

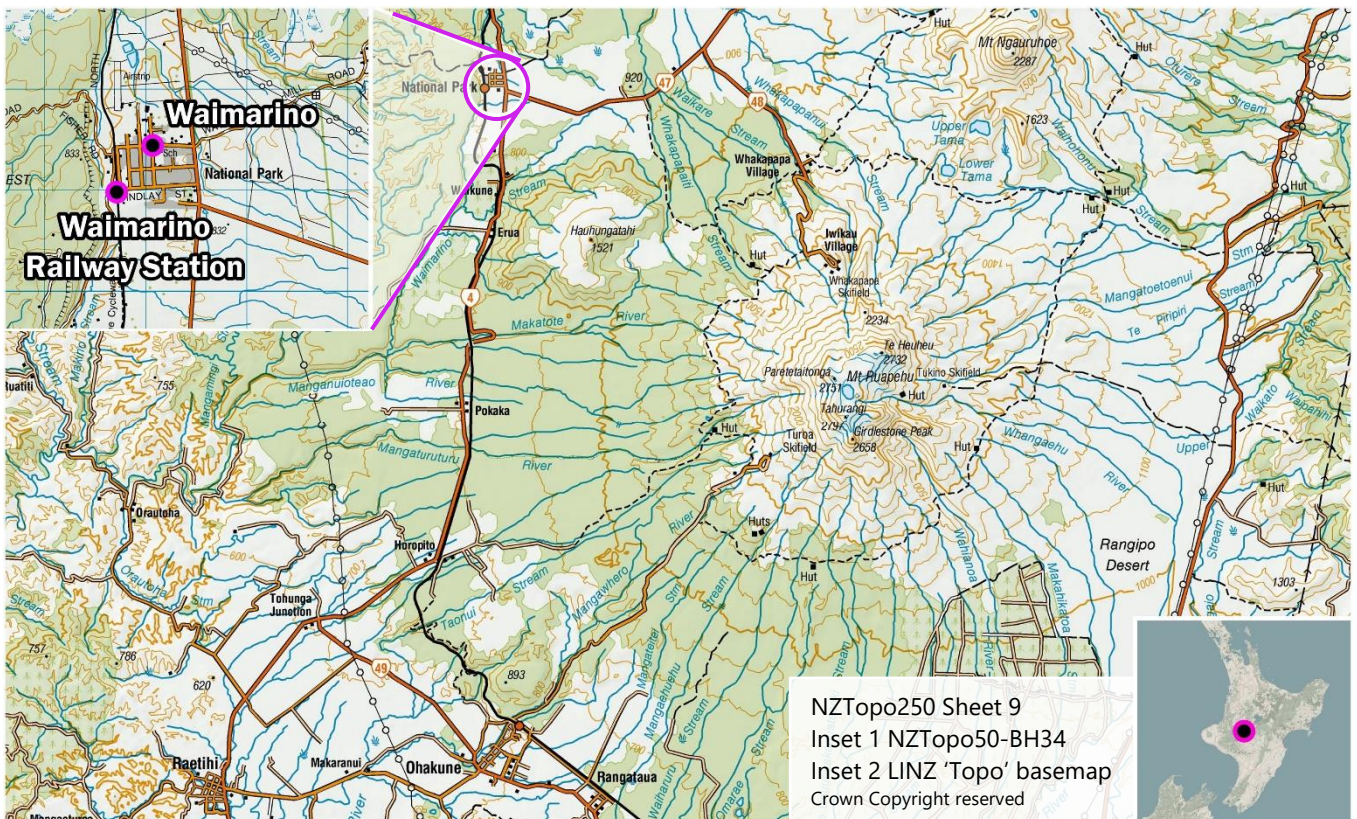
Submissions considered by the Board on 30 April 2024 for:

Waimarino (village)

[alter from National Park]

Waimarino Railway Station

[alter from National Park Station]



Summary

At its hui on 3 October 2023 the Board accepted a proposal from Uenuku/Te Korowai o Wainuiārua¹ to alter the unofficial recorded name National Park to Waimarino, for the small village at the intersection of State Highway 4 and State Highway 47, northwest of Mount Ruapehu and west of Tongariro National Park.

The Board declined the initial proposal to alter National Park Station to Waimarino Station, instead proposing 'Waimarino Railway Station' in full.

During the notification period from 7 November 2023 to 8 February 2024 the Board received 2,582 submissions from 2,122 individual submitters:

Proposed name	Supporting	Objecting	Neutral ²	Total
Waimarino	1,634	453	2	2,089
Waimarino Railway Station	159	332	2	493
Total	1,793	785	4	2,582

There was a high level of local engagement including submissions from 119 residents of the village objecting to the proposal and 31 supporting, which may be ~83% of the residents.

¹ Te Korowai o Wainuiārua is a Large Natural Group (LNG) representing the descendants of three tupuna - Uenuku, Tamakana and Tamahaki. Uenuku Charitable Trust ('Uenuku') is mandated to represent Te Korowai o Wainuiārua in Treaty settlement negotiations with the Crown.

² This is explained under the 'Submissions' heading

Local Democracy Reporting³, a Radio NZ and NZ On Air initiative, closely reported during the submissions process and requested periodic updates on submission numbers. Media coverage clearly contributed to the high number of submissions based on submission numbers spiking following the publication of new articles.

Reasons in supporting submissions

The supporting submissions for Waimarino (village) predominantly gave restoring an original Māori name as a reason for their support. Other common reasons from submitters include:

- considering the proposed Waimarino to be beautiful and meaningful, National Park conversely being generic and meaningless, as a place name,
- similarly, Waimarino connecting to Māori heritage and the location, relevance as the original name of the wider area, National Park conversely to have no heritage values or deep connection,
- supporting te reo Māori in general, Māori place names in general, and
- supporting the wishes of Uenuku/Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, Māori self-determination, indigenous rights, etc.

For the railway station, the Board received fewer supporting submissions. The supporting submissions generally echoed the same reasons for the village name, some with reasons specific to the railway station, such as:

- consistency with the proposal for the village,
- that the Crown broke promises to Māori in relation to the railway, having agreed to it passing through the area and to establish a railway station, and the proposal can be a small form of cultural redress.

Reasons in objecting submissions:

Most objecting submissions for each proposal were in the form of a group petition from 'Residents, friends, ratepayers' with ~280 signatories. The petitioners consider that in making the submission it would show unity in the face of their voices being drowned out by an overwhelming number of outsiders with no real stake in the matter. Also received was a second smaller petition of 10 signatories from a local whānau.

For the village, the main grouping of reasons are that National Park is considered to be an iconic place name and a brand that is recognised internationally. The objecting submitters express their strong personal associations and pride in the name as part of their identity. They consider the name National Park to be intrinsically tied to the village and the livelihoods of everyone living there, particularly through national and international tourism, and they're the ones who built it up and contribute to the life of the village.

The objecting submissions consider altering the name would incur specific costs. Given the intertwined brand, it would be forcing businesses to attempt to rebrand at the worst possible timing, and they consider it unlikely to succeed in the long run.

The group petition and a number of individual submissions also make an alternative proposal for **National Park Village** rather than just supporting the existing name. They consider this will make official what is in local use, including on signage and in tourist information, and that the addition of 'Village' will resolve any real or perceived ambiguity around the existing name.

³ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/ldr/about> - last accessed 10 April 2024

The most common objecting reasons for the railway station are similar:

- the railway station is iconic, travellers strongly identify with the name, and it has global recognition as a destination and gateway to the national park,
- the name of the railway station carries the important histories of the North Island Main Trunk, stories of industry in the central North Island, and the story of the village itself, since it was born of the railway station,
- that the name must continue to be consistent with the name of the populated place it serves. [Should the Board opt for National Park Village, it would pose a challenge for consistency between the village and railway station: National Park Railway Station vs National Park Village Railway Station.]

In the group petition, objecting submissions support either retaining the existing unofficial recorded name, National Park Station, or an alternative proposal for **National Park Railway Station**.

There was little support for dual or alternative names across all objecting submissions for both proposals. As noted in the proposal report, a dual name would be confusing. Both parts of the name would be legally required to be used together on official documents so it would be easily mistaken for the name of a national park, particularly by tourists unfamiliar with the area.

Next steps

The Board may consider the objecting submissions do not outweigh the reasons to proceed with the alterations and recommend its decisions the Minister for Land Information that the proposed names become official. There has been a numerically strong supporting response, and further support from several representative iwi organisations that whanaunga to local hapū and Uenuku/Te Korowai o Wainuiārua. Alternatively, should the Board support the reasons in of the objecting submissions, recommendations are included for upholding the objections. These options follow the reasons provided in the 'Residents, friends, ratepayers' petition and some further individual submissions. Upholding these submissions would mean recommending to the Minister to alter National Park to **National Park Village**, and National Park Station to **National Park Railway Station**.

Board's decisions

At its 30 April 2024 hui the Board made these decisions on the proposals:

The Board **considered** the **1,634** supporting submissions and **453** submissions objecting and the **two** neutral submissions to the proposal to alter the village name National Park (unofficial recorded) to an official name **Waimarino**,

AND

Rejected the **453 objecting submissions**, including those proposing alternative names, based on the reasons given not outweighing the reasons that the Board originally accepted for the proposal, being:

- the Board's function to encourage the use of original Māori names, and recognising the traditional narratives and cultural values associated with the name Waimarino and the area as it originally applied to,
- the existing name National Park not being suitable for a village and creating confusion, as there are many actual national parks,
- evidence of support from:
 - Ōwhango-National Park Community Board,
 - Ruapehu District Council (the relevant Local authority),
 - Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand,
 - Tongariro-Taupō Conservation Board,
 - KiwiRail,
 - Visit Ruapehu.
- some evidence of local support (i.e. those living in the area), noting there is also significant local opposition, and
- evidence of longstanding confusion about the name of the village is partly because no name was made official through a statutory process,

and these additional reasons following the statutory notification process:

- some additional evidence of some local support, notwithstanding that most of the resident population of the village objected to the proposal, and further objections were received from others in the surrounding area,
- recognising a large percentage of supporting submissions came from outside the community,
- evidence of additional iwi support from Ngāti Hāua, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Rangī, and Patutokotoko,
- considering that the alternative proposal to alter National Park to National Park Village would not resolve concerns around confusion and ambiguity of the existing name,
- not considering the existing use of the name Waimarino by a Tauranga business to be a relevant reason not to proceed with the proposal,
- a softer compliance approach will be taken by the Board, giving people ample time to change (more than a decade), recognising that they have other priorities, and
- that the Board has already considered the evidence (oral and documentary) regarding the history of Waimarino as an original Māori name, its relationship to the location of the original settlement further south, and its 20th century application to the name of the railway station and 'Town of Waimarino' survey, noting no new information emerged in the

submissions other than noting a submission from the descendants of Peehi Tūroa also stating that there was no particular Māori settlement at the site of National Park village.

and

Confirmed the Board's earlier decision to alter the unofficial National Park (village) name to **Waimarino**,

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

The Board **considered** the **159** supporting submissions and **332** objecting submissions and the **two** neutral submissions, to the proposal to **alter** National Park Station (unofficial recorded) to an official name **Waimarino Railway Station**,

Rejected the **332 objecting submissions**, including those proposing alternative names, based on the reasons given not outweighing the reasons that the Board originally accepted for the proposal, being:

- the Board's longstanding consideration that railway stations should typically be named for the destination they service, for consistency and to prevent confusion for travellers and tourists,
- ensuring standard and consistent generic terminology for official railway station names, ie. 'Railway Station' not 'Station',
- KiwiRail's agreement to the proposal, being the rail operator, which is a Board requirement for railway name proposals, and
- support from Ōwhango-National Park Community Board and Ruapehu District Council, and likely support from the other institutions which specifically supported the proposed name of the village,

and this additional reason following the statutory notification process:

- that railways did not exist prior to European settlement in New Zealand is not a reason not to use te reo Māori for the names of railway stations, being an indigenous and official language of this country,

and

Confirmed the Board's earlier decision to alter the unofficial National Park Station name to **Waimarino Railway Station**,

and

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

Background

DRAFT Board
minutes 3
October 2023

The earlier change from Waimarino to National Park reflected it being a destination reached by rail. The Board noted that should it accept the proposals, it would be a clear indication of what it considers to be the best outcomes, but the proposals need to be carefully considered at this stage. The Board noted there has been a good range of support for the proposals and some interest in the media.

The Board questioned the consultation with mana whenua to date and suggested that Ngāti Tūwharetoa should also be consulted noting their role on the Taupō Tongariro Conservation Board. The Secretary advised that consultation so far has been based on Te Puni Kōkiri's Te Kāhui Māngai which provides an indication of areas of interest. In terms of the Board's *Kaupapa for Māori Place Names* iwi are advised of upcoming consultations five weeks before public notification to give the groups more time to respond.

Noting that one of the proposals is for just Waimarino (locality) with no generic term, the Board considered whether a generic term, for example, 'Village' should form part of the name. With regard to the wider administrative locality in the NZ Suburbs and Localities dataset, which is currently named National Park, it would also need to be changed to Waimarino, so the Secretariat would advise Toitū Te Whenua LINZ to update the dataset should the proposal be successful. It would also be recommended that the locality to the south currently called Waimarino be changed to another name, and there may be implications for other locality names in that dataset too.

The Board agreed to notify the proposals for three months, expecting considerable public interest.

Notification

Mana whenua

On 4 October 2023 Uenuku/Te Korowai o Wainuiārua (the proposers), Ngāti Hāua and Whanganui Iwi were advised that that the proposals for Waimarino (village) and Waimarino Railway Station would be notified for three months, beginning 7 November 2023.

Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust made a formal supporting submission on 19 December 2023.

At its 3 October 2023 hui the Board requested the Secretariat to ensure Ngāti Tūwharetoa were advised noting it may have an interest. In extending the area for advice in terms of the *Kaupapa for Māori Place Names* the Secretariat also wrote to Ngāti Rangī.

Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa Trust advised its support for the proposals by email on 19 October 2023 prior to the statutory notification period beginning. Ngāti Rangī made formal submissions supporting the proposals on 30 January 2024.

A supporting submission was also received on 8 February 2024 from Patutokotoko⁴, a Central North Island/Whanganui iwi whose hapū also whakapapa to Uenuku. The submission invited the Board and Minister for Land Information to meet in the Waimarino area and '*hear their kōrero kanohi ki te kanohi*'. When the invitation was made a second time through Te Arawhiti, Te Arawhiti was advised that '*the Board does not generally meet kanohi ki te kanohi with proposers and/or submitters during the process, to help ensure an equitable outcome for all engaged in the process.*'

However, the invitation is highlighted here for the Board to consider.

⁴ Patutokotoko is the more commonly used name for Ngāti Hekeawai.

Advice to MPs	Due to the pending results of the parliamentary election it was decided not to send advice to electorate MPs.
Public notification including social media	The Board advertised the proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in the New Zealand Gazette, - in the <i>Sunday Star Times</i>, <i>Ruapehu Bulletin</i>, and <i>The Post</i>, - on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ Consultation and Facebook™ pages, including a reminder, - the New Zealand Government's Consultation page.
Other notification	Ruapehu District Council released a news article on 5 October 2023 advising that that the proposal had been accepted and public consultation would open on 7 November 2023. Uenuku made several Facebook posts directing to the Board's consultation through the course of the consultation period.

Media

On 7 November 2023 the Board published a bilingual media release for the proposed names. This was also [posted on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website](#).

There was sustained media coverage of the proposals, mainly through [Local Democracy Reporting](#), a Radio New Zealand and NZ On Air initiative. Its articles were reproduced by other news media such as *The Herald*, *Stuff*, etc.

Analysis of the timing of submissions show obvious 'media bumps'. For example, from 7 November 2023 to 12 December 2023 the Board received 180 submissions. Then in response to the 6pm 12 December 2023 RNZ article the Board received nearly 250 submissions on 13 December 2023, and a total of 550 over the next few days. Coverage of proposals in news media is an effective means of notification to the public.

These media articles refer:

Title	Outlet	Date
National Park name change gets traction after 100 years	Newsroom	6 October 2023
Support for tourist village to restore 'most beautiful name'	RNZ	3 November 2023
National Park to revert to its previous name Waimarino? [radio]	RNZ	6 November 2023
Consultation opens on National Park name change	Te Ao Māori News	8 November 2023
Submissions flow on iwi bid to rename National Park village	RNZ	12 December 2024
Ngāti Uenuku proposes National Park Village name change to Waimarino [video]	TVNZ Te Karere	19 December 2023
Submissions quadruple on iwi bid to rename National Park village	RNZ	11 January 2024
Potential name change riles Tauranga business	RNZ	11 January 2024

Iwi bid to rename National Park village splits community	RNZ	3 February 2024
Century-long saga: The six bids to change this village's name	RNZ	6 February 2024
Renaming National Park can be a business 'advantage' — iwi chair	1 News	7 February 2024
Decision on National Park Village Waimarino name change months away - Geographic Board	RNZ	10 February 2024
Over 2000 have a say on bid to change National Park Village name	1 News	14 March 2024

OIA request

On 8 November 2023 the Board received an Official Information Act request for all supporting documents referenced in the Board proposal report.

All documents were released on 15 November 2023, with some personally identifiable information withheld. They were publicly released on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website on 16 November 2023.⁵

Submissions

Summary

During the notification period from 7 November 2023 to 8 February 2024 the Board received 2,582 submissions from 2,122 unique submitters, broken down as follows:

Proposed name	Supporting	Objecting	Neutral	Total
Waimarino (village)	1,634	453	2	2,089
Waimarino Railway Station	159	332	2	493
Total	1,793	785	4	2,582

This is the highest number of submissions for any proposal or proposal group since the 2,608 submissions received in 2013 for the proposals to make Te Ika-a-Māui and Te Waipounamu official alternative names for the North Island and South Island. This indicates a very good level of engagement by the public of New Zealand on place name proposals that people are interested in. However, while the numbers for and against are given some weight, it's the reasons given that the Board assesses in making its decisions.

Most objecting submissions were received in the form of a group petition for each proposal from the 'Residents, friends, ratepayers of National Park Village', with 280 signatories for the village and 277 signatories for the railway station. A second smaller group petition from a particular whānau had ten signatories and is stated to be 'on behalf of 17 family members'. Some objecting submitters signed both petitions and/or made further individual submissions. 34 supporting submitters also made two or more submissions over the consultation period.

Multiple submissions from the same identifiable individual are counted as one submission.

The reasons given in the submissions are categorised thematically, and overlapping themes grouped together. The tables below are generally ordered

⁵ <https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/oia-release/supporting-documents-nga-pou-taunaha-o-aotearoa-new-zealand-geographic-boards-proposal-report> - last accessed 10 April 2024

by how frequently the reasons were given in the submissions. Some related and less frequently given reasons are moved up the table (shown with a pecked table border) to be shown together.

Some reasons in the objections are commented on by the Secretariat. Separate summaries of the submissions are provided for each proposal. Full copies of original submissions are in the Supporting information together with a combined summary spreadsheet.

Local
engagement

This table has the location of submitters based on their volunteered information:

	National Park	Taumarunui to Ohakune, Raetihi, Rangataua, and to Tūrangi	Rest of New Zealand	International	Unknown
village supporting	31	135	1,437	19	12
village objecting	119	65	252	10	7
railway station supporting	10	21	123	0	5
railway station objecting	106	40	175	11	0

This information is collected to indicate the level of local community engagement. It does not indicate that they inherently have a greater influence on the outcome of the proposals.

The objecting submissions potentially include over two-thirds of the 'permanent residents' of National Park. National Park Village Progressive Association stated the permanent resident population was 174 in 2021⁶ and recent media articles on the proposal have stated 180⁷. Or alternatively, around half of the 'residents', the 2022 census counting ~250⁸ residents who '*usually live in the area at a given date*'.

The larger objecting group petitions also recorded:

- whether signatories lived at or owned property at National Park,
- whether they had lived at National Park for at least one year, and
- total length of residence at National Park.

This additional information is not available in a comprehensive or systematic way from the supporting submissions.

Affiliation field

The online submission form includes a voluntary option for 'affiliation' for the Board's reference. Full information on affiliation is available in each submission.

Out of time
submissions

Two late submissions were received:

- one objecting submission for the village on 8 February 2024, one day late, and
- one supporting submission for the village on 15 February 2024, six days late.

⁶ [National Park Village Plan 2020-2030 \(2021\)](#), National Park Village Progressive Association – accessed 10 April 2024

⁷ [Iwi bid to rename National Park village splits community](#), RNZ, 3 February 2024

⁸ Calculated from Stats NZ [New Zealand 2022 Estimated Resident Population Grid 250 metre, 2023](#) – last accessed 27 March 2024

The Board Chairperson agreed they would be accepted in terms of Delegation #6,⁹ and they are included in all figures in this report.

Neutral submissions

Two 'neutral' submissions were received:

- one from the National Park Village Business Association. It advised it could not take a position on the proposals due to the mixed views of its membership. It requested the Board to consider the effects its decisions would have on the National Park Village brand, its employment of staff, and its role in bringing tourism to the Tongariro National Park area.
- one about the government changing Māori names. The submission did not mention the Waimarino proposals but was received on 14 December 2023 when they were the only proposals open for consultation. As the content of the submission doesn't speak to the substance of the proposals, the submission is treated as 'neutral', but could be dismissed as invalid.

Each neutral submission is included in the total submission for each proposed name.

Other submissions to note

Noting the volume of submissions, the Secretariat highlights some submissions for the Board's reference. They contain pertinent information not previously considered in the Proposal Report, points of interest, or are otherwise, comprehensive. The Board is legally required to consider all submissions.

Date	Supporting / objecting and submission # ¹⁰	Reason why highlighted
11 November 2023	Objecting (village) #11	On behalf of Waimarino Kayak Tours and Adventure Park, Tauranga. Concern for effect to their business, and to tourism in central North Island due to confusion. Seeks dialogue to collaboratively find a solution that won't lead to the same impact.
4 February 2024	Supporting (village) #1,388	On behalf of Mountains to Sea - Ngā Ara Tūhono [a cycle Great Ride], a notable tourist attraction.
6 February 2024	Objecting (village) #428 and (railway station) #41	Great-great-uncle was Rt Hon Joseph Gordon Coates, first NZ born PM, and the Railways Minister responsible for 1926 decision. Argues the decision was well considered and consulted.
6 February 2024	Supporting (village) #1,339 and (railway station) #7	Principle author and provider of commissioned evidence for Waitangi Tribunal Waimarino Block report ¹¹ . Offer to provide any documents referenced in report. [Secretariat note ¹²]
7 February 2024	Supporting (village) #1,489	Great grandfather was Josphe Springhall, 'early surveyor who first surveyed Waimarino' [Secretariat note ¹³]

⁹ 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.

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

¹¹ Cathy Marr (2004), [Wai 903 A60, The Waimarino Purchase Report](#), Waitangi Tribunal Report

¹² This submitter was advised to pro-actively forward any document that they considered contained pertinent information. They provided an addition to their submission but could not supply any documents at the time.

¹³ *Plan of Waimarino Town* was surveyed by A. Wells Newton, 1910. Unclear whether Joseph Springhall was involved in earlier block surveys and no reference has been identified.

8 February 2024	Supporting (village) #1,576 and (railway station) #19	Details prior oral history interviews with Māori knowledge holders not covered in original proposal. Provides a response to the emergent discourse as to the location and use of Waimarino as an original Māori name, and Māori occupation of the area.
8 February 2024	Objecting (village) #441	97 years old, wife helped organise National Park Town Committee petition against the proposal for Waimarino in 1968.
8 February 2024	Objecting (village) #438 and (railway station) #191	Long term resident, and involvement in National Park Business Association. <i>[Secretariat note: Also made OIA request referenced above]</i>
9 February 2024	Supporting (village) #1,597	From <i>'The descendants of Peehi Hītaua Tūroa. Last chief from the Whare Ariki o Turoa to reside at Ngātokoerua Pā'</i> . Extensive whakapapa, biography of Peehi Tūroa and his response to dealings of the Crown. Unequivocal comment <i>'there was never a Māori village where the township is located only remnants of an old forest that was burnt'</i> .

Issues/notes

Five supporting submissions for the village and three supporting submissions for the railway station must be treated as objections as they clearly propose dual or alternative names. Three objecting submissions are clearly supporting submissions that selected the wrong option, based on the content of the submissions. These are identified in the summary spreadsheet.

Three other supporting submissions possibly should be considered objections making alternative proposals. One for Waimarino, with a macron, one for a fully bilingual name with 'teihana tereina' included for the railway station, and one considering Waimarino National Park Station as an acceptable compromise.

A number of supporting submissions appear to be submitting on what they believe to be a national park name, ie, a Crown protected area.

A large number of supporting submissions appear to think Waimarino is already an official name. The wording from the online consultation form is likely to have been misunderstood: *'I support the proposal to alter the unofficial recorded place name National Park to the official place name Waimarino'*. In the future, something like *'I support the proposal to officially alter National Park to Waimarino'* could reduce confusion. The unofficial recorded status of the existing name is unlikely to be widely understood.

A small number of submitters consider that just the name of the railway station should be altered to Waimarino or include Waimarino as part of a dual name. They considered that National Park is a name specific to the village, but as the railway station serves the wider area, it would be appropriate to use the original Māori name for the wider area.

Submissions for Waimarino (village)

Supporting submissions (1,634) generally with no Secretariat comments

Reasons categorised, summarised and grouped
<p>It was the original name, it was the first name, it's the historic name, the true/authentic name. It's a reclamation/restoration.</p> <p>Even for the village as established in 1910 anyone can see for themselves it was surveyed with the appellation 'Town of Waimarino'. The property parcels are still called that. The school was also once Waimarino.</p> <p>Doesn't matter if Waimarino is used elsewhere, original Māori names should always be used.</p>
<p>Waimarino is beautiful, meaningful. Waimarino is descriptive in reflecting the environment, physical geography.</p> <p>National Park is boring, generic, unimaginative, bland, 'barely a name'. An 'anti-name'. A mere designation. National Park is meaningless.</p>
<p>For Māori heritage in the area. Restores the mana. The name Waimarino is connected to the place, the wider area, its relevant. Has spiritual connection. Acknowledge the whenua as tūpuna.</p> <p>National Park could be anywhere. National Park has no history/heritage.</p> <p>National Park is 'colonial', the proposal is decolonisation.</p>
<p>Because National Park village is on the site of Waimarino Pā.</p> <p>Or, arguments that the site was occupied/populated even if not the pā, particularly.</p> <p>Or, the site of National Park was still part of the environs of the Ngātokoerua pā/settlement to the south.</p> <p>Or, conversely whether or not the pā/original settlement was located at the site of National Park is immaterial. Those arguing against Māori occupation at the specific site are perhaps arguing against the existence of what in their minds, is a large formal fortified pā. The terminology pā isn't necessarily being used for that.</p>
<p>To support te reo Māori. Any Māori name, because it's Māori. All names should be Māori names.</p> <p>Te reo Māori is an official language. Te reo Māori is unique to this country.</p> <p>It will force pākehā to use more te reo Māori. Any use of English is colonisation.</p>
<p>To support wishes of Uenuku/Te Korowai o Wainuiārua.</p> <p>To support Māori self-determination, indigenous rights.</p> <p>Tangata whenua only should have a say. The local residents shouldn't get any say.</p> <p>Because Māori gave the name. Reconnecting Uenuku with the whenua. Restore cultural identity.</p>
<p>Honor Te Tiriti.</p> <p>It's cultural redress. Specifically, for Crown actions in alienating land for the NIMT¹⁴ and Tongariro National Park. The Crown plotted to drive the North Island Main Trunk through the area as a punishment for local Māori support against the Crown during the land wars.</p> <p>Forestry stole their land.</p> <p>The action would tie into the ratification of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua's Deed of Settlement and Treaty process. Show partnership, biculturalism.</p>
<p>Because it's Māori land, because 'this is Aotearoa'. Māori gifted land, giving them naming rights. The land was never willingly given by mana whenua.</p>
<p>The previous change never should have happened. It is a historic wrong. An error.</p> <p>It's still Waimarino and always has been.</p> <p>The name was 'taken' causing hurt/mamae. Changing the name broke the promises made by the Crown 40 years prior, in order to get the agreement to take the NIMT through Māori land.</p>
<p>General support (no particular reasons given), ie: It's 'correct' or 'more appropriate' <i>[without any details why]</i>. Various short responses such as 'it's a good name', 'it makes sense' <i>[without saying why]</i>. <i>Secretariat comment:</i></p>

¹⁴ North Island Main Trunk (Railway)

<i>in accordance with Section 17 NZGB Act 2008 a person must provide reasons in making a submission supporting or objecting to a proposal.</i>
<p>The existing name is confusing. Cannot be disambiguated online from all the National Parks in New Zealand and globally. Ran a business transporting people from National Park to <i>the</i> National Park, which was confusing.</p> <p>Tourists don't understand it's a populated place. Even New Zealanders don't. Anecdotes about four-hour unplanned detours.</p> <p>The accommodation owners benefit from the confusion deceptively as otherwise travellers might otherwise book something actually inside Tongariro National Park.</p> <p>Waimarino is unique. Or at least, there are fewer Waimarino names than there are National Parks.</p> <p>Would usually support bilingual signage, but in this case that too would be inherently confusing.</p>
National Park isn't in the national park.
<p>Personal connections to the name. Can remember it being called Waimarino. Grew up using Waimarino. Always called/still call it Waimarino.</p> <p>Part of Whakapapa. Ancestral connections. They're named after Waimarino. Name meaningful to local community. Have succeeded to Waimarino Land parcels though didn't know where they were until now.</p> <p>Resident. Long term resident. Member of its institutions. Own a business there.</p>
<i>Confused submissions, mostly stating Waimarino is already the official name. [Secretariat note: many submissions appear to have been confused by the wording of the consultation question. Waimarino is not an existing official name.]</i>
National Park as a name is just 'unofficial' anyway. It was never 'legal'.
<p>Need to assign an official name.</p> <p>Will help the Board finally come to a proper decision and get the names off its books having considered it for the sixth or seventh time in its 100 years. If the Board doesn't agree, we'll spend another 100 years proposing the same thing.</p> <p>The proposed Waimarino fulfils the Board's statutory function to encourage the use of original Māori names.</p>
<p>Will promote tourism. Provide genuine cultural experience.</p> <p>Will create business opportunities for Māori.</p> <p>Will be the base for the Pōkākā Eco-Sanctuary under development down the road.</p>
The existing name is so bad that its used internationally to ridicule New Zealand's lack of imagination.
<p>Will foster 'unity and understanding among all New Zealanders' (or just in the town), or 'between Māori and non-Māori', and similar. Will 'bring everyone together on a new journey' etc.</p> <p>It's about 'Nation building', 'National pride' and similar.</p>
Appear to think the consultation is for a national park. <i>[Secretariat comment: ie, are confused]</i>
Use both (dual name) as compromise, as a 2nd choice.
<p>Those that support the existing name are racists, wheinga, enemies, colonisers, immigrants, settlers.</p> <p>A vocal minority, they're the ones dividing the village. Claims the majority of residents want the change.</p>
Waimarino is a shorter name than National Park. Easier to say, easier to write. Looks better. Sounds better.
<p>Cost for signage and branding are not a relevant consideration.</p> <p>Businesses shouldn't have any say.</p> <p>Or conversely, signage is important, and acknowledging that the local community has paid for most of the existing signage, LINZ/'the government' should provide funding to replace signage, including new educational signage to help aid the transition.</p>
<p>This proposal won't affect businesses as the National Parks will still be there, so their National Park branding will still be connected.</p> <p>Or, the supposed National Park Village brand doesn't even really exist.</p>
Disparagement of Tauranga Waimarino Water Park's comments in the media.

Needed to make a submission in reaction to the 'blasphemous' and 'laughable' article about the Tauranga business opposing it. Tauranga business is racist.
Will help offset damage by/still to be caused by the current government. Various references to, attacks on the current government.
Will promote environmental concern, kaitiakitanga, restoration.
There remain associated names like Waimarino Stream, Waimarino-Tokaanu Road, Lake Rotoaira Waimarino Intake.
Change isn't hard. People will get used to it rapidly. Objectors are short-term thinkers. <i>'It only took a month for me to remember the right name after renaming my cat.'</i>
Reasons considered by previously no longer apply, ie, misdirection of mail surely is no longer an issue.
Waimarino is better connected to other surrounding place names thematically.
It's multicultural.
If the Board has accepted the proposal, it must be worthwhile.
Empathy coming from shared experience in a millennium of colonisation in Ireland.
Completely incoherent submissions.
Will help prevent racism toward Māori.

Objecting submissions (453) with Secretariat comments

Reasons categorised, summarised and grouped
<p>National Park is a recognised name, an iconic name. Long term use of National Park. Damage to an established brand that time and effort have gone into cultivating.</p> <p>It will impact tourism. Impacts to tourism will affect everyone as a tourism destination – living in the village will become unsustainable. No tangible benefits.</p> <p>Specific costs to business - as the name is strongly tied to the place, the Board <i>IS</i> forcing costs upon businesses, eg to change their names, which is unaffordable. Local businesses paid for the town's signage, not the Council, not central government. Ignored and underinvested in by authorities. Again, the Board would create real costs to change them.</p> <p>The Board is creating further hardship bringing this at the worst possible time as businesses are trying to recover from COVID, the Chateau being shuttered, and the ski-fields being in receivership.</p> <p>Will create confusion both for New Zealanders and internationally. Retaining National Park is a matter of safety for tourists.</p> <p><i>Secretariat comment: if the Board considers that these reasons hold weight it may consider upholding the objecting submissions and instead recommending National Park or National Park Village be made official (see Alternative proposals below).</i></p>
<p>Personal associations with the name, part of their identity. Proud of the name. Proposal stripping people of their pride, their home. Actual residents living there do not want the change.</p> <p>Cannot effect change if the people living there won't use the name.</p> <p><i>Secretariat comment: The Board carefully considers long term use of names and the potential disruption a change might cause, especially for populated places.</i></p> <p><i>Official place names are required to be used on official documents and legal compliance provisions apply. While people are not required in a personal capacity to use official place names, consistent use across official documents can encourage change in use over time.</i></p>
<p>Alternative proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Park Village (302) - Ruapehu (1) - Tongariro (1), Tongariro Village (1) - 'Anything other than Waimarino due to the confusion it will bring' (1)

Secretariat comment: A majority of objecting submitters consider that altering to National Park Village would resolve any perceived or real ambiguity/confusion around the existing name. It would accord with local use, including on the prominent signage, and how the destination has been branded in tourist information.

In terms of the [Standard for New Zealand Place Names](#) 1.4(f), generic terms are discouraged for populated places unless 'it is already in long-term common use or is named after an associated geographic feature.' The Board's generic terms policy also states 'a generic term may be considered if there are safety concerns or duplication.' In terms of these policies a generic term may be acceptable.

Upholding the objecting submissions making an alternative proposal may address some of the Board's concerns regarding the existing name, but also may not outweigh all the reasons accepted by the Board for altering to Waimarino.

These appears to be little interest in entirely different alternative proposals, noting that both Ruapehu and Tongariro were considered as options for the railway station back in 1926.

Support existing name, but as a second choice, propose the term National Park translated into in Māori would be better than Waimarino.

Secretariat comment: Translating or transliterating 'National Park' in te reo Māori is not likely to be widely supported and is likely to be confusing.

National Park as a place name carries cultural and heritage values, has a strong history. Eg, it reflects Tongariro as oldest National Park and a UNESCO World heritage area, the development of the railroad, there are histories particular to National Park village.

Secretariat comment: the Board has functions to consider the cultural and heritage values of place names and can tell their stories through the New Zealand Gazetteer.

Many of the cited examples around the NIMT, forestry, and the establishment of Tongariro National Park may hold different values for the proposers and other – of loss and alienation from traditional lands through compulsory purchases/public works, broken promises by the Crown, damage to the environment and loss of traditional resource use.

National Park is a unique name. Conversely, other places are called Waimarino, or Waimarino could be a place anywhere. National Park is the only non-Māori name in the central North Island, which adds to its uniqueness and identity. Non-Māori want to have representation in their place names.

Waimarino has strong associations to the south, around Raetihi, not here, including in the names of events, institutions, businesses.

Secretariat comment: The Board considered the reasons for altering to Waimarino outweighed the longstanding concerns about use of Waimarino for places, areas, institutions, businesses, etc, further to the south centred on Raetihi, the former Waimarino County HQ.

The main objecting group submission has compiled a new and extensive list of examples for the Board's reference.

National Park as a place name is meaningful, descriptive. The name National Park has global egalitarian values, with connotations of access and enjoyment for everyone.

Conversely, Waimarino isn't. It's bland, unmemorable. It doesn't speak to a populated place name. It's the name of the river. There's no river here. The village is on the northern plateau and catchment boundary, Waimarino in on the southern plateau and catchment, and flows south. Waimarino has no relevance to the village.

Secretariat note: the village is on the boundary between the catchments of Piopotea Stream and Makaretu Stream flowing north, and of Otamewa Stream, which flowing south for 5.5km joins Waimarino. Waimarino Stream, specifically, flows from Hauhungatahi, around the maunga, and eventually south-southwest to join Manganuioteao River. Historic use of the name Waimarino Plains is however, for the entire area, and the proposers consider the entire plateau area to be 'Waimarino'.

Waimarino is the name of the area, and still has currency today as a name for the area, but it's not the name of the village.

It would be appropriate to (instead) recognise Ngātokoerua pā as an official name, to assign Waimarino or Waimarino Plains as an official name, for the area, to accurately recognise the original Māori names in the area.

*Secretariat comment: **Waimarino Plains** has not been named on the main official topographic mapping series or recently, however it was named on NZMS 54 Tongariro NP (1927) and NZMS 50 Thermal Regions of NZ (1930-1985) and possibly other maps. As the Board considers all official maps to be 'authoritative documents', therefore because Waimarino Plains is published on at least two, the name can be added to the Gazetteer as an unofficial recorded name (refer definition [Section 4 New Zealand Geographic Board \(Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa\) Act 2008](#)).*

The Board could approve Waimarino Plains as an official name in terms of [Section 24 New Zealand Geographic Board \(Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa\) Act 2008](#) as no other names are recorded for the same feature, and if the Board considered doing so wouldn't be controversial. If it considered it to be controversial, it could propose to approve the name and take submissions.

***Ngātokoerua** is not named on any official maps. However, it can be added to the Gazetteer as unofficial collected original Māori place name in terms of [Section 11\(1\)\(d\) New Zealand Geographic Board \(Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa\) Act 2008](#). The Board may wish to first confirm this with Uenuku and potentially with the descendants of Peehi Tūroa (who made a supporting submission).*

Waimarino could be used for a new township, rather than restricting this possibility for the future by incorrectly using it for National Park.

Statements in the proposal factually wrong. There was no Māori settlement at the site of National Park. It was down the road at Erua. No evidence of urupā, kāinga, middens, etc at National Park. The Chair of Te Korowai has confirmed this on TV.

The story has changed now that this has been acknowledged publicly. Proposers are deceitful.

Media have reported statements with no fact checking and people have supported the proposal by jumping on a bandwagon.

Secretariat comment: For the Board's reference, in news media and local discussion an emergent point of contention was around just where 'Waimarino' was, originally, and whether there was a Māori settlement at the site of National Park (called 'Waimarino', or in general). The Board proposal report to the Board noted that there was no evidence provided of a specific Māori 'Waimarino' settlement at the site of National Park, but that it was on the edge of the Waimarino 4 Block, in the Waimarino Plains, and surveyed as 'Town of Waimarino' in 1910.

An interview with the Uenuku Chairperson by Local Democracy NZ clarified Uenuku views on the matter (see media articles above). A supporting submission from the descendants of Peehi Tūroa, rangatira of Ngātokoerua pā at Waikune states that there was no particular settlement, and the site was the area of old burnt forest.

The village was established as National Park. Waimarino hasn't been used for generations. While acknowledging Town of Waimarino is the cadastral appellation, this isn't relevant - there was no development at all until after the railway station name was altered to National Park. Until the late 40's it was still just flax and tussock.

Secretariat comment: there is merit in the argument that Waimarino as specifically applied in the Town survey was just an appellation on maps and documents, with 'National Park' becoming the 'place name' used on the ground as the village developed around the railway station. The Board's proposal report touched on the extent either name was in use over time for the populated place.

Making a group submission of those living at or still connected to National Park to show unity, in the face of fears their voices would otherwise be overwhelmed by those from outside of the village.

Secretariat comment: the Board is required to consider the reasons in submissions, not just weight of numbers. A smaller number of submissions with reasons that the Board consider having merit would outweigh a larger number of submissions the Board does not consider having merit.

Consultation is a farce. Undemocratic. Anything should be decided by referendum/a referendum of the residents, specifically.

Secretariat comment: the statutory process allows anyone to propose or submit on New Zealand place names. The Board recognises that those that live at a place subject to a proposed alteration are likely to be most affected.

KiwiRail have put up signage already.

Secretariat comment: The Board previously noted the KiwiRail signage, that it was considered confusing, and that KiwiRail would be legally required to replace the signage, should an official name be assigned.

Other criticism of proposal process: Letters of support from various institutions just took iwi at their word without speaking to locals or having an understanding of the facts.

Letters from Ruapehu District Council and Ōwhango National Park Community Board were not supporting the proposal, but just supporting that the process be taken to the Board without supporting a particular outcome. This has been misrepresented.

Secretariat comment: The minutes for Ōwhango-National Park Community Board of 1 August 2023¹⁵ record a resolution from the Board recommending that to the Council 'that it recommends the NZ Geographic Board approves in principle to revert the name of "National Park" Village and "National Park" Station to the original ingoa of "Waimarino" Village and "Waimarino" Railway Station and commences consultation.'

The minutes of Ruapehu District Council for 23 August 2023¹⁶ record a unanimous decision resolving the recommended recommendation with the same wording. This could be interpreted as just agreeing that the process takes place. However, when the Board accepts a proposal and takes it to consultation, this is an indication that the Board considers the proposal has merit, ie, that it 'approves in principle'.

Regarding extent: NZ Suburbs and Localities boundary for National Park is inappropriately large and inaccurate. Any extent should be confined to the residential area.

Secretariat comment: in discussion between Toitū Te Whenua LINZ and Ruapehu District Council the unofficial NZ Suburbs and Localities boundaries could be amended. Whatever the outcome for the name, amending the (unofficial) extents may have merit if they are unsuitable.

No official extent/boundary was proposed for the village, and it would require close work to define an appropriate one.

Creating dissent/division. Destroying the small close knit community. People simply not wanting to change the name have been subject to hateful abuse. People have been intimidated into silence as otherwise they are accused of being racist. Children are being bullied.

National Park was, and remains a name supported by Māori who built the village together with non-Māori, and that continue live there now. This includes people of Uenuku whakapapa, owners of Māori land in area. The Settlement Entity don't represent their views. Uenuku as a group, the proposers as individuals, have never contributed anything to the development and life of the village. Uenuku are welcome to join the community as newcomers, but who are they to say what it should be named?

Secretariat comment: Uenuku Charitable Trust are the settlement entity mandated by the Crown for Treaty settlement purposes on behalf of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, the grouping of Tamakana, Tamahaki and Uenuku ki Manganui-o-te-Ao, nā Tūkaihoru.

The Secretariat cannot comment as to the validity of all of these statements but notes the wider historical context by which 'The Crown's engagement with the owners of the Waimarino block resulted in the rapid alienation of a vast tract of land of crucial economic, social, political, and spiritual importance to the iwi of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua.'

This is covered in the Waitangi Tribunal Waimarino report, referenced above, and the agreed historical account in the Deed of Settlement for Te Korowai o Wainuiārua Trust's ongoing settlement process with the Crown.¹⁷

Process a waste of time/money. Not a priority. General reference to unspecified costs. Costs of updating maps, signage.

¹⁵ ONPCB Meeting 01/08/2023 - <https://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/our-council/meeting-dates-and-information/agendas-and-minutes?item=id:2kh97wyj917q9s0wml7c> - last accessed 10 April 2024

¹⁶ Council Meeting 23/08/2023 - <https://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/our-council/meeting-dates-and-information/agendas-and-minutes?item=id:2kdcywv2017q9sw1zdp1> - last accessed 10 April 2024

¹⁷ <https://www.tearawhiti.govt.nz/te-kahui-whakatau-treaty-settlements/find-a-treaty-settlement/central-whanganui-te-korowai-o-wainuiarua/> - last accessed 10 April 2024.

Secretariat comment: Costs for updating electronic official documents are considered minimal, and other print publications such tourist brochures may be updated in the course of their regular replacement cycle.

The Board proposal report noted that the new signage erected by KiwiRail will likely need to be replaced for legal compliance, depending on the outcome of the statutory process. This would incur a cost.

Use both (dual or alternative names). To recognise both names, ease potential for confusion, move towards bilingualism, to compromise, etc. Or to allow an actual transition over time, due to the negative impact a sudden change will have.

- 'Both' (unspecified how) (4)
- **National Park Waimarino** (3), **National Park Village Waimarino** (1), **National Park Waimarino Village** (1), **National Park Waimarino** [ie, Waimarino shown deliberately as a secondary name] (1),
- **Waimarino National Park** (5), **Waimarino/National Park** (2), **Waimarino (National Park)** (1)
- 'Official alternative names' (2).

Secretariat comment: Dual names are intended to recognise the equal significance of what are typically an original Māori name being restored, and an existing non-Māori name in long term use. The argument for a dual name may therefore have merit based on the objecting submissions arguing the value of the existing name. However, the Board has considered that any combination for a dual name in this unique situation would be easily mistaken for the name of a national park (ie, the type of reserved land), and more confusing than any of the issues identified with the existing name and the proposed name.

There may be some merit in considering alternative names., noting this would effectively make the current status quo official. However, it appears unlikely it would lead to any transition toward the Māori name. Overall, there were only two submissions seeking alternative names.

Pandering to minorities/PC/virtue signalling. Ruining the country. Ignoring everyone other than Māori. New Zealand is multicultural.

Confusion with well-known Tauranga business, which is also well known by the name internationally.

Secretariat comment: Noting some travellers and tourists will be completely unfamiliar with the landscape of New Zealand and the distance between the locations, it is still considered unlikely an alpine village on the central volcanic plateau would be mistaken for a water park in Tauranga.

While the Board discourages duplication of place names, there are several existing Waimarino names in Te Ika-a-Māui which to date, do not appear to have been cause for concern.

Incoherent submissions. Submitted on the name of a national park (reserve).

General objection/supports the existing name (but no particular reasons)

Secretariat comment: in accordance with Section 17 NZGB Act 2008 a person must provide reasons in making a submission supporting or objecting to a proposal.

Proposed name unpronounceable. People don't speak Māori.

Secretariat comment: The New Zealand Gazetteer now includes audio files as a guide to standard pronunciation for ~6000 place names. If altered, audio for Waimarino would be recorded which may provide assistance to those who need it.

Board needs to make National Park official. Board failed in its duties in not doing so previously. Referring to National Park as an unofficial place name is a deliberate attempt to delegitimise the name and shows the Board's bias.

Secretariat comment: The former section 17 of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 required the Board to gazette Honorary Geographic Board decisions. At its 9 February 1926 meeting the Honorary Geographic Board decided 'That while accepting the decision communication to the Board, the Board expresses the wish that the Ministers and Heads of Departments, in all cases, refer proposed changes of names to the Board. It appears that the name of the railway station should have been gazetted.

As noted in supporting information to the proposal report, under the 1946 Act, names on official maps were considered 'official names' even if not gazetted. Therefore, when the Board considered proposals to alter to Waimarino in the 1950's and 1960's, it did not consider it needed to gazette the already official names. However, the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 redefined these explicitly as 'unofficial recorded names'. The consultation process has described National Park as an unofficial

<i>recorded name, as legally that is its status. It does not inherently mean that the name does not really exist, but that the Board has not gazetted it, and therefore no legal provisions relating to official names apply.</i>
Board has no right to change the name.
The same reasons for the previous Geographic Board having declined proposals for Waimarino remain valid today, nothing has changed. Was involved in the 1968 petition.
Changing to a Māori name implies ownership by Māori.
This is just a first step in attempts take away public access to Tongariro National Park.
Māori place names are too long.
<i>Secretariat comment: Waimarino is a shorter name than National Park.</i>

Submissions for Waimarino Railway Station

Supporting submissions (159) with generally no Secretariat comments

Reasons categorised, summarised and grouped
It was the original name, it was the first name, it's the historic name. Original Māori names should always be used.
Because National Park village is on the site of Waimarino Pā. Or, arguments that the site was occupied even if not the pā, particularly. The site of National Park was still part of the environs of the pā/settlement. Or, conversely whether or not the pā/original settlement was located at the site of National Park is immaterial.
Waimarino sounds better. Is beautiful, meaningful. Waimarino reflects the environment, physical geography. Waimarino is more exciting. National Park is boring, generic, unimaginative, silly, 'barely a name'. An 'anti-name'. A mere designation. National Park is meaningless.
For Māori heritage in the area. The name Waimarino is connected to the place. National Park could be anywhere. National Park has no history/heritage. National Park is 'colonial'.
To support wishes of Uenuku/Te Korowai o Wainuiārua.
The railway station name needs to follow the proposal for the village. Railway stations should be named for the populated places they serve.
The existing name is confusing. Cannot be disambiguated online from all the National Parks in New Zealand and globally. Tourists don't understand it's a populated place. The station gets confused with Ohakune Railway Station as the other access point to Tongariro National Park. The accommodation owners benefit from the confusion deceptively as otherwise travellers might otherwise book something actually inside Tongariro National Park. Waimarino is unique. Or at least, there are fewer Waimarino names than there are National Parks.
National Park isn't in the national park
The alteration from Waimarino to National Park was never consulted on. No due process then. It is a historic wrong. The name was 'taken' causing hurt/mamae. Changing the name broke the promises made by the Crown 40 years prior, in order to get the agreement to take the NIMT through Māori land.
To support te reo Māori. As a tourist town, using a Māori name would show a real commitment to te reo Māori.
Honor Te Tiriti.

<p>It's cultural redress. Specifically, for Crown actions in alienating land for the NIMT and Tongariro National Park. The Crown plotted to drive the North Island Main Trunk through the area as a punishment for local Māori support against the Crown during the land wars.</p> <p>The alteration would tie into the ratification of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua's DOS and settlement process.</p> <p>Show partnership, biculturalism.</p>
<p>Personal connections to the name. Grew up using Waimarino. Live there. Member of its institutions. Own property. Run business.</p>
<p>Will promote tourism. Will create business opportunities for Māori. Will be the base for the Pōkākā Eco-Sanctuary under development down the road.</p>
<p>Will foster 'unity and understanding among all New Zealanders' and similar.</p>
<p>Refers to parks, national parks, thinks proposal is for a national park <i>[Secretariat comment: ie, is confused.]</i></p>
<p><i>Possibly should count as an objection because they appear to instead support:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waimārino (1) [with a macron] - Waimarino National Park Station (1), as a compromise - 'the name should include 'teihana tereina' for Railway Station, but in te reo Māori' (1) <p><i>Secretariat comment: these submissions aren't expressly clear that they would prefer these over the proposal.</i></p>
<p>General expressions of support, but without saying why <i>[Secretariat comment: without any reasons, these may not count as valid submissions]</i></p>
<p>Waimarino is a shorter name than National Park. Easier to say, easier to write.</p>
<p>Those that support the existing name are racists, wheinga, enemies, a vocal minority, they're the ones dividing the village.</p>
<p>The proposed Waimarino fulfils the Board's statutory function to encourage the use of original Māori names. To help the Board finally come to a proper decision and get the names off its books having considered it for the sixth or seventh time in its 100 years.</p>
<p>Supported 'Railway Station' in full. There are of course, police stations, petrol stations, etc.</p>
<p>Needed to make a submission in reaction to the 'blasphemous' and 'laughable' article about the Tauranga business opposing it. Tauranga business is racist.</p>
<p>Cost for signage and branding are not a relevant consideration.</p>
<p>This proposal won't affect businesses as the National Parks will still be there, so their National Park branding will still be connected.</p> <p>Or, the supposed National Park Village brand doesn't even really exist.</p>
<p><i>[Secretariat paraphrasing]: 'the Board needs to send a clear message to KiwiRail that just as the unilateral change from Waimarino to National Park was unjustified, the recent unilateral erection of 'Waimarino National Park' signs is arbitrary, arrogant, unjustified and does not follow the legal process.' Further comment on other non-compliant and confusing new signage. 'The Board needs to stop them.'</i></p>
<p>There are existing Waimarino names like Waimarino overbridge.</p>
<p>If the Board has accepted the proposal, it must be worthwhile.</p>
<p>Supports altering railway station name as compromise to restore name in vicinity, but not the town name.</p>
<p>There is no railway service to the town anymore anyway. <i>[Secretariat comment: this is incorrect]</i></p>

Objecting submissions (332) with Secretariat comments

Reasons categorised, summarised and grouped
<p>The name and railway station are iconic. Travellers strongly identify with the name. It has global recognition. The station remains the gateway to Tongariro National Park. Long term use, generally.</p> <p>The name National Park conveys global egalitarian values, with connotations of access and enjoyment for everyone.</p>
<p>Personal associations with the name, it's part of their identity. Proud of the name. Making a group submission of those living at or still connected to National Park to show unity, in the face of fears their voices would otherwise be overwhelmed by those from outside of the village.</p>
<p>Authorities have had no interest in actually talking to the residents. Anything about the name should be decided by local residents and rate payers.</p>
<p>Should be decided by referendum. The taxpayers of New Zealand are the ones paying the Board's salaries.</p>
<p>The name was chosen back in 1926 to resolve confusion. It is obviously connected to Tongariro National Park. It is not itself, confusing. It accurately conveys information about the destination. Changing the name will only create confusion. The proposed Waimarino specifically, will be confusing.</p>
<p>The reasons in the Board's prior considerations stand.</p> <p><i>Secretariat comment: the Board fully considered the longstanding concerns about both names and how these concerns factored into prior decisions of the Board. Ie, the fundamental issues of 'National Park', typically a generic term, used as a populated place name, and the longstanding association and use of 'Waimarino' for features off to the south. However, at its 3 October 2023 hui the Board agreed to proceed with the proposal based on the reasons provided in the proposal and noting the evidence of support.</i></p>
<p>The name carries the heritage history of the NIMT, stories of industry and employment, such as for forestry, and the later Tongariro Power Scheme. The name of the railway station is the history of National Park as a populated place. Of the remaining non-Māori names on the NIMT National Park carries the greatest heritage value.</p> <p>The name carries the aspirations of those that built the village, seeking to establish it as the entry point to Tongariro National Park. The station is interconnected with the establishment and enjoyment of Tongariro National Park.</p>
<p>The name was chosen for practicality, for the destination. The existing name needs to continue to reflect the name of the destination (in conjunction with objections to altering the village name). This is in line with the Board's general view that railway station names should be named for the populated places they serve.</p> <p><i>Secretariat comment: should the Board uphold these objections it is recommended that submissions supporting the existing name be upheld to ensure consistency. Noting the alternative proposal for 'National Park Village' poses a question whether the railway station name should likewise follow suit.</i></p>
<p>Alternative proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Park Railway Station (277) - National Park Train Station (1) <p><i>Secretariat comment: Should the Board uphold objections making an alternative proposal for National Park Village, for consistency it recommended that the objections be upheld for the name of the railway station, noting there are some different reasons provided. The group petition has included an alternative proposal for 'National Park Railway Station' though would also support the existing name, National Park Station. 'National Park Village Railway Station' has not been proposed, which would be fully consistent with the principles cited.</i></p>
<p>The railway staff were the first inhabitants of the site, as the original Māori settlement was not located here. Before the NIMT, the site of the station and village was a treeless swamp. This can be seen in photos. Permanent occupation was only made possible from the extensive drainage and thousands of tons of stone ballast brought in to firm up the land so that trains could be parked at the site. Still by the 1920s, the only structures were the station and railway houses, until the Marton Sash & Door sawmill opened in 1925.</p>

<p>Protests KiwiRail's unilateral erection of 'factually incorrect' signage reading 'Waimarino National Park'. Also, the altitude on the sign is wrong. Highly confusing for tourists coming to Tongariro National Park.</p> <p><i>Secretariat comment: the new KiwiRail signage was noted by the proposers as unexpected and confusing. The Board proposal report likewise noted if altered to an official name 'KiwiRail will need to replace the signs for compliance, noting concerns they are also confusing for travellers and tourists'.</i></p>
<p>A Treaty Partnership should go both ways. It would be fair to retain National Park as a non-Māori name, given it's only one of two non-Māori names out of 59 on the NIMT.</p>
<p>Changing the name will incur unnecessary costs to the residents and to taxpayers at large. There are other priorities.</p>
<p>Dual names and other suggested arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Park Waimarino Village (1) - National Park, Waimarino, but 'Waimarino' just to refer to the area (1) - <i>Dual name</i> or 'Both' or 'in conjunction' (unspecified order/format) (3) - National Park (Waimarino) or Waimarino (National Park), with 'National Park' reduced to a description, as they support altering the name of the village. (1) - Waimarino National Park (1) - National Park Station Waimarino (1) <p><i>Secretariat comment: Dual names in any combination with 'National Park' increase the likelihood of the words 'National Park' being mistaken for a generic term rather than a place/village name, ie the name of a national park.</i></p>
<p>Waimarino has strong associations to the south, not here. Waimarino is the name of the area, but not the name for the village and its railway station.</p>
<p>The proposal is to appease Uenuku. A flex by racist activists. Tokensim.</p>
<p>The proposed name will lead to a brutal economic downturn, including for those supporting it.</p>
<p>Any name needs to be in English for the benefit of both internal and international travellers and tourists. English is a global language. Nobody can pronounce Māori names.</p>
<p>Māori who actually live at National Park support the existing name.</p>
<p>Will be confused with the Tauranga business.</p> <p><i>Secretariat comment: it is considered unlikely a railway station on the central volcanic plateau would be mistaken for a water park in Tauranga.</i></p>
<p>Trains didn't exist before settlement, therefore why should the railway station have a Māori name?</p> <p><i>Secretariat comment: Māori names are used for numerous railway stations historically and continue to be used, including for most railway stations on the North Island Main Trunk railway. Te reo Māori is an indigenous and official language of this country. The Board encourages the contemporary application of Māori place names.</i></p>
<p>Supports existing name, no reasons given, or just 'objects'.</p> <p><i>Secretariat comment: in accordance with Section 17 NZGB Act 2008 a person must provide reasons in making a submission supporting or objecting to a proposal.</i></p>
<p>Media have reported factually incorrect statements with no checking, so many people have made supporting submissions, jumping on a bandwagon and repeating them as the truth.</p>
<p>Their ancestor was Rt. Hon Joseph Gordon Coates, the Railways Minister responsible for altering Waimarino Station to National Park. He was a farmer and leader in the community, respected by the Māori MP's and by Māoridom. Changing the name would be dishonouring his honourable intentions.</p> <p><i>Secretariat comment: The Board is considering the appropriateness of the proposed name based on reasons provided at present.</i></p>
<p>The proposal is revisionist history.</p>
<p>The initial name Waimarino, was just a default name based on the name of the land block, it never had any consideration or real connection to the place. National Park was chosen with careful consideration once the place started to become populated.</p>

Secretariat comment: Contemporary correspondence shows the change from Waimarino was driven externally by the confusion for mail delivery to Waimarino County in Raetihi, and Waimarino Electorate in Taumarunui. National Park was chosen in connection to Tongariro National Park, as an access point by rail, after 'Ruapehu' was rejected. The Minister of Railways considered that the alteration was 'made only after mature consideration and at the direction representation of the local bodies concerned'. This discussion is available in the Board's archives, in file R21526196 held at Archives New Zealand¹⁸, and in other material gathered by the proposers in their research document.

The Secretariat notes some additional earlier correspondence identified from the Waimarino Stationmaster in 1925 suggesting Mountain View or Kite-maunga, or Nga-maunga ('The mountains'), considering National Park, Waimarino, and Ruapehu to all be unsuitable.

Māori names are too long.

No evidence at all the area was called Waimarino.

Secretariat comment: the proposal report notes extensive evidence for the use of Waimarino in the area, eg as 'Waimarino Plains'. As noted above, Waimarino Plains meets the criteria as an existing recorded name and has been added to the Gazetteer.

Supporting information

1. Board Proposal Report – Waimarino and Waimarino Station – 2023-10-03
2. Combined submission summary spreadsheet
3. Unedited copy of online Qualtrics platform submissions outputs
4. Copies of supporting submissions not received through online Qualtrics platform for village
5. Copies of objecting submissions not received through online Qualtrics platform for village
6. Copies of supporting submissions not received through online Qualtrics platform for railway station
7. Copies of objecting submissions not received through online Qualtrics platform for railway station
8. Copy of neutral submissions, not received through online Qualtrics platform
9. Correspondence with Te Arawhiti regarding Patutokotoko invitation to meet kanohi ki te kanohi with the Board and Minister – 2024-03-19
10. Supporting email from Ngāti Tūwharetoa – 2023-10-19

¹⁸ NZ Railway: Request that name of Waimarino Station be altered to either National Park or Ruapehu [R21526196](#), Archives New Zealand – viewed on 13 February 2024