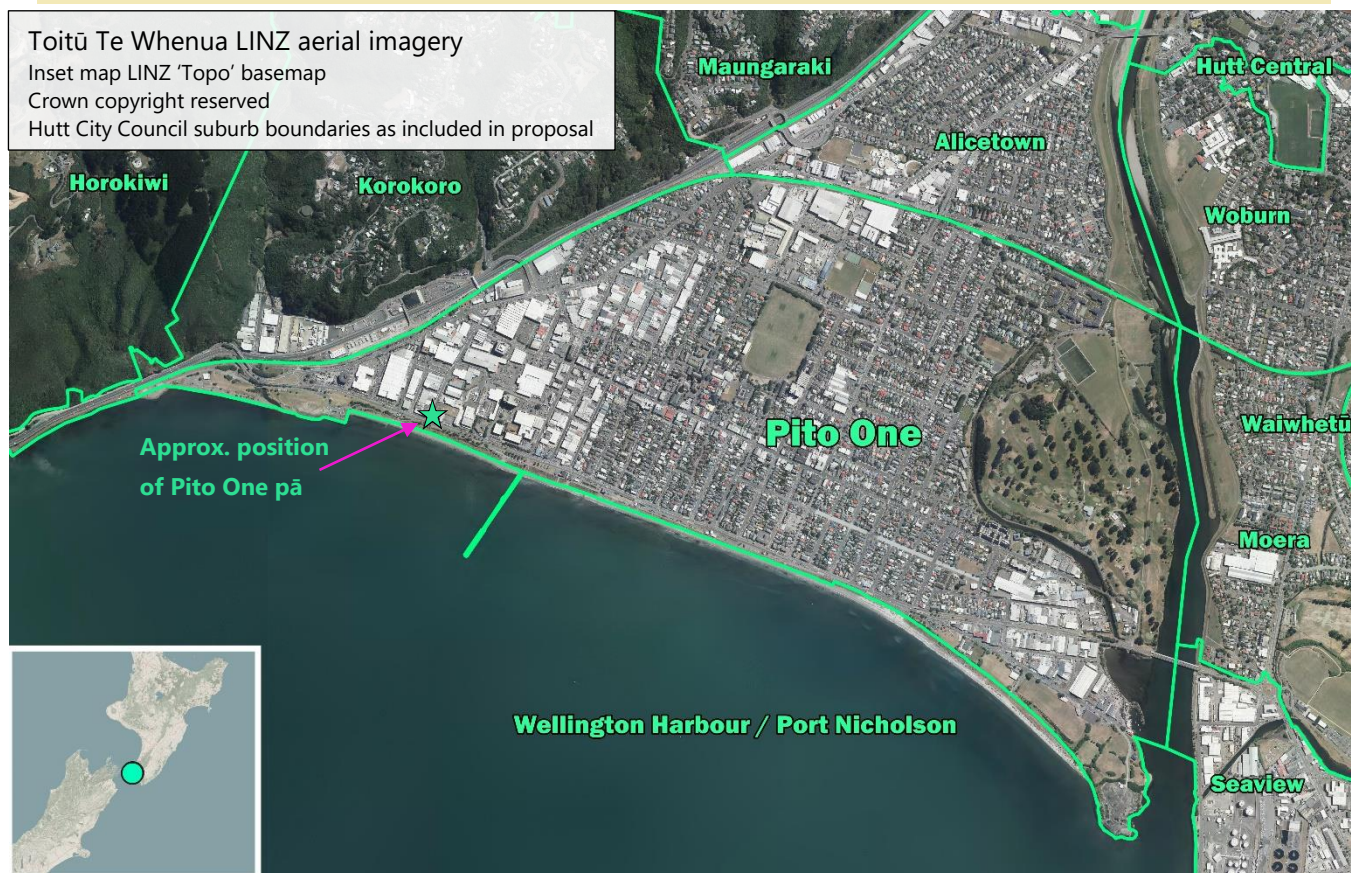


# Submissions considered by the Board on 15 October 2024 for: Pito One (suburb)

[altered from Petone]



## Summary

At its hui on 30 April 2024 the Board accepted a proposal from Wellington Tenths Trust and Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust to alter the existing unofficial suburb name Petone to Pito One as the official name of the Lower Hutt suburb. The Board notified the boundaries/extent included in the proposal.

During the public notification period between 6 June 2024 and 10 September 2024 the Board received 2,081 submissions supporting and 762 submissions objecting to the proposal, totalling 2,843 submissions. A high proportion of the submissions were from residents of Petone and Wellington Region more broadly.

Generally, the supporting submissions provided reasons that align with the reasons why the Board accepted the proposal. The supporting submissions also consider the change is long overdue and will finally lead to the name being pronounced correctly. Many consider the correction within a broader context of supporting the revitalisation of te reo Māori, honouring Te Tiriti and progressive development as a society/nation.

Of note is a supporting submission from Hutt City Council co-signed by most local iwi groups. Wellington Regional Council, Petone Community Board, Petone Historical Society and Te Rūnanganui o Toa Rangatira also made supporting submissions.

The objecting submitters are mainly concerned with the potential costs a change would incur, particularly as many small local businesses use Petone in their names.

They also question the priority of making a change at this time, or ever. Two other themes strongly emphasised in the objecting submissions are:

- denying that Pito One is the 'correct' spelling and that Petone is 'incorrect' on the basis that te reo Māori wasn't a written language, and there being no historical evidence for the 'Pito One' spelling.
- concern that spelled as two words, the 'One' in Pito One will be read and pronounced like the number in English. Some consider an alternative proposal for Pito-one or Pito-One, a dual name with both spellings, or compounding the name as Pitoone would at least solve this issue.

The reasons in the objecting submissions are not considered to outweigh the original reasons why the Board accepted the proposal.

Relatively little comment was made on the extent of the suburb, but there are some constructive suggestions in both the supporting and objecting submissions.

### **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 existing unofficial recorded suburb name Petone to **Pito One** as the official name, and its proposed extent,

**and**

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

- the Board's functions to determine the correct spelling of place names, with evidence of the provenance of the name and its correct spelling from the proposers as mana whenua,
- the long-term use of the spelling as Petone not outweighing using the correct orthography for an original Māori name,
- advice confirming the orthography for Pito One as two words, and not Pito-one or Pitoone, directly from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori,
- the Board having recognised the incorrectness of the existing name several times, notwithstanding it has previously considered 'Pito-one' or 'Pitoone' to be the correct spelling, and
- evidence of support from Hutt City Council and mana whenua,

**and** these additional reasons resulting from the submissions:

- further evidence of local support including from Wellington Regional Council, Petone Local Board and other relevant iwi groups,
- no concern that 'One' in Pito One might be confused with the number in English, noting 'One' (in Māori) is commonly part of many place names in New Zealand, and
- a dual name or alternative names comprised of the current and proposed names would be inappropriate, as the former is a transliteration of the latter, and that the reasons and support for the current proposal outweigh these alternative proposals,

**and**

**Confirmed** the Board's earlier decision to accept the proposal to alter the unofficial suburb name Petone to **Pito One**,

**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.

**AND**

Will **encourage** Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's Addressing team to discuss with the Hutt City Council suggestions in some submissions to 1. move the northern boundary from the Wairarapa Line to Wakefield Street, and 2. include the area on the northwest side of the Wairarapa Line either up to State Highway 2, or all of the area of Pito-One Road and Cornish Street.

**Noting** that the Board will not make a decision on the extent of the suburb but will defer to the council and the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ Addressing team, in liaison with the Secretariat.

## Background

Board minutes  
30 April 2024

Letters of support were tabled (in English and te reo Māori) from Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust.

[abridged]

The proposers, Wellington Tenth Trust and Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust, were established to manage particular reserved lands and are associated with Taranaki Whānui. The Board discussed the kōrero the proposers had provided for the name, which refers to the burial of the umbilical cord in the sand and noted the frequently cited and more literal meaning of 'end of the beach'. The Board agreed that it is up to mana whenua to advise of the meaning they give to their place names. The TPK observer noted that Te Ātiawa should be able to provide a fuller explanation and that he, as far back as the 1960's, recalled [Sir] Ralph Love's kōrero on Pito One.

There is a long history of the use of the name Pito One in the area, with documentary evidence, and no doubt the name is correct. The Board has itself stated so several times since the 1930s.

## Notification

Advice to  
mana whenua

On 3 May 2024 the Secretariat advised the proposers and all other relevant Māori groups<sup>1</sup> that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposal for three months from 6 June 2024.

All groups other than Muaūpoko Tribal Authority signed a joint supporting submission with Hutt City Council. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira also made its own supporting submission.

Advice to MPs

On 6 June 2024 the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Hutt South, Te Tai Tonga, and all adjacent electorates that the proposal was open for submissions until 10 September 2024.

Public  
notification  
including  
social media

The Board advertised the proposals:

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#), *Sunday Star Times*, *The Post* and *The Hutt News*, and

<sup>1</sup> Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa (and Waiwhetū marae, Te Tatau o Te Pō marae), Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangitira (Ngāti Toa), Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, Muaūpoko Tribal Authority

- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ<sup>2</sup> [Consultation](#) page, its [Facebook page \(including a reminder\)](#), and the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.

## Media

The Board released a bilingual media advisory on 6 June 2024, which was also published [on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website](#).

A number of media outlets reported on the proposals, and a Radio NZ article published at the beginning of public consultation was syndicated by other media outlets, for example, *NZ Herald*, *Te Ao News*.

The Board's Secretary was interviewed on *Newstalk ZB* on 4 September 2024.<sup>3</sup>

These media articles refer:

Title	Outlet	Date
<a href="#">Consultation opens on place to change Petone's spelling to Pito One</a>	<i>RNZ</i>	6 June 2024
<a href="#">Māori name changes for Auckland suburbs: NZ Geographic Board opens consultations on proposals</a>	<i>NZ Herald</i>	6 June 2024
<a href="#">New names proposed for Auckland suburbs, other parts of the country</a>	<i>1news</i>	6 June 2024
<a href="#">New Zealand is changing its place names</a>	<i>The Economist</i>	6 June 2024
<a href="#">Pito One name change overdue</a>	<i>Radio Waatea</i>	6 June 2024
<a href="#">From Aoraki to Whanganui: 25 of Aotearoa's best new (old) placenames</a>	<i>The Spinoff</i>	11 June 2024
<a href="#">Place name changes: From Whanganui to Kororāreka, what you need to know</a>	<i>RNZ</i>	21 June 2024
Petone's place in name change bids	<i>Hutt News</i>	11 July 2024
<a href="#">Pito One or Petone, as Hutt City looks at future of Māori ward</a>	<i>The Post</i>	4 September 2024
<a href="#">Emotional scenes as Hutt City endorses Māori ward</a>	<i>The Post</i>	5 September 2024

## Correspondence

On 19 September 2024 the Board received research from a submitter pointing out that:

- graves at the Te Puni urupā (in the vicinity of the historic Pito One pā) are engraved PITOONE,
- a manuscript letters from Te Puni to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Donald McLean, dated 7 February 1851 uses Pitoone<sup>4</sup>.

During the notification period they made an objecting submission which was highlighted as being ambiguous and possibly intended to be a supporting submission. The content didn't contain any discernible objecting reasons.

<sup>2</sup> Land Information New Zealand

<sup>3</sup> [Proposal to restore two Māori place names in Auckland](#) accessed 27 June 2024

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Te Puni to McLean. McLean, Donald (Sir), 1820-1877 : Papers. Ref: MS-Papers-0032-0675B-03. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/22778528](#)



## Submissions

**Summary** During the notification period between 6 June 2024 and 10 September 2024 the Board received 2,081 submissions supporting and 762 submissions objecting to the proposal. These 2,843 total submissions are the highest number of submissions received for any proposal under the NZGB Act 2008<sup>5</sup>. The trend of high submission numbers for recent proposals may indicate growing public interest in place names. The Secretariat has commented on some of the submissions but has otherwise categorised submissions according to standardised submission categories established for this hui. 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. There was a strong local response to the proposal with 43% of submissions from residents of Petone and Lower Hutt, and 83% from the wider Wellington Region.

	Petone	Lower Hutt	Wellington Region	Rest of NZ	International	Unknown	Total
Objecting	95	303	246	91	0	27	762
Supporting	123	707	883	329	5	34	2,081
Total	218	1,010	1,129	420	5	61	2,843

**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.

**General issues with submissions** Fifty-five submitters made more than one submission. Multiple submissions from the same identifiable individual are counted as one submission for this report and are identified in the submission summary spreadsheet in supporting information. There are other submissions where the same person is potentially using different internet and email accounts, but where there is not enough evidence to confirm. They are also highlighted in the submission summary spreadsheet.

In reporting to the Board, the Secretariat has sometimes counted all submissions separately even where clearly from the same submitter. Direction from the Board on this matter will be sought and the Chairperson will provide an explanation prior to consideration of the submissions.

Thirteen objecting submissions which contained content breaching the terms that '*threatening or offensive submissions*' will not be considered. Thirty-three supporting submissions flagged for their reference to 'bastardised names' remain counted.

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

**Issues with the validity of submissions** Approximately 62 submissions supporting and objecting to the proposal do not contain any reasons or are incoherent. For example, two objecting submissions and

<sup>5</sup> New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008

one supporting submission just entered a [.] for their submission so that the mandatory field is filled in on the online form.

Submissions that do not have reasons are not valid under the NZGB Act 2008, so do not need to be considered by the Board. They have been identified in the submission summary spreadsheet but have not been removed from numbers of submissions and locations above. It is up to the Board to confirm if they should not be considered.

**Action 1:** Board to consider whether these submissions have not met the required threshold, and then the Secretariat to update the numbers.

**Board decision:** *At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board agreed that the Secretariat should continue to flag these submissions for the Board's consideration on a case by case basis. Submissions will continue to be counted but reported on separately.*

Issues with submissions being made for Pito-one (and other variants)

The proposal changing from Pito-one as initially supported by Hutt City Council and reported in the media in November 2023, to Pito One when proposed to the Board in February 2024 and announced in June 2024, has caused some confusion.

#### **Supporting submissions:**

Two submitters indicated their support would be unchanged either way, but considered the explanation and justification for the change from Pito-one to Pito One was confusing and insufficient.

Ninety supporting submitters support 'Pito-one' or 'Pito-One'. Some of these submissions were comprehensive, and ten noted whakapapa to iwi groups in the area. However, these submissions did not comment on the orthography specifically and some use Pito One, Pito-one and sometimes Pitoone interchangeably within their submissions. It appears likely most or all would likely support Pito One, so they are not considered to be 'proposing an alternative name' which would be considered objecting submissions.

**Action 2:** If the Board has concerns it could defer its decision on the submissions to seek clarification from the submitters as there is a possibility they would object to Pito One rather than Pito-one or Pito-One.

**Board decision:** *At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board did not seek further clarification from these submitters.*

Two supporting submissions must be considered objections as they specifically make an alternative proposal for Pito-one.

One supporting submitter appears to think the proposal is a correction of Pito One to Pito-one.

#### **Objecting submissions:**

Twenty-eight objecting submitters object to the name being altered to Pito-One or Pito-one. Like the supporting submissions, these mostly did not comment on the orthography. Many used Pito-one, Pito One and a wide variety of other spellings interchangeably sometimes in the same sentence. Some specifically object to the orthography and these are noted below as alternative proposals.

Some objecting submitters remarked that change to the orthography of the proposed name shows proof there is no objectively correct spelling, therefore, there's no issue with retaining Petone.

## General

Both supporting and objecting submissions contain a variety of other iterations of the name, including 'Peto One', 'Pita', 'Peta', 'Perone' etc. These are considered to be typos and not alternative proposals.

## Summary of the 2,081 supporting submissions

Generally, the supporting submitters provided reasons that align with the reasons why the Board accepted the proposal, particularly:

- correcting the spelling and restoring the original name would accurately reflect its meaning and tell its story. It would inspire people whether locally, nationally, or internationally to learn the unique history of the place.
- support for mana whenua and to acknowledge cultural heritage in the area.
- that there's no doubt as to the correction, with plenty of historical evidence showing that Petone is a transliteration/Anglicising/corruption/etc of the original name. The change is long overdue, having been recognised as incorrect for so long.

Other themes in the supporting submissions include:

- it being valuable for travellers and tourists to have an authentic and unique name which could inspire them to learn about the place and its history,
- support for standardisation efforts and correction of Māori place names, and actions which elevate the general level of understanding and comprehension for all New Zealanders,
- the proposal being decolonisation,
- arguments about the cost not outweighing the importance of the correction.

Many supporting submitters consider that making the change will help the revitalisation of te reo Māori and correct how the name is pronounced. Many see the proposal against a backdrop of New Zealand's societal issues, and that making the change will honour Te Tiriti and demonstrate that the country is still progressing as a society and nation. Some see the proposal as a celebration of shared Māori/non-Māori heritage and biculturalism.

Group or organisational submissions were received from Hutt City Council (noted below), Wellington Regional Council, Petone Community Board, Petone Historical Society and Te Rūnanganui o Toa Rangatira.

Noting the volume of supporting submissions, these submissions contain points of interest, are representative of the supporting submissions or are otherwise comprehensive:

Date	Submitter # <sup>6</sup>	Summary/Reason why highlighted
6 June 2024	#603	Professional historian and Waitangi Tribunal researcher. Considers Petone meaningless etymologically and also fails to adhere to English rules of pronunciation. Restoring Pito One also celebrates the power of women in its meaning, a topic not well represented in history and geography.
6 June 2024	#491	Considers it highly objectionable that corrections to original Māori names need to go through a public consultation process; why should people without a real connection get to have a say in the matter? Representative of a number of submissions with similar sentiment.
6 June 2024	#518	Descended from the first groups of settlers on the New Zealand Company ships that disembarked at Pito One. Tells a bit of their family history and relationship with local Māori. The submission is representative of a number of similar supporting submissions from descendants of early settlers.
6 June 2024	#4	Lengthy submission on the social and cultural harms caused by perpetuation of incorrect place names, considering it to be racist, colonial, etc.

<sup>6</sup> [Names of submitters are changed to the submission number in this column for privacy.]

Date	Submitter # <sup>6</sup>	Summary/Reason why highlighted
6 June 2024	#2,068	Provides a tribal history including some details about earlier Ngāti Mutunga occupation not previously noted, and a view on Māori place naming in the area.
6 June 2024	#455	Argues that the variability/inconsistency in the spelling of the name over time demonstrates the need to standardise the spelling. This will help to revitalise te reo Māori
6 June 2024	#398	Submission possibly meant to be read as prose poetry, covering progress in place names over time and imploring people to embrace change.
26 June 2024	#1,356	Supports the proposal, but has some secondary suggestions, notably that to recognise the bicultural and bilingual heritage perhaps the Board should consider restoring Britannia as part of a dual name, Pito One / Britannia. <i>Possibly should be counted as an objection making an alternative proposal given the thought put into the suggestion.</i>
10 September 2024	#57 (Hutt City Council)	On 6 September 2024 at an open meeting Hutt City Council unanimously resolved to endorse a joint submission supporting the proposal (see above). While the formal minutes are not available yet, a recording of the decision is available. <sup>7</sup> The joint submission is signed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hutt City Council</li> <li>• Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust</li> <li>• Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa</li> <li>• Wellington Tenth's Trust</li> <li>• Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika Trust</li> <li>• Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa</li> </ul> Generally, the submission reiterates key points of the original proposal.

A small number of supporting submissions also made comments and suggestions regarding the notified extent of the suburb:

Date	Submitter # <sup>8</sup>	Summary/Reason why highlighted
7 June 2024	#33	Local resident of 50 years with extensive involvement in the community. Suggestion to take the northern boundary to Wakefield Street for historical reasons.
4 September 2024	#50	Councillor of Wellington Regional Council making a submission in a personal capacity. Constructive suggestions regarding taking the western boundaries further to State Highway 2, to ensure that the park and ride for Petone Station is actually in Petone [Pito One].
9 September 2024	#55	Local resident of 50 years, former member of the Board (17 years). Submission mostly concerned with some suggestions regarding extending the western boundary to include the whole of the flat, the industrial area of Pito-One Road and Cornish Street.

Because suburb boundaries are no longer included in any final determinations, the Board may recommend that Toitū Te Whenua LINZ<sup>9</sup> and Hutt City Council consider these suggested changes to the extent, whatever the final determination is on the place name.

One supporting submission indicated their support was conditional on the actual costs of making the change, ie, only if it can be made cost effectively. They request that the Board provide some indication of the actual costs.

<sup>7</sup> 6 September 2024 Additional Council meeting Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/uE2Uf-TacL4?t=220>

<sup>8</sup> [Names of submitters are changed to the submission number in this column for privacy.]

<sup>9</sup> Land Information New Zealand



## Summary of the 762 objecting submissions

Most objecting submissions gave reasons that fall into these general categories:

- Waste of time and money. Money can be spent in more useful ways.
- Language and spelling – many submissions related to this category and are some topics are covered in more detail below.
- Costs to businesses, branded products, schools, etc, who will have to change their names. *[The Board's consideration of cost implications is noted in the 30 April 2024 proposal report].*
- Long term use and identity/connection/culture/history, ie Petone has its own identity after 150+ years, and the spelling 'Pito One' has no connection to this identity. Similarly, the original Pito One applies only to the vicinity of the pā and there's no connection to the entirety of the current Petone.
- Anti-Māori sentiments (divisive, racist, proposal is pandering to a minority). People don't understand or want to use the Māori language or place names.
- Any change should be voted on/decided by a referendum. Claims the proposal is not supported by the local community and neither Hutt City Council nor Petone Community Board consulted with their community. The silent majority oppose the proposal as people can't be bothered making a submission as the consultation process is a sham, the name change already a given.

Noting the volume of objecting submissions, these submissions contain points of interest, are representative of the objecting submissions or are otherwise comprehensive:

Date	Submitter # <sup>10</sup>	Summary/Reason why highlighted
26 June 2024	#279	Māori cultural connections to the area and name are overstated/shallow given that the Taranaki iwi Wakefield encountered had themselves only conquered the area a generation prior, and they mostly returned to Taranaki soon thereafter.
27 July 2024	#293	Covers most reasons across the objecting submissions. Particularly, costs for small businesses and that the proposal does not address what effects there will be on monuments, memorials, memorabilia, organisations, etc using Petone.
20 August 2024	#330	Long term resident. 1 <sup>st</sup> example of a comprehensive objecting submission representative of most objecting submissions. Extensive argument that there is no objectively correct spelling based on historical and more recent evidence (eg, the proposers changed their proposal).
27 August 2024	#333	Long term resident. 2 <sup>nd</sup> example of a comprehensive objecting submission representative of most objecting submissions. Extensive argument that there is no objectively correct spelling based on historical and more recent evidence (eg, the proposers changing their proposal).
4 September 2024	#695	Argument that Māori did not independently create a written language, so there is no 'correct' spelling of Petone. Therefore, the proposal is just ideological. Representative of many similar submissions along these lines.
9 September 2024	#739	Covers most reasons across the objecting submissions. Particularly, considers that the origin/meaning supplied for the name was made up recently and it isn't supported by any evidence.

Three objecting submissions commented on the notified extent, with one making a suggestion for a change:

Date	Submitter # <sup>11</sup>	Summary/Reason why highlighted
27 August 2024	#333	Extensive submission touching on most reasons across the objecting submissions. Appears to generally agree with the proposed boundaries.
5 September 2024	#719	Representative of most reasons across the objecting submissions. Investigated the proposed boundaries, but was confused by the historical boundary for Petone

<sup>10</sup> [Names of submitters are changed to the submission number in this column for privacy.]

<sup>11</sup> [Names of submitters are changed to the submission number in this column for privacy.]

		Borough [discontinued] in the <i>New Zealand Gazetteer</i> : <a href="https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/place/4583">https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/place/4583</a>
9 September 2024	#741	Extensive submission touching on most reasons across the objecting submissions. Considers the northwestern boundary has to include Pito-One Road, it would be ridiculous not to.

A range of reasons on the basis of language and the orthography of the current and proposed names were received with some responded to below:

- Petone cannot be referred to as a spelling mistake when Māori did not have a written language.
- The change to the proposed name from Pito-one is not properly explained and there's no evidence to justify it. The proposers are making things up, for example: *'The original application was for Pito-one, and this has changed to Pito One, so even the original applicants did not "get the name right'.*

Secretariat response: *written language and the development of orthographic standards to decide what is 'correct' typically follow long after the rise of any spoken language. This reason is cited by many objecting submitters. Te reo Māori has orthographic standards set by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (TTWh). Based on the meaning of the name, it has advised that Pito One is correct.*

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- Alternative proposals: Pito-one or Pito-One is the correct orthography, not Pito One.
- Alternative proposals: whether or not it's entirely correct, Pito-One, Pito-one, Pitoone, or Pitōne should be the spelling to prevent confusion and mispronunciation with the English word 'one'. The proposed name would be abbreviated to just 'Pito' or 'the Pits' because of the confusion that will arise. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and text-to-speech will be incapable of recognising the Māori pronunciation of One, in an otherwise English sentence.

Secretariat response: *At its 30 April 2024 hui the Board noted the advice from TTWh that Pito One is orthographically correct.*

*The suggested Pitōne using a macron instead of two [o]'s would lead to mispronunciation. Macrons are used for long vowels, not where separate words or morphemes end and begin with the same vowel. Both parts should be pronounced separately.*

*The official name would be required to be used on official documents.*

*Challenges for AI transcription is not the Board's concern.*

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- New Zealand needs to adopt further written conventions for official documents in a bilingual country, taking its cue from overseas examples, such as italicising one language. Pito One is a case example where there's no cue to indicate that 'One' is Māori rather than English.

Secretariat response: *It would be confusing if some place names on signage (eg, Māori place names) were italicised and others were not. Typically, there is only one name for a place. The Board has considered in the context of dual and alternative names, or bilingual signage, that italicising implies an italicised place name is subordinate to a non-italicised place name. 'One' (beach, sand) is a common Māori word and part of many place names.*

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- Alternative proposals: a dual name, for example, Petone/Pito-One; alternative names; recognise both names (unspecific form, order); both names as a compromise.

Secretariat response: *dual or alternative names consisting of both a transliteration and the correctly spelled iteration of the same place name are undesirable.*

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- Alternative proposals: Brittania, Pie Tony.

*Secretariat response: No compelling reasons were provided for these alternative proposals.*

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- If transliteration of English to Māori is acceptable (for example, Bethany → Petane) then transliterations of Māori to English are acceptable.

*Secretariat response: The Board has specific statutory functions to investigate and determine the correct spelling of place names and restore original Māori names.*

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- It only makes sense to alter a name once there is already a clear linguistic shift in the community, citing Mount Taranaki having supplanted Mount Egmont.

*Secretariat response: The proposal to alter Mount Egmont to Mount Taranaki received nearly 11,000 objections during the notification period. Officially restoring the original Māori name in 1986 (noting the Minister's decision was for alternative names Mount Taranaki or Mount Egmont) was a contributing factor to the shift over time as cited.*

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These additional reasons, which don't fall into the standardised categories, were also given in the objecting submissions and are responded to:

- Objects to Petone being referred to as an unofficial name in Board material, given it's named on road signs, referred to in legislation, etc. The Board is biasing people against the existing name.

*Secretariat response: Official geographic names are defined under the NZGB Act 2008. Petone has not been made official under the Act, but because it has been in long term use on publications the Board considers authoritative, it is an unofficial recorded name.*

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- Retain Petone for the suburb, officially name the pā and/or southwest corner of the beach Pito One. It's only happens that the suburb takes its name from Pito One pā, it could have been named for Hikoikoi pā.

*Secretariat response: the Board could collect the original Māori name Pito One in the Gazetteer, for the pā and/or beach. However, making Pito One official for the pā and beach would require formal proposals and public notification. The proposal at hand is for the suburb. Should the Board recognise the name of pā and beach it would be undesirable for the associated name of the suburb to be inconsistent.*

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- The evidence presented to the Board was incorrect or incomplete, eg 1): the spelling Petone has been in use since day 1 in 1840, ie, the current spelling has been in use longer than what was reported to the Board, 2): A child born to the settlers that arrived at Petone, just hours after landing, was named George Petone Carter to mark the momentous occasion, 3): The 1940 New Zealand Centennial stamp is spelled Petone.

*Secretariat response: As noted in the Board proposal report from April 2024, common use of 'Petone' appears from the 1870s. A few early examples of 'Petone' were noted in newspapers (two prior to 1860), and none in government gazettes (based on simply text search), maps and surveys, parliamentary papers, etc. Given the many transliterations during the early period of European settlement it is likely further examples or an earlier example of 'Petone' could be found.*

*The birth record for George P Carter<sup>12</sup>, birth record of his son (George Carter) in 1873, and a labelled contemporary photo from ~1890<sup>13</sup>, all use the spelling 'Petoni'. Obituaries in 1919 however, use the spelling 'Petone'.<sup>14</sup> His probate does not include his middle name.<sup>15</sup>*

*A stamp issued in 1940 with the text 'Petone Beach'<sup>16</sup> is not documentary evidence of the spelling of the name in 1840. For example, in 1940 for the Centennial Atlas the Honorary Geographic Board intended to use the spelling Pitoone.*

- The origin/meaning of the name in the proposal that the name refers to the burial of umbilical cords in the sand is a recent invention, made up to sound more important or poetic. There's no recorded evidence for this meaning. Conversely, the correct meaning of 'end of the beach' is recorded in early publications in the 1840s and would have been provided by Māori at the time like Te Puni.

*Secretariat response: Mana whenua provided the origin/meaning of the name in the proposal. Histories may be passed down orally without having been recorded. Much of the Board's work has involved correcting long term errors in the spelling and/or positions of place names. The correct orthography for the meaning 'end of the beach' would still be Pito One.*

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- Pito One will cause addressing issues because the 'One' part of the name will be recognised as an address number, or as the post code, rather than a place name.

*Secretariat response: addressing data does not hold text for suburb names and integers for address numbers in the same field. NZ Post's post codes are a separate layer of information to property address.*

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- Sir Āpirana Ngata as Minister for Māori Affairs decided in 1930 not to pursue a name change, this decision should stand.

*Secretariat response: In 1930 there was no proposal under the Designation of Districts Act 1908 to alter Petone to Pito-One. The Honorary Geographic Board's 1930 decision, which did not involve the Minister and was prior to Sir Āpirana Ngata's membership on the Board, was to publish a list of incorrectly spelled Wellington place names in newspapers, for the record.<sup>17</sup>*

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## Supporting information

1. Board proposal report – Pito One – 2024-04-30
2. Submissions summary spreadsheet for Pito One
3. Unedited copy of original online Qualtrics platform submissions output for Pito One
4. Copies of original direct supporting email submissions
5. Copies of original direct objecting email submissions
6. Nine miscellaneous objections (no proposal specified)
7. Additions/subtraction to submissions
8. Pitoone research from submitter – 2024-09-19

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<sup>12</sup> Noting it was compiled in 1847.

<sup>13</sup> Price and Company. Price & Co (Wellington) fl 1864-1880 : Portrait of George Petoni Carter. Phillips, D (Mrs), active 1976 : Photographs of members of the George, Carter and Ena families, the Lyall Bay tramshed and St Mary's Church, Cheltenham. Ref: PA3-0194. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/22756040](#)

<sup>14</sup> Eg: [PERSONAL MATTERS](#), *Evening Post*, Volume XCVII, Issue 140, 16 June 1919, Page 8

<sup>15</sup> [CARTER, George, R22225166](#), Archives New Zealand – last accessed 23 September 2024

<sup>16</sup> Jock Phillips, 'Anniversaries - New Zealand's centennial, 1940', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/zoomify/43023/centennial-stamps> (accessed 23 September 2024)

<sup>17</sup> For example: [MIS-SPELT NAMES](#), *Evening Post*, Volume CX, Issue 39, 14 August 1930, Page 17