/confirm** the decision of the Board to accept the proposal to approve Mitiwai Stream as the official place name. Yes / No / Modify
- 2 **manatu/note** that if you confirm or modify the decision of the Board, your determination on the proposal is final, and will be gazetted, publicly notified and added to the *New Zealand Gazetteer* as the official place name. Noted
- 3 **manatu/note** that if you reject the decision of the Board your determination on the proposal is final. Mitiwai Stream and Matauwai Stream will continue to be unofficial recorded names for the same stream. Noted
- 4 **whakamana/confirm** whether you or the Board will issue a media release on your final decision. The Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand Customer Engagement team will work with your office on the content of the media release. Board/ Minister



---

Anselm Haanen  
**Chairperson, New Zealand Geographic  
Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa**

Rā/date: 7 Feb 2024

---

Hon Chris Penk  
**Minister for Land Information  
Te Minita mō Toitū Te Whenua**

Rā/date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Tāpiritanga/Attachments

### Provided at the end of this report:

Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

### Electronically available via Objective Connect:

- 1 Proposal from s.9(2)(a) received on 25 April 2023
- 2 Support by email from Āruka Marae received 17 May 2023
- 3 Support by email from Te Kōraha Marae received 17 May 2023
- 4 Letter of Support from Waikato-Tainui received 19 May 2023
- 5 Support by email from Makteū Marae received 22 May 2023
- 6 *Proposal Report* that the Board considered at its 22 June 2023 hui
- 7 *Submissions Report* summarising the submissions that the Board considered at its 3 October 2023 hui
- 8 Spreadsheet with the submissions (supporting and objecting) received online for the Mitiwai Stream proposal.
- 9 The Board's [media advisory](#) in te reo Māori and English distributed on 1 August 2023
- 10 Facebook post [1 August 2023](#)

## Te Horopaki/Background

- 1 In May 2023, the Board received a proposal from s.9(2)(a) on behalf of hapū Ngāti Mahuta ki te Hauāuru and Ngāti Rangitaka to correct Matauwai Stream, named in the *New Zealand Gazetteer* and on maps, to Mitiwai Stream. See **Attachment 1** for the proposal.
- 2 When reviewing documents relating to the Taharoa iron sand mining operations, the proposer found both names used inconsistently for the same stream. They advised the Board that Mitiwai Stream is the correct name, that the local hapū had no knowledge of the name Matauwai for the stream, and that official maps had previously named it Mitiwai Stream. The proposer provided kōrero that the name Mitiwai refers to the way the stream 'licks' or intermixes with the salt water of the sea to become part of it and that it has been a part of hapū narratives for generations.
- 3 The change from Mitiwai Stream to Matauwai Stream occurred between the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the official topographic map NZMS 1 N74 Taharoa (1953) and its 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1974). Between the two editions a Matauwai Stream 10km to the west-northwest became unnamed, which may suggest that Matauwai Stream was incorrectly re-positioned.

### The Board's decision on the proposal

- 4 At its 22 June 2023 hui, the Board accepted the proposal and agreed to publicly notify it for one month based on:
  - its function to encourage the use of original Māori place names and advice that 'Mitiwai' is the correct, original name,
  - evidence of historical use of Mitiwai Stream on official maps and plans until relatively recently (as late as 1984),
  - advice that the name used locally for the feature is Mitiwai Stream, including evidence of continued use in scientific publications,
  - support from three local marae and a formal letter of support from Waikato-Tainui, and
  - approving one of the names as official and replacing the other one potentially benefitting identification to emergency services by minimising any confusion.

See **Attachments 2-5** for the emails and letter of support and **Attachment 6** for the *Proposal Report* the Board considered at its June 2023 hui.

## Mātanga kōrero/Consultation

- 5 The Board publicly notified the proposal for submissions between 1 August 2023 and 5 September 2023.
- 6 The proposal received four supporting submissions and one objecting submission.
- 7 At its hui on 3 October 2023 the Board considered the submissions. See **Attachment 7** for the *Submissions Report* that the Board considered.
- 8 The supporting submissions reaffirmed that Mitiwai Stream is correct, Matauwai Stream is unheard of, and supported the local hapū in their proposal.

- 9 The objecting submitter wrote: *'Why change the name that this stream has been known by for decades. These constant name changes only cost the tax payer more money.'*
- 10 The five submissions are in **Attachment 8**.

## Ngā tatūnga o te poari/The Board's decision

- 11 At its 3 October 2023 hui the Board rejected the one objecting submission. It did not consider the submission outweighed its original reasons for accepting the proposal.
- 12 Because the Board did not uphold the objection the Minister for Land Information must now make the final determination as required by section 20(1) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.

## Hunga pāpāho/Media

- 13 The Board released a bilingual media advisory on 1 August 2023, which was also posted on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. A Facebook post was made on the same day. These are **Attachments 9-10**.
- 14 There does not appear to have been any media coverage of the proposal.

## Ngā Tāwhaitanga/Next Steps

- 15 Once you make your final determination on this proposal, it will be promulgated as required by the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.



## Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

