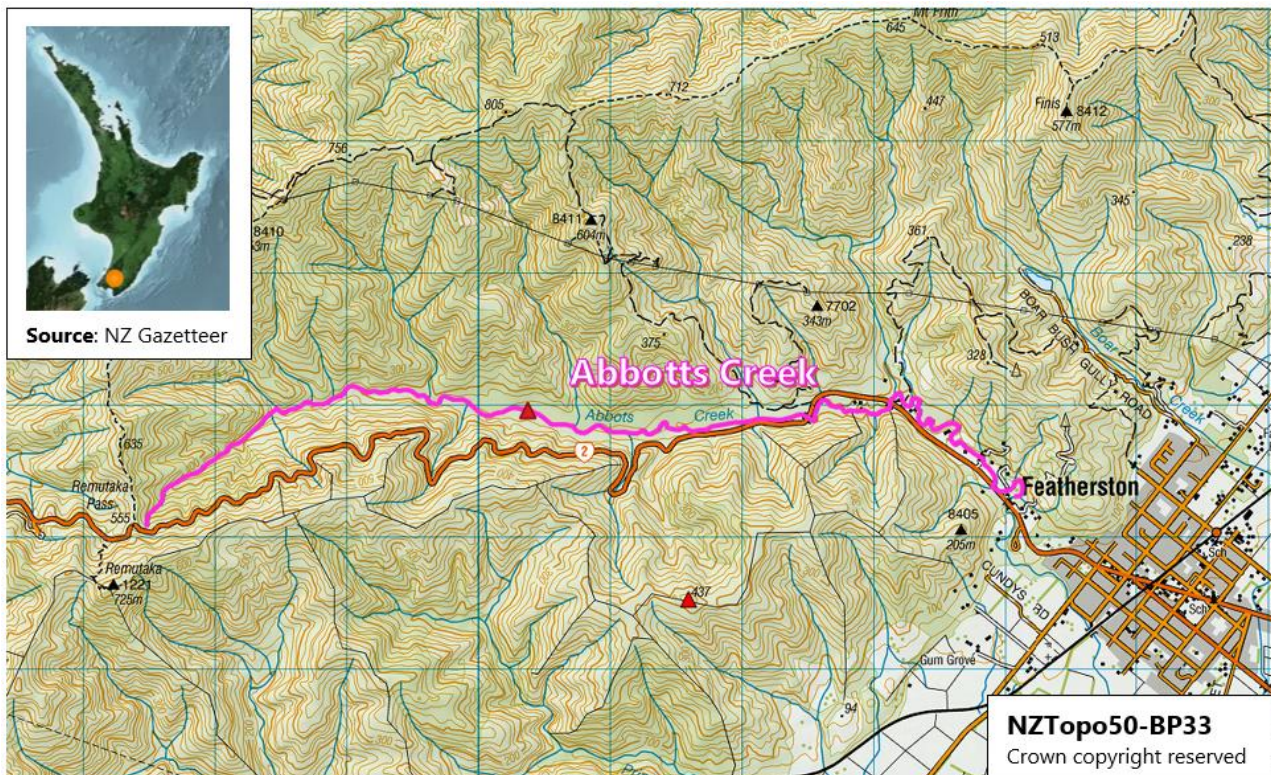


# Submissions considered by the Board on 15 October 2024 for: Abbotts Creek

[altered from Abbotts Creek]



## Summary

At its hui on 30 April 2024 the Board accepted a proposal to alter the official place name Abbotts Creek to Abbotts Creek. The creek flows eastwards from Remutaka Pass into Otairua Stream at Featherston.

During the public notification period between 6 June 2024 and 11 July 2024 the Board received 15 submissions supporting and 16 submissions objecting to the proposal.

The supporting submitters note the importance of correcting the spelling of the Abbott family name. Eleven of the supporting submissions are from the Abbott family with several noting that previous generations of the family would be very pleased to see this long-standing spelling error corrected.

Some objecting submitters indicate that either 'Torohonga' or 'Torohunga' may be an original Māori name for the creek, as also noted in the original proposal report to the Board in April. The Secretariat has invited mana whenua to comment/advise. Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust advise they've been unable to confirm the original Māori name of this creek and query the validity of 'Torohonga', deferring to any recommendation from Ngāti Kahungunu. To date there has been no response from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust. Recent Secretariat research also casts doubt on 'Torohonga' or 'Torohunga' applying to this specific creek.

Some objecting submitters consider the feature to be part of [Otairua Stream](#) and that it shouldn't be separately named. However, the creek has been separately named for over 90 years.

## Board's decision

At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

The Board **considered** the submissions and their reasons on the proposal to alter the official place name Abbots Creek to **Abbotts Creek**,

**and**

**Rejected** the objecting submissions, including the ones that made alternative proposals, based on the reasons provided not outweighing the reasons that the Board accepted the proposal, being:

- a function of the Board being to correct the spelling of geographic names,
- evidence that the feature is named for William Abbott, noting his association with the area,
- retaining the possessive form due to long-term use and low public value,
- retaining the generic term 'Creek' due to long-term use,
- the feature being relatively large and following a well-used portion of SH2, and so warrants being correctly spelled, and
- the proposed alteration not impacting emergency services,

and additional reasons:

- insufficient information that either 'Torohonga' or 'Torohunga' is the original Māori name for the creek,
- Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust questioning the authenticity of 'Torohonga'
- long-term use of Abbots Creek outweighs the need for [Otauira Stream](#) to be extended upstream and replace it,

**Subject to** Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust advising whether Torohonga/Torohunga or Otauira is the original Māori name for this feature, or whether there is another original Māori name. Should they provide further information about the original Māori name for this feature within two months, then an option for an alternative proposal from the Board for a dual name could be made. This would require a further round of public notification since it would be a different proposal to what was originally notified. The reason for a dual name would be based on long-term use of the current name and Abbots being a personal name. A separate recommendation to the Board would be made following advice from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust, if received. If no response is received from them, then the current proposal, Abbots Creek to **Abbotts Creek**, will be reported to the Minister for Land Information for their final determination,

**and**

**Confirmed** the Board's earlier decision to accept the proposal to alter the official place name Abbots Creek to **Abbotts Creek**,

**and**

Will **report** the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

## Background

Board minutes  
30 April 2024  
[abridged]

The Board discussed other options to ensure that the correct spelling is recorded in the Gazetteer, and potentially on maps, without going through the statutory proposal process which is still possible under the 2013 LINZ<sup>1</sup>-NZGB Agreement.

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## Notification

Advice to mana  
whenua

On 1 May 2024 the Secretariat advised Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, Ngāti Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposal for one month from 6 June 2024, and asked for their views – thereby giving them two months to respond.

Advice to MPs

On 6 June 2024 the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Wairarapa and Ikaroa-Rāwhiti and all adjacent electorates that the proposal was open for submissions until 11 July 2024.

Public  
notification  
including social  
media

The Board advertised the proposal:

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#), *Sunday Star Times*, *The Post*, and *Wairarapa Times Age Midweek*, and
- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ [Consultation](#) page, its [Facebook page](#) and the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.

The Facebook post generated several comments which provide further evidence of the Abbott family's connection to the place and support for this proposal.

Media

There was no media release.

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## Additional research

Torohonga

The opposing submissions seeking restoration of Torohonga/Torohunga may have picked up on the reference to this name in the Board's April 2024 proposal report. They have not offered substantiation for these names. The Secretariat has therefore undertaken the following additional research.

An early survey plan SO 10542 (1855) before the establishment of Featherston shows 'Mr Gillies Torohanga' on the right bank of Otawira [sic, stream]. This is the homestead/farm of early settler Archibald Gillies and 'Torohanga' appears to be used as a locality name. The *Wairarapa ki Tararua Report* refers to 'Gillies' Homestead and Station at Te Torohanga', leased on 26 September 1853.<sup>2</sup> A purchase deed referring to 'Mr Gillies' Station at te Torohanga' is dated 12 October 1853.<sup>3</sup> SO 10561 (1856)<sup>4</sup> depicts the sections, also labelling 'Native Gardens' on the left bank of Otawira Stream.

Torohanga, the 200 acre farm and homestead, was later bought ~1867<sup>5</sup> by Stephen Carkeek. It is notable for having the remains of New Zealand's oldest observatory.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Land Information New Zealand

<sup>2</sup> Waitangi Tribunal. 2010. *The Wairarapa ki Tararua Report, Volume I: The People at the Land*, Wai 863, Waitangi Tribunal Report, page 133

<sup>3</sup> WGN 207 (<https://objective.linz.govt.nz/documents/A144927>); *Turton's Deed, Volume 2, No.93*

<sup>4</sup> <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena/search#/entity/aims-archive/R22549385/>

<sup>5</sup> Page 4 Advertisements Column 2, *Wairarapa Standard*, Volume III, Issue 134, 12 August 1869, page 4

<sup>6</sup> New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Record S27/52; see also <https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/9808>

With the previously referenced 1869 painting by Charles Barraud, the connection of the name Torohonga to the painting was only made post 2013 through a National Library annotation on the catalogue record. Torohonga is not named on the painting nor was the name referenced in the 2013 auction catalogue when was purchased<sup>7</sup>.

Documents produced for South Wairarapa District Council refer to Torohonga as an alternative name for [Boar Creek](#). Boar Creek is the next named stream north of Abbots Creek, which flows eastward from Tararua Range, then south around Featherston to join Otairira Stream near its confluence with Lake Wairarapa.

Otairira

Otairira Stream is named on old survey plans for the stream flowing along the south of Featherston, then south to Lake Wairarapa, eg SO 10558<sup>8</sup>, SO 10559<sup>9</sup> (1856). Railway Plan PWD 615 (1872) explicitly names what is currently Abbots Stream, Otairira River.<sup>10</sup>

Otairira Stream was officially reinstated by the Board in 1969<sup>11</sup> for the revision of NZMS 1 N161. The Board's files indicate the name was supplied from survey office records and record that the stream was formerly shown on Rimutaka N.161 as 'Torongo Stream'.<sup>12</sup> The name was briefly shown on the wrong stream on NZMS 260 S27 (1980) before being corrected again.

## Submissions

Summary

During the notification period between 6 June 2024 and 11 July 2024 the Board received 31 online submissions, with 15 in support and 16 objecting to the proposal. Supporting submissions of note are highlighted below. The Secretariat has commented on some of the objecting submissions. 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. It does not indicate that they have a greater influence on the outcome of the proposal.

	Wairarapa	Rest of NZ	Unknown <sup>13</sup>	Total
Supporting	6	9		15
Objecting	6	9	1	16
Total	12	18	1	31

Affiliation field

The online submission form has a voluntary option for affiliation for the Board's reference when considering submissions. The submission spreadsheets in supporting information have affiliation information where it has been provided.

Validity of the submissions

One of the objecting submissions appears to be for another proposal notified at the same time as Abbots Creek as it refers to 'the new proposed Māori name' which isn't relevant to this proposal.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.internationalartcentre.co.nz/auctions/catalogue/201311/TU26686/Abbots-Creek-Crossing> - last accessed 9 September 2024

<sup>8</sup> <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena/search#/entity/aims-archive/R22549397/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena/search#/entity/aims-archive/R22549396/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena/search#/entity/aims-archive/R25219533>

<sup>11</sup> NZ Gazette 1969 (8) p.240

<sup>12</sup> Board file 22 2605 3, Volume 4, page 81.

<sup>13</sup> One of the objecting submitters wrote 'Abbots Creek' in the 'Location' field, presumably confusing this field for the location of the proposal, not their own location.

The proposals for Te Tōangaroa, Rangitikei District, Pito One, Takaanini, Takaanini Railway Station and Maewa were notified at the same time as this proposal. The Board received nine submissions via email that didn't specify which proposal they were objecting to. They are included in supporting information for reference.

### Secretariat's comments on the 15 supporting submissions

- The supporting submissions, which are mostly from members of the Abbotts family, add weight to the Board's reasons for accepting the proposal.
- One supporting submitter queried the absence of the possessive apostrophe. *Section 1.5 (d) of the [Standard for New Zealand place names](#) records that the English possessive form should not be used although 'existing names with the possessive [s] that do not have the possessive apostrophe, have been in long-term use and have low public value will not be altered'. Whilst Abbotts Creek has always had the possessive [s], it has never had a possessive apostrophe on official maps. The Board agreed to retain the possessive [s] for this reason, so the Secretariat does not recommend that the Board give any weight to this comment.*

### Summary of the 16 objecting submissions with Secretariat's comments where relevant

- Waste of time and money. Public money can be spent in more useful ways.
- Consultation process (ineffective, insufficient, biased) – insufficient consultation with mana whenua.
- Other names proposed were: Torohonga Creek, Torohonga Creek / Abbotts Creek, Torohunga Creek and Otairā Stream. One submitter suggests that iwi should rename the feature, though does not specify the name. *The April proposal report noted that the description accompanying an 1868 painting by Charles Barraud indicated that the creek may have originally been known as Torohonga Creek, but this name was not sighted on any plans or maps reviewed during the Secretariat's initial research. Additional research has found historic use of the name 'Torohanga' in the vicinity of the stream, and local use of Torohanga Stream for the adjacent Boar Creek rather than Abbotts Creek. The Secretariat has recently invited mana whenua to comment on whether they consider 'Torohonga' or 'Torohunga' to be the original Māori name for the creek, or whether it has another original Māori name. Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust advise they've been unable to confirm the original Māori name of this creek and query the use of 'Torohonga', deferring to Ngāti Kahungunu on this matter (see their email in supporting information). The Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust has yet to respond.* *One submitter considers that Abbotts Creek and Otairā Stream are one geographic feature and that the name for the whole extent should just be Otairā Stream. They consider it is unconventional for one geographic feature to have two names with no physical transition between the two parts. However, Abbotts Creek and Otairā Stream have been named as separate features on survey plans and maps for many decades. The Gazetteer provides numerous other examples of the same stream/river having separate names. For example, [Whakapuni Stream](#) and [Awhea River](#) south-southwest of Martinborough and [Waikoko Stream](#) and [Waikura River](#) west of Gisborne. Therefore, the Secretariat recommends that the Board rejects this objection.*

*Should any original Māori name be identified through current consultation with Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust or in the future, it could be newly proposed to be restored for the feature.*

- Two submitters provided these reasons which indicate their submissions may have been meant for one of the other proposals notified as the same time as Abbotts Creek:
    - ❖ People don't understand or want to use the Māori language or place names.
    - ❖ There is already huge confusion around New Zealand with names which most people can't pronounce.
  - One submitter didn't provide a reason.
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## **Supporting information**

1. Board's proposal report – Abbotts Creek – 2024-04-30
2. Objecting submissions received via the online platform (16)
3. Supporting submissions received via the online platform (15)
4. Nine miscellaneous objections (no proposal specified)
5. Email from Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust – 2024-09-19