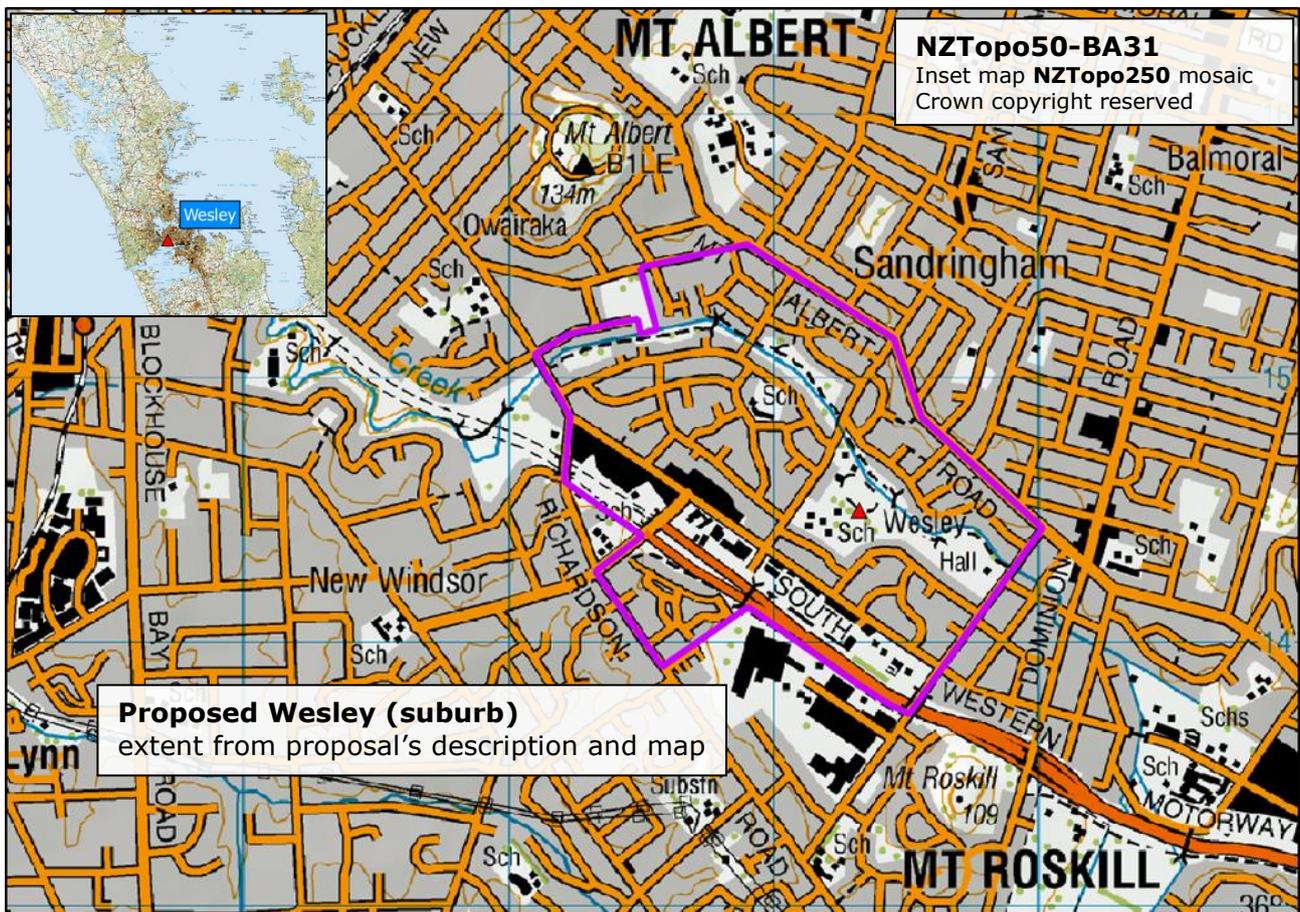


Report on proposal for: Wesley (suburb) [recorded name, Wesley]

MAPS¹



SUMMARY

The proposer is seeking to assign the existing recorded name, Wesley, as the official geographic name for a suburb in Auckland city.

This proposal follows the withdrawal of a proposal earlier this year to discontinue the same suburb name and use 'Wesley' as the name for a new town development in south Auckland near Pukekohe. Both names are associated with Wesley College, which was once located nearby in Three Kings (suburb). This latest proposal is from a different proposer.

Puketāpapa Local Board has minuted its support for making the existing suburb name official. There is evidence of support from local institutions and the local community.

Puketāpapa Local Board has contacted mana whenua groups for their views on the proposal, but has not advised of any responses, other than an acknowledgement from Ngāti Whātua. Less than a month was provided to respond to the proposal.

The Secretariat also has concerns regarding consultation with the adjacent Auckland Council Local Boards about the proposed extent of 'Wesley'.

¹ Land Information New Zealand

SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATION

- Recommendation 1 ~~**Accept** the proposal to **assign Wesley** (suburb), based on:~~
- ~~— the long term use of this suburb name (approximately 70 years),~~
 - ~~— the local community's strong association with the name, evidenced by the response to a previous proposal that was withdrawn, and in the proposal material,~~
 - ~~— the many schools, businesses, and community events that are named 'Wesley' within the suburb,~~
 - ~~— the heritage values associated with the Wesley name,~~
 - ~~— support from Puketāpapa Local Board,~~
- ~~**and**~~
- ~~**Notify** as a proposal to **assign** for three months in terms of Section 16 of the NZGB Act 2008,~~
- ~~**and**~~
- ~~**Noting** that under the NZGB's *Protocol for Māori Place Names*, mana whenua will have four months to express their views on the proposal,~~
- ~~**and**~~
- ~~**Noting** that the adjacent Auckland Council Local Boards will have three months to express their views on the proposal and its extent.~~
-
- ~~**and**~~
- Recommendation 2 ~~**Discuss** any action on the announced developer name 'Paerata Rise', for the new town development at Paerata, south Auckland.~~
-

OPTION

- Option 3 ~~**Defer** for the proposer to consult with mana whenua, and to confirm the proposed suburb extent is acceptable to the adjacent Auckland Council Local Boards.~~
-

SECRETARIAT ANALYSIS

The proposal The proposer, who is the current MP (as at 22 September 2017) for Mount Roskill and acting on behalf of his constituents, is seeking to assign an existing recorded name, Wesley, as the official geographic name for a suburb of Auckland city.

This proposal follows the withdrawal of proposals from a developer earlier this year to discontinue the existing suburb name, and use 'Wesley' for a new town development in south Auckland, near Pukekohe, where Wesley College is currently located.

The proposer advises of a longstanding, shared community identity and spirit, defined through the Wesley name, and the community's shock at the previous proposal. The proposer has supplied a [three minute video](#) of a series of interviews with the local community about what 'Wesley' means to them. A letter from Charles Nicholls JP and Helen Nicholls is also included.

The proposer has worked with Puketāpapa Local Board, who supports the proposal. Puketāpapa Local Board has consulted with mana whenua but has not received any views on the proposal but had given less than a month for responses.

The proposer has referred to Puketāpapa Local Board's *Three Kings Heritage Study* as evidence of the correct spelling and history of Wesley.²

Previous proposals to assign Wesley (town) and discontinue Wesley (suburb)

In August 2016, Grafton Downs Ltd made a proposal to assign Wesley for a new town at site of Wesley College, north of Paerata, south Auckland. To address the duplication of a populated place name, they also proposed to discontinue the existing Wesley (suburb) name. The two locations were 30km apart.

This proposal did not meet minimum requirements for the NZGB's 28 September 2016 In March 2017 the NZGB received an updated proposal following further consultation with Local Government and mana whenua.

In early April 2017 awareness of the proposal in the Wesley (suburb) community resulted in a number of public meetings, media coverage, and **106** pre-emptive objections sent directly to the NZGB. **63** of these were from the staff and students at Wesley Intermediate School. The remaining **43** objectors mostly identified themselves as living in Wesley, having lived there, or having attended school in Wesley. During the same period, Mt Roskill (Puketapapa) Historical Society began a petition that attracted 767 supporters online.³

On 9 May 2017, Grafton Downs Ltd advised that it was withdrawing the proposal due to the public response. They advised they would consider a new name for the town development and make a new proposal.

In September 2017 another name, 'Paerata Rise' was announced in a media release.⁴ The Secretariat has yet to receive a proposal for this name.

Names shown on historical maps and plans

Wesley College was located in Three Kings (suburb), Auckland, until it moved to Paerata (locality), south Auckland. The college owned extensive surrounding lands to the west (the location of Wesley suburb) and south

² [Dr E. Pishief, J. Adam, *Te Tātua a Riukiuta Three Kings Heritage Study 2015*, Puketāpapa Local Board, Auckland Council](#) – accessed 5 September 2016

³ <https://www.change.org/p/nz-geographic-board-save-the-wesley-name-in-roskill> - last accessed 12 September 2017.

⁴ http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11917551 – last accessed 12 September 2017

(location of associated name Wesley Bay).

The site of Wesley (suburb) was an undeveloped swampy area until the 1940's, when the government bought the land for state housing.

Map/Plan	Date	Shown
SO 1144	1845	Wesleyan Mission [near Three Kings site]
A(D)116	1873	Wesleyan Mission [Wesley suburb site]
G358 Auckland – Eden County	1900	Wesleyan Mission Property [land between Three Kings and current Wesley suburb]
NZMS 16 – Auckland Sheet 7	1926	<i>Not named</i> [undeveloped]
NZMS 13 NAK 76	1931, 1 st ed.	<i>Not named</i> [undeveloped]
NZMS 2A Titirangi	1944	<i>Not named</i> [undeveloped]
NZMS 1 N42	1946	<i>Not named</i> [partially developed]
NZMS 1 N42	1962 2 nd ed	Wesley [partially developed]
NZMS 1 N42	1971 3 rd ed.	Wesley (suburb)
NZMS 260 R11	1994 2 nd ed.	Wesley (suburb)
NZMS 260 R11	2006 ed.	Wesley (suburb)
NZTopo50-BA31	2016 v.1.06	Wesley (suburb)

Location and extent of the feature

Wesley (suburb) is under the jurisdiction of Puketāpapa Local Board in Auckland (city). Auckland Council has defined the extent of its Local Boards, but has not defined the extent of Wesley (suburb), or most of its suburbs.

Puketāpapa Local Board, in discussion with the local community, has identified the 'estimated' boundaries of Wesley. The Secretariat has drawn these boundaries on the map above. A more precise shapefile has been requested from the proposer.

These boundaries extend beyond the jurisdiction of Pukatāpapa Local Board, which may be of concern. The Secretariat has requested the proposer provide evidence of support from the adjacent Local Boards.

As a populated place in Auckland city, there may be objections from people who identify as living in 'Wesley' but were not included, or vice versa. Therefore, the s.24 NZGB Act 2008 fast track process to approve Wesley (suburb) as official without public consultation cannot apply.

State Highway 20, which extended from Hillborough Road to Maioro Road in 2009 has somewhat isolated the southwestern part of the identified 'Wesley' area.

Generic term and geographic feature type

[Section 4 of the NZGB Act 2008](#) defines a suburb as 'an identifiable area within a local authority area, usually urban in character, with facilities such as those for education, transport, and shopping.' Wesley meets this definition.

Duplicated and associated names

Wesley is the recorded name for the suburb.

Wesley Bay is an associated recorded name south of Wesley (suburb), on the northern shore of Manukau Harbour.

Mount Wesley, a recorded locality name, is approximately 130km northwest of this proposal. This locality was named for a Wesleyan Mission established at the location in 1853.⁵

Wesley Creek (recorded) is in the Southern Alps / Kā Tiritiri o te Moana, approximately 50km east of Hokitika. The feature was named for a John Wesley, who managed road construction through Otira Gorge.⁶

⁵ http://www.kauricoast.co.nz/History_NW_River.cfm - accessed 5 September 2017

⁶ NZGB Card Index citing *The Press*, 28 October 1934

These duplicated and associated names are unlikely to cause confusion because of their distance and different generic terms.

Other associated features

Schools and facilities within Wesley (suburb) include 'Wesley' in their names, for example, Wesley Primary School, Wesley Intermediate School, and Wesley Community Centre.

A street, Wesley Bay Glade, is located at Wesley Bay. Numerous other streets in Wesley (suburb), Three Kings (suburb), and throughout Auckland have names relating to either the Methodist Church or Wesley College.⁷

Research, history and references to the feature

The Wesley name has been associated with the site of the suburb for approximately 160 years, Wesley College having owned the land. The suburb itself has been named Wesley for approximately 70 years.

In 2015, Auckland Council produced a detailed heritage study *Te Tātua a Riukiuta (Three Kings)*, which details the history of Wesley College at Three Kings.⁸

All 'Wesley' names ultimately relate to the Wesleyan Mission, a British Methodist missionary society. The 'Wesleyan' Methodist church was named for its founder, John Wesley (1703-1791).

The key details about the suburb are:

- In 1844 the 'Wesleyan Native Institution' was established at Grafton Road, Auckland.
- In 1848 a second site for a college was established with an additional 77ha Crown Grant at Three Kings (suburb). Further grants between 1850-1858 added approximately 333ha including the swampy land depicted as 'Wesleyan Mission' on plan A(D)116 (the future suburb), and the land at Wesley Bay, Manukau Harbour.
- In 1912 the College Board purchased a 275ha site at Paerata, south Auckland. In 1924 the main college moved from Three Kings (suburb) to the new site.
- In 1939 the government bought the land at Mount Roskill for state housing.⁹ The land was subdivided in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Archives New Zealand documents refer to the development as 'Wesley Block, Mount Roskill'. Wesley Block became 'Wesley' (suburb), and named on authoritative maps.

The 2013 Census identified 2871 people as living in 'Wesley' (suburb).¹⁰ It is unclear if predefined statistical areas or responses identifying their location as 'Wesley' determined this.

Consultation with iwi and others

The proposer has provided a copy of a letter and email from the Chair of Puketāpapa Local Board to mana whenua with an interest in the area. The proposer provided mana whenua with 18 days to respond.

Ngāti Whātua acknowledged the letter, stating they would provide their response following the Wesley community meeting on 15 August 2017. No further response was received.

Puketāpapa Local Board advised its letter was sent to contacts from:

⁷ <http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/streets/streets.html> - last accessed 14 September 2017

⁸ [Dr E. Pishief, J. Adam, Te Tātua a Riukiuta Three Kings Heritage Study 2015, Puketāpapa Local Board, Auckland Council](#) - accessed 5 September 2017

⁹ In the Suburbs, *AUCKLAND STAR, VOLUME LXX, ISSUE 112, 15 MAY 1939*

¹⁰ <http://www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census/profile-and-summary-reports/quickstats-about-a-place.aspx> - accessed 5 September 2017

Makaurau Marae Māori Trust	Ngāti Tamaterā	Tainui	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
Ngāti Maru	Ngāti Tamaoho	Te Ākitai	
Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki	Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara	Te Kawerau a Maki	
Ngāti Paoa	Ngāti Whāua Ōrākei	Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Maungarongo [a te reo Māori total immersion school]	

In terms of the Protocol for Māori Place Names, Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK) commented that insufficient time was provided to receive responses from mana whenua. TPK forwarded the proposal information to its Auckland regional office, who indicated they would investigate whether the groups received the information from the proposer.

Relevant policy from the NZGB's [Frameworks version 8](#)

Using personal names

Personal names may apply to geographic features and places where the name is in the public interest. The person commemorated should have contributed significantly to, or have a strong association with, the area where the feature is located.

The Wesley name ultimately relates to John Wesley (1703-91), founder of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. However, the suburb name relates more specifically to Wesley College (formerly the Wesleyan Native Institute), a school the Wesleyan Methodist Church, who once owned the land.

Based on long term use of the name, its strong association with the area, and the views of the community supporting the name, it would be in the public interest to make the name official.

Addressing implications

The ASNZS Standard 4819:2011 records a number of criteria to ensure that locality names are enduring.

The Standard states that all boundaries should be contiguous. The Puketāpapa Local Board has consulted with the Wesley community on defining suburb boundaries, although these are not precise. This definition extends outside of Puketāpapa Local Board's jurisdiction, and leaves gaps within their jurisdiction. This may be of concern especially should the surrounding suburbs and localities be defined in the future.

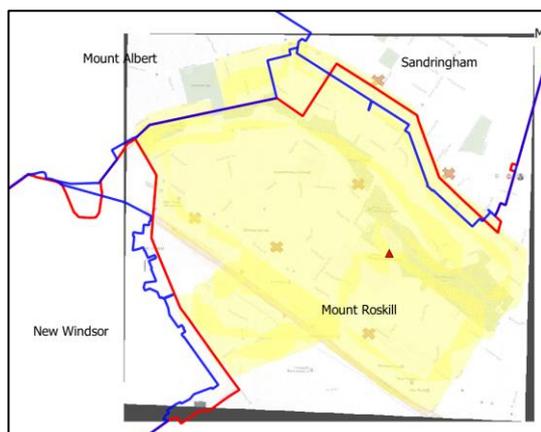
Concerns or issues for emergency services

Assigning Wesley (suburb) with an extent reflecting how the name is used 'on the ground' would assist emergency services to identify a call out to 'Wesley'.

However, emergency services use the Localities dataset, which includes Wesley within the wider locality of 'Mount Roskill'. This non-authoritative dataset is an operational tool to ensure all locations are within a uniquely named 'locality'.¹¹

The proposed extent for Wesley (suburb) is not fully within this locality:

¹¹ <http://www.linz.govt.nz/about-linz/our-location-strategy/geospatial-data-themes-and-datasets/administrative-boundaries-theme/nz-localities-suburbs-dataset> - last accessed 12 September 2017



Localities dataset (blue, and names)
Local Board boundaries (red)
Base: map from the proposal

Emergency services have previously advised the Secretariat of methods to identify a call out in populated places, which do not use the place name.

Media

Media attention is likely as the result of the earlier controversy over the proposal to discontinue the Wesley (suburb).

Articles published on 7 April 2017¹² and 12 April 2017 followed the public response. Another article on 3 May 2017¹³ reported on a community meeting at Wesley Intermediate School.

The Wesley (town) proposal was withdrawn on 9 May 2017 following the public response. LINZ published a media release on the withdrawn proposal on 10 May 2017, with media reporting on 11 May 2017.¹⁴

Many articles have recently been published on 'Paerata Rise'.

[Online Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language](#)

Both the 'official language' NZSL and New Zealand's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) provide a basis for the NZGB to recognise the existence and importance of geographic names as they are expressed in NZSL.

There is no standardised NZSL sign for Wesley (suburb) in the dictionary. Standardised signs exist for suburbs.



area
wāhi, takiwā
district, electorate,
local, location, nation,
neighbourhood, place,
region, sector, space,
spot, suburb
noun

The NZGB may consider recommending that if Wesley (suburb) becomes an official name that it be added to the NZSL dictionary.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Proposal – 28 August 2017
2. Withdrawn Wesley (town and discontinue suburb) proposal report 18 May 2017
3. Compilation of Media Articles - April-May 2017
4. Advice from Te Puni Kōkiri – 14 September 2017
5. Latest media articles for Paerata Rise

¹² [Mt Roskill community of Wesley fighting to keep its name](#), 7 April 2017

¹³ [Wesley community in Mt Roskill commits to fighting for its name](#), 3 May 2017

¹⁴ [Wesley wins fight to keep its name](#), 10 May 2017