

Report on the Proposals to Alter and Discontinue Names:

Rocky Bay (locality/village) [alteration from Omiha (locality/village)]

Rocky Bay (bay) [alteration from Omiha Bay]

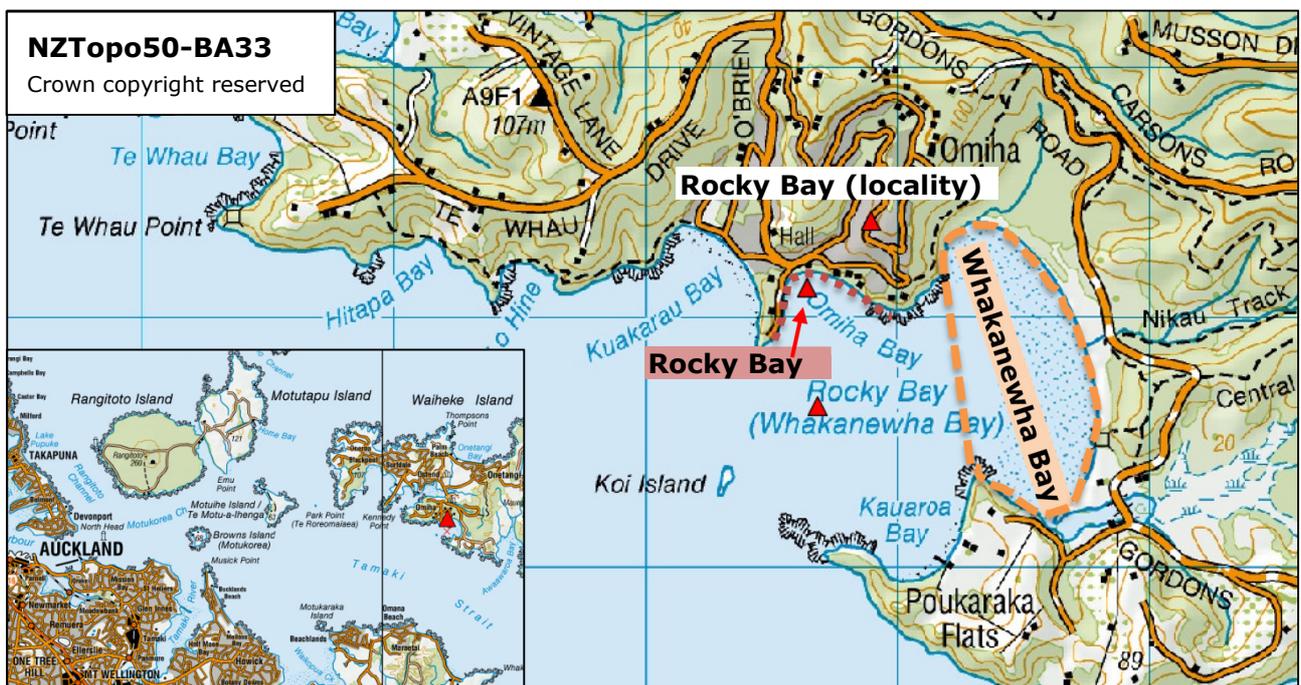
Whakanewha Bay [alteration from Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay) including its extent]

Omiha (locality/village) [discontinue Omiha (locality/village)]

Omiha Bay (bay) [discontinue Omiha Bay (bay)]

Features located approximately 6km southeast of Oneroa, Waiheke Island

MAP (SHOWING PROPOSED AND DISCONTINUED NAMES)



SUMMARY

The proposer is seeking to alter and discontinue ('expunge') existing recorded names:

- Omiha (locality/village) to **Rocky Bay** (locality/village),
- Omiha Bay (bay) to **Rocky Bay** (bay),
- Rocky Bay (Whakanewha) to **Whakanewha Bay**, and to redefine its extent,
- discontinue ('expunge') the two existing Omiha names (for the bay and the locality/village) 'from the record', ie to then remove the replaced names.

In 2011, the NZGB declined a similar set of proposals from this proposer, based on long term use of the existing names, a lack of evidence, and a lack of consultation or support for the proposals.

In the interests of resolving the latest set of proposals, Minimum Requirements for consultation have been waived.

Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK) advise it will complete consultation with mana whenua

in time for the NZGB meeting on 28 September 2016.

This report focuses on assessment of the latest proposals, and includes deeper assessment of the history of the three names. Recent and local use of the names is relevant, and could be confirmed through public consultation.

Altering the locality/village name to an official name may help resolve longstanding ambiguity by requiring the use of the official name by government, including Council encouraging others.

SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1 ~~Accept the proposal to alter the existing recorded name Omiha (locality/village) to Rocky Bay (locality/village), based on (i) a need to resolve ambiguity over the correct name for the locality/village to ensure non-ambiguous addressing, and which may assist communication with emergency services, and (ii) evidence indicating current and historical use of the name Rocky Bay for the locality (at least 90 years), and (iii) in the interests of testing local community views, notwithstanding that Omiha (locality/village) also has evidence of long term use,~~
~~and~~
~~Noting that the views of local iwi and Auckland Council have not yet been obtained,~~
~~and~~
~~Notify as a proposal to alter for three months in terms of Section 16 of the NZGB Act 2008~~

AND

Recommendation 2 ~~Decline the proposal to alter the existing recorded name Omiha Bay to Rocky Bay, for the small bay at NZTopo50-BA33-837231, based on evidence indicating long term, current and historical use of Omiha Bay for the feature (at least 94 years), notwithstanding that Rocky Bay also has evidence of long term use,~~
~~and~~
~~Noting that the views of local iwi and Auckland Council have not yet been obtained,~~
~~and~~
~~Noting that a Te Taura Whiri i te reo Māori accredited translator has advised that the spelling is Ōmiha.~~

AND

Recommendation 3 ~~Decline the proposal to alter the existing recorded name Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay) to Whakanewha Bay, with a redefined extent for the easternmost part of the wider bay only, centred at grid reference NZTopo50-BA33-846229, based on documentary evidence that the name Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay) applies to the entire bay area, with historic use of both names for the wider bay (at least 177 and 156 years),~~
~~and~~
~~Noting that the current views of local iwi and Auckland Council have not yet been obtained.~~
~~and~~
~~Noting that a Te Taura Whiri i te reo Māori accredited translator has confirmed the orthography of Whakanewha.~~

AND

Recommendation 4 ~~**Decline** the two proposals to discontinue ('expunge') the existing recorded names Omiha (locality/village) and Omiha Bay (bay) from NZGB records, based on (i) the names not being 'errors', because they meet the definition of Recorded Names under s.4 NZGB Act 2008, and (ii) evidence that the locality was established as 'Omiha Beach Estate', with Omiha Bay named at the same time, and (iii) evidence that the two Omiha names have continuously been used for the features since at least 1922 (94 years), and (iv) noting that the Board does not have any powers to expunge place names, but it may discontinue names.~~

OTHER OPTIONS

Option 5 **Defer** for iwi and Council views.

PREVIOUS NZGB MEETING

Minutes 7-8 July
2011

Board discussion:

Advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori that Omiha has a macron over the 'Ō'.

Another Rocky Bay exists there. The proposer advises that, "he lives at Omiha on the map but unless he advises the post that he lives in Rocky Bay, his mail does not reach him."

The Waiheke Island Community Board declined the proposal in 2008.

No reason provided for altering Rocky Bay to Whakanewha Bay or Omiha Bay to Rocky Bay.

Original Māori names exist for these places.

No evidence of consultation with manawhenua and the local community has been provided.

Changing the bay name will not solve the proposers' postal problems.

Resolution

*The Board **DECLINED** the proposal to alter Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay) to just Whakanewha Bay, based on long-term use of the dual name and the lack of sufficient documentary evidence to confirm the level of confusion with the locally used Rocky Bay for addressing.*

*The Board **DECLINED** the proposal to alter Omiha Bay to Rocky Bay based on Omiha Bay having been established for many years despite the local usage of Rocky Bay and because of the Board's function to collect and encourage original Māori names and the Board's purpose to 'provide the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features'; and based on the decision of the Waiheke Community Board's decision in 2008 to not support this proposal.*

*The Board **DECLINED** the proposal to assign Omiha Point to an unnamed feature based on inadequate consultation with the local community and local iwi.*

SECRETARIAT ANALYSIS

The proposal

The proposer is seeking to alter and discontinue ('expunge') three existing recorded names:

- Omiha (locality/village) to **Rocky Bay** (locality/village),
- Omiha Bay (bay) to **Rocky Bay** (bay),
- Rocky Bay (Whakanewha) to **Whakanewha Bay**, and redefine the extent'
- discontinue ('expunge') the two existing Omiha names (for the bay and the locality/village) 'from the record', ie to remove them and not replace them.

The proposer has provided evidence for current and historic use of Rocky Bay for both the locality/village and bay. The evidence includes bus routes, information on the local Council website, flyers for local events, correspondence, etc. The proposer has partially based his proposal on a map held by Auckland War Memorial Museum.

The proposer also advises that the Whakanewha name correctly applies to the easternmost part of the bay, not the wider bay.

The proposer advises that the 'incorrect' use of the Omiha (locality/village) name causes significant issues for his postal services, his electoral records, and other similar addressing problems.

The Auckland War Memorial Museum map

The proposal refers to a '1877/1858/1853 map' as 'overwhelming, authoritative, official' documentary evidence.

This map is an exact photostat copy of the original Waiheke Roll Plan 66. Auckland War Memorial Museum describes the annotations as 'likely 20th century'. The person who copied the Roll Plan has then transcribed in hand writing, geographic names and topography from the Māori Land survey plans (and other plans) numbered on the original Roll.

Rocky Bay is a pencilled addition, and Omiha added in pen possibly based on ML 342. Only the name 'Wakanewha' is original text from the Roll. The spelling has been corrected with an [h], and 'Bay' added in pen.

The line 'pointing' to the eastern bay runs horizontally through the entire map, and does not relate to the bay.

A detailed analysis of the map provided by the proposer and other issues are provided in a supporting document.

Historical maps, plans and charts

In some instances it is unclear whether the cartographic depiction of the name applies to the entire bay area, or one of the smaller bays. Similarly, a name cartographically shown as Rocky Bay or Omiha Bay, in the small bay, may apply to the locality/village, or the bay and locality/village as one feature.

Authoritative maps and charts have remained mostly consistent over the last 50 years; however, they may not reflect local use.

Date	Map/Plan/Chart	Locality/Village	Small Bay	Wider Bay (or as specified)
1852	Map of the Auckland District	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Wakanewa
1856/58	OLC 313 – Mr Wood's Claim at the	<i>Not shown</i>	Not named Rocky Point or	WAKANEWHA BAY [for eastern bay]

	WAKANEWHA		Bluff [for the point between the small bay, and the eastern bay]	
1857	Entrances to Auckland Harbour (Stokes Chart)	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Whakanewha Bay [For a locality at the eastern bay, structures depicted]
1858	Land at Waiheke - Crown Purchase Deed	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	WHAKANEWHA
1860	A(D)67 - Auckland and the Waikato	Moihi [Native houses and cultivations depicted]	<i>Not named</i>	Rocky Bay
1863	G5 – Map Shewing Native Population and Native Settlements	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Whakaniwha [For a locality at the eastern bay]
1865	ML 342	OMIHA	Rocky Bay [appears to be a later addition]	Wakanewha Bay [appears to be a later addition]
1865	KAUAKARAU [Māori Land Title]	OMIHA	<i>Not named</i>	WAKANIWHA BAY Waiheke Channel
1860s	Roll Plan 66	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Wakanewha
1866	ML 264 – Plan of WHAKANEWHA	<i>Not shown</i>	<i>Not shown</i>	WHAKANEWHA BAY [for the eastern bay]
1869	A(D)130	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Rocky Bay
1873	A(D)116	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	WAKANEWHA
1882	Provincial District of Auckland.	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Wakaniwha B
1897	DP 1721	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Whakanewha Bay
1900	GAZ 173	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Wakaniwha B.
1923	P.W.D. 67395 [supporting document]	OMIHA BEACH ESTATE	Omiha Bay	Wakanewha B.
1926	DP 19224	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not specifically named</i>	Whakanewha Bay
1927	DP 20610	<i>Not named</i>	Omiha Bay	<i>Not shown</i>
1929	NZMS 13 NAK74	OMIHA [text in the small bay, but for the locality]	<i>Not named</i>	Rocky Bay Wakanewha
1934 ed.	Chart BA 1896	<i>Not named</i>	Rocky B.	Whakanewha Bay [For a locality at the eastern bay, structures depicted]
1942 ed.	Chart BA 1896	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Whakanewha B. (Rocky B.)
1943	NZMS 2A (1:25k scale)	Omiha	<i>Not named</i>	Rocky Bay
1945 1 st ed.	NZMS 1 N43	<i>Not named</i>	Omiha	Rocky Bay
1954	NZMS 13 NAK74	<i>Not named</i>	Omiha Bay	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha B.)
1960 ed.	Chart NZ 532	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Rocky B.

1962	NZMS 3 N38-9/N39-7/N42-3/N43-1 [aerial mosaic]	Omiha	Omiha Bay	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay)
1963 2 nd ed	NZMS 1 N43	Omiha	Omiha B.	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay)
1968	SO 46065	<i>Not named</i>	Rocky Bay	<i>Not shown</i>
1971	NZMS 261	Omiha	OMIHA BAY	ROCKY BAY [for the eastern bay]
1975	DP 78819	<i>Not named</i>	OMIHA BAY	<i>Not shown</i>
1975 3 rd ed.	NZMS1 N43	Omiha	Omiha B.	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay)
1973	Chart NZ 5324	Omiha	<i>Not named</i>	Rocky Bay
1983 1 st ed.	NZMS 260 S11	Omiha	Omiha Bay	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay)
1987	SO 61005	<i>Not named</i>	Omiha Bay	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay) [for the eastern bay]
1989 Infomap 3	NZMS 336	OMIHA	Omiha Bay	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay) Rocky Bay [for eastern bay on 1:20000 scale enlargement]
1994 2 nd ed.	NZMS 260 S11	Omiha	Omiha Bay	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay)
1994	DP 161747	<i>Not named</i>	<i>Not named</i>	Whakanewha Bay (Rocky Bay) [for eastern bay]
2003 ed.	Chart NZ 5324	Omiha	Not named	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay)
2006 ed.	NZMS 260 S11	Omiha	Omiha Bay	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay)
Current	NZTopo50-BA33	Omiha	Omiha Bay	Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay)

Location and extents of the features

Omiha is a populated locality/village spread over two small valleys, on the southwest side of Waiheke Island. Omiha Bay is located on the southeast side of Omiha (locality/village).

Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay) is the wider bay that includes Omiha Bay to the north, Kauaroa Bay to the south, and is bound by Koi Island to the west and at its entrance.

The three places/features are approximately 3.5km southeast of the Waiheke Island ferry landing.

The proposal includes redefining the extent for Whakanewha Bay, only for the easternmost part of the existing wider bay.

Generic terms and geographic feature types

The existing recorded names Omiha Bay and Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay) include the generic term 'Bay', which appropriately describe the bay features. Both proposed alterations retain the use of the generic term 'Bay'.

The proposed alteration of Omiha (locality/village) to Rocky Bay (locality/village) would include the generic term 'Bay'. This duplicates the proposed name 'Rocky Bay', for the bay, and will be confusing.

However, this situation is found throughout New Zealand, eg Governors Bay (locality and bay, Lyttelton Harbour / Whakaraupō) and Blockhouse Bay (bay and locality, Auckland).

[New Zealand Gazetteer](#) and

Omiha (locality/village) and Omiha Bay are the existing recorded names for the populated place and small bay. Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay) is the

duplication existing recorded name for the wider bay south of Omiha (locality/village), which includes Omiha Bay.

Omiha and Whakanewha are not duplicated anywhere else in New Zealand.

Rocky Bay is duplicated for four 'bay' features:

- Great Mercury Island (Ahuahu), 69km northeast of this proposal,
- on the coast northwest of Whangarei,
- at Titahi Bay, Wellington, and
- on Campbell Island.

These features are sufficiently distant for there to be no issues for emergency services because of confusion from duplication. The proposals would duplicate 'Rocky Bay' for the bay and locality.

Names associated with the features Whakanewha Regional Park is a Scenic Reserve on Waiheke Island that is managed by Auckland Council.

Omiha Beach Reserve is a Recreation Reserve adjacent to Omiha Bay, managed by Auckland Council.

Omiha Reserve is a Scenic Reserve managed by Auckland Council between Omiha (locality) and Whakanewha Regional Park.

These features are local reserves and not Crown Protected Areas. The NZGB could request Auckland Council to update its records for consistency, should the existing names be altered.

Early references to Omiha The proposer advises that 'Omiha' was a slave woman. The proposer advised that the Hon. Sandra Lee[-Vercoe], an Auckland politician, told him that Omiha was one of her ancestors.

'Omiha' is shown on ML 342 and the Kauakarau Block title in a manner consistent with names used to mark out boundaries in the Māori Land Court. There is nothing to indicate what it specifically refers to. 'Omiha' was not recorded in the Land Court minutes for Kauakarau or Whakanewha Blocks.

Philips records: *'Kapetaua and his warriors took their canoe across Tamaki Strait under cover of darkness and lay concealed at the head of Whakanewa Bay, beyond Omiha. With two of his men, Kapetaua went forward to reconnoitre the pa of his brother-in-law.'*¹

Philips does not specifically reference the source of this story.

Day records that the Hodgson family bought land at Omiha 'from the Māori owners' in the mid 1840's, which they occupied cutting timber and running livestock.² The purchase document refers to '*portion of Whakanewha*', and not Omiha.

References to Whakanewha Whakanewha (and variations) is generally recorded as the name for the entire bay. However, some sources appear to refer to just the eastern part of the bay as Whakanewha.

In 1839 'Kotehuhu' of Ngāti Maru sold land at Whakanewha to John Foster of Sydney. Kotehuhu's sale ignored Ngāti Paoa interest in the land. Mohi Te Hararei of Ngāti Paoa returned to Waiheke Island and burnt the house at Poukaraka, Whakanewha to the ground. Mohi began cultivating the land to

¹ F.L. Philips, (1995), *Landmarks of Tainui Volume 2*, Otorohanga: Tohu Publishers, p.161

² D. Day, (1989), *Waiheke Pioneers*, Ostend: Waiheke Historical Society, pp.40-41

re-emphasise Ngāti Paoa possession.³ 'Moihi' on map A(D)67 refers to Mohi Te Hararei's dwelling.

The land was onsold to Francis Hodgkinson and Michel Murnin, then to S.A Wood. The documents when Hodgkinson and Murnin attempt to raise title in 1842 first refers to 'Wakaneffur'.⁴

Te Hoterene Taipari of Ngāti Maru, later laid claim to 'Whakanewha Block' through the Native Land Court in 1865. Mohi lodged a counter claim, and the Block was awarded to them jointly in 1866. The Block was not just for the eastern bay, but included most of the wider bay from Omiha Bay, around to the southern head at Kauaroa Bay.

A settlement 'Whakanewha' was located at the eastern bay, the village of other Ngāti Paoa who returned to Waiheke with Mohi Te Hararei. Church missionary records in 1854 describe 'Wakanewa village' as 'improved', having recently been baptised'.⁵ The settlement is depicted on some early charts.

Pā sites and gardens were located around the entire bay. A report on the Archaeology of Whakanewha Regional Park describes the extent of settlement in the archaeological record, though this also including settlement predating the aforementioned 'village'.⁶

Chapman recorded in 1867: '**WAKANEWHA**. *The middle harbour, south side of Waiheke.*'⁷ Later 20th century sailing directions reference 'the eastern head of Whakanewha Bay', still applying to the entire bay.⁸

The Waitangi Tribunal Report Wai10 only refers to 'Whakanewha Block'. There is no mention of Omiha or Rocky Bay.⁹

It is evident from research that the name Whakanewha was well established in the area, applying to the block, bay, and village.

Early references –
Rocky Bay

The earliest text reference located, dating 1888, in a newspaper, describes oyster poaching at 'Rocky Bay', for a bay.¹⁰ Rocky Bay, for a bay, first appears in the *New Zealand Gazette* in 1914, and from then on, in rainfall tables.¹¹

It is unclear whether these items refer to the small bay or the wider bay, or whether there is a distinction at this time.

In an article dated 1894 a request was made to establish a school at Rocky Bay 'locality'.¹² Due to the limited settlement at this time, Rocky Bay 'locality' appears to be synonymous with the wider bay area, and not specifically the site of Omiha (locality/village).

References to the
locality/village and
bay

Omiha (locality/village) was established 1922-1927 when the O'Brien brothers subdivided part of their farm. Sections were marketed under the name 'Omiha Beach Estate'. A copy of the original Public Works Department flyer is attached as a supporting document.

The flyer describes 'Omiha Beach Estate' as being located at 'Rocky Bay, Waiheke'. The flyer's maps clearly name the small bay 'Omiha Bay', and the wider bay 'Wakaniwha B.'. It does not specify which 'Rocky Bay' refers to. Corresponding Public Works Office records for financing and sealing the subdivision's roads refer consistently to 'Omiha Subdivision'.¹³

³ *History of Human Occupation and Archaeology, Whakanewha Regional Park Background Information*, 1996, Auckland: Regional Parks Services, pp.36-37

⁴ OLC 801, Case files [Francis Hodgkinson and Michael Egan Murnin, Waiheke] ([R18461851](#)), Archives New Zealand, Wellington

⁵ The New Zealand Mission, 1830-1851. p.212 -

<http://www.enzb.auckland.ac.nz/document?wid=4104&page=0&action=searchresult&target=>

⁶ <http://www.wmbc.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/History-of-human-occupation-and-archaeology-of-Whakanewha-Regional-Park2.pdf> accessed 25 August 2016

⁷ G.T. Chapman (1867), *Chapman's Gazetteer of the Province of Auckland, New Zealand*, 2nd edition, Auckland p.75

⁸ *NZ Gazette* 1925 (25) p.776

⁹ https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/wt_DOC_68482297/Waiheke%20W.pdf

¹⁰ [POLICE COURT -THIS DAY, AUCKLAND STAR, VOLUME XIX, ISSUE 148, 23 JUNE 1888](#)

¹¹ *NZ Gazette* 1914 (63) p.2652

¹² [BOARD OF EDUCATION, AUCKLAND STAR, VOLUME XXV, ISSUE 128, 30 MAY 1894](#)

¹³ Auckland Road District - Roothing Omiha Subdivision Waiheke Island ([R17295244](#)), Archives New Zealand, Wellington

The first newspaper reference to 'Omiha' advertises an open tender on building a wharf at 'Omiha Bay, Waiheke' in 1922.¹⁴ Between 1923 and 1924 there are weekly newspaper advertisements for sections at 'Omiha Beach Estate'. Following the subdivision, ferry departures to 'Omiha' are published in newspapers until at least 1948 (the end of the Papers Past's archive).

Over time the name 'Rocky Bay' appears to be applied to the 'Omiha' subdivision. Some records are ambiguous as to whether 'Rocky Bay' is identical to the 'Omiha' subdivision, or for a wider 'Rocky Bay' area. Newspapers suggest some ambiguity or interchangeability of 'Omiha' and 'Rocky Bay':

- 'Omiha, Waiheke, formerly known as Rocky Bay, by the Waiuku'¹⁵
- 'among the most popular bays on Waiheke Island are Rocky Bay, now known as Omiha, 14 miles from Auckland'.¹⁶
- 'Rocky Bay (Omiha)'.¹⁷

Some official records consistently use just the name Rocky Bay, for the locality/village. In 1926, a post office named 'Rocky Bay' was established at the subdivision. In the official file, which covered 1937-1976, there is no mention of 'Omiha'. However, the 'Startup Archives', considered authoritative for Post Offices, records: 'Rocky Bay - Locally known as Omiha and name Rocky Bay is descriptive of the bay.'¹⁸

In the file there is a 1941 letter requesting postal-office note facilities by 'We the undersigned, being residents of Rocky Bay...' illustrating local use of 'Rocky Bay', for the locality.

The Post office file also addresses the closure of 'Rocky Bay wharf' (the 'Omiha Bay wharf' mentioned above) due to disrepair in 1961.¹⁹

1938 electoral results have 25 returns from 'Rocky Bay' Waiheke.²⁰ However, a Gazette for the draft in 1942 has individuals both from 'Omiha, Waiheke Island' and 'Rocky Bay, Waiheke Island'.²¹ This suggests either the names were being used alternatively for the same location, or there is a wider 'Rocky Bay' locality.

Dollimore²² records in 1952:

'**Rocky Bay**, Auckland Prov. Auckland Postal District. Post, telephone and money-order office. Locality in Manukau County. Situated on the south-western shore of Waiheke Island in Hauraki Gulf. Residential area. Store. Seventeen miles eastwards from Auckland by Sea.'

In 1955 *AtoJS*²³ records Omiha and Rocky Bay as alternative names for the locality/village:

- 'It can be anticipated that with the advent of electric power Rocky Bay or Omiha will become more popular for the purposes of permanent residence...'
- 'The terminal of the submarine cable supplying electric power to the island is very close to Rocky Bay, and the main transmission line to Western Waiheke passes the Omiha Settlement.'
- 'Certain objections were lodged to the provided scheme and emanated entirely from or on behalf of owners at Omiha (or Rocky Bay)...

Aerial photos from the 1960's held by Alexander Turnbull Library name

¹⁴ [Page 12 Advertisements Column 5, NEW ZEALAND HERALD, VOLUME LIX, ISSUE 18270, 11 DECEMBER 1922](#)

¹⁵ [PORT OF AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND HERALD, VOLUME LX, ISSUE 18356, 23 MARCH 1923](#)

¹⁶ [A YACHTSMAN'S PARADISE, NEW ZEALAND HERALD, VOLUME LXIV, ISSUE 19826, 22 DECEMBER 1927, SUPPLEMENT](#)

¹⁷ [REGATTA AT ROCKY BAY. AUCKLAND STAR, VOLUME LXIV, ISSUE 307, 29 DECEMBER 1933](#)

¹⁸ <http://www.cps.gen.nz/232867/> - entry provided by Andrew McNiven, Senior Application Support Analyst, NZ Post

¹⁹ Rocky Bay ([R10859557](#)), Archives New Zealand, Wellington

²⁰ [The General Election, 1938, Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1939 Session I, H-33a](#)

²¹ *NZ Gazette* 1942 (86) p.2199

²² E. S. Dollimore (1952), *The New Zealand Guide*, Dunedin: The Evening Star Co. Ltd

²³ *Appendix to the journals of the House of Representatives*, 1955, Volume 3, pp.36-49

'Rocky Bay', 'Omiha Bay', and 'Whakanewha'. One photo distinguishes between 'Kauakarau Bay' and 'Omaha Bay' [sic] on either side of the prominent spit, as bays within 'Rocky Bay'.²⁴ Some photos refer to Rocky Bay (Whakanewha Bay).²⁵ Auckland War Memorial Museum holds a photo of 'Omaha Cove [sic], Rocky Bay', clearly referring to the small bay within the wider bay.²⁶

Monin, a Waiheke island historian, records 'Omiha' on a map of 'Māori Waiheke', also noting the adjacent Whakanewha settlement.²⁷ Monin describes a necklace of iron nails found at a Māori burial site at 'Omiha' being on display at Waiheke Museum.²⁸ In another book Monin variously uses 'Omiha', 'Rocky Bay' and 'Omiha (Rocky Bay)' for the settlement.²⁹

Whakanewha Regional Park's Management Plan records both 'Omiha (Rocky Bay)' and 'Rocky Bay' for the locality/village.³⁰

Reed records:

'Rocky Bay': Auckland, Waiheke Island. A descriptive name. Also known by its Maori name: Omiha, *lit.* o: place of; miha: young fern frond; or whale; or to wonder.³¹ Reed appears to be breaking the name down by morphemes for the purposes of a literal translation.

Consultation with iwi and others

Due to the nature of the proposal, the NZGB Chairperson has waived some Minimum Requirements, ie the proposer's own consultation with iwi, the Council and other interested parties. This is on the basis that Auckland Council and iwi will be consulted as part of the process, if the NZGB accepts the proposals.

Te Puni Kōkiri advises that it will complete consultation with mana whenua in time for the NZGB meeting on 28 September 2016.

Advice on orthography

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori registered translator advises that:

- Ōmiha requires a macron over the [o], and
- that Whakanewha is correct and would not require any alteration.

Sections from the NZGB Act 2008 relevant to this proposal

Under s.10(1)(a)&(c) the NZGB has a principal function to assign and alter recorded and official geographic names.

Under s.11(1)(d)&(e) the NZGB has a function to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names on official maps and charts.

Under s.11(1)(f) the NZGB may seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori on the correct orthography of any Māori name.

Sections from the NZGB's [Frameworks v.8](#) relevant to this proposal

Locality and suburb names: The Board recognises the importance of locality names. These names and the area to which they relate are important for correctly identifying locations, which are essential for emergency services.

Altering or assigning an official name would resolve ambiguity over which name is correct for the locality/village. An official name would be required

²⁴ Rocky Bay, Omaha Bay and Kauakarau Bay, Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf. Whites Aviation Ltd :Photographs. ([WA-63269-F](#)). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

²⁵ Whites Aviation Ltd :Photographs ([PA-Group-00080](#)), Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

²⁶ Omaha Cave, Rocky Bay, Waiheke ([PH-NEG-C26433](#)), Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland

²⁷ P. Monin, (1992), *Waiheke Island: A History*, Palmerston North: Dumore Press, p.16

²⁸ *Ibid* p.44

²⁹ P. Monin, (2012), *Matiatia: Gateway to Waiheke*, Wellington: Bridget Williams Books

³⁰ *Whakanewha Regional Park Background Information*, 1996, pp.40-41

³¹ Reed, AW & Dowling, P (ed.), (2010). *Place names of New Zealand*, North Shore: Penguin Group

to be used on official documents, and may ensure consistency over time.

While there is evidence of both 'Rocky Bay' and 'Omiha' in use for the same locality/village, dual names are strongly discouraged under the ANZ Addressing Standard 4819:2011. The standard helps to inform the NZGB when making decisions on populated places.

Name alterations: Alterations to established names should not be made without good reason and should be considered carefully on a case-by-case basis.

The proposer has provided extensive evidence of the use of 'Rocky Bay' for the locality/village, which is recorded on maps, plans and charts as 'Omiha'. Long term local use of the name 'Rocky Bay' may outweigh long term documented use on maps and charts, especially when considering identification of the feature to emergency services.

However, there is also significant evidence of 'Omiha' being used both historically and presently. Public consultation may help determine what is the best name for the locality/village.

Addressing
Implications and
concerns or issues
for emergency
services

The proposer advises that he has issues with postal delivery for items marked 'Rocky Bay', issues with electoral records, and a potential issue for the identification of the locality/village to emergency services. The proposer advises these issues are due to the existing recorded name Omiha being used 'incorrectly' for the locality/village.

'Omiha' is included in the localities database used by NZ Post. 'Rocky Bay' is not included, and does not return a result on NZ Posts address finder.

The proposer advises that there is confusion between Omiha and Omaha, a locality northeast of Warkworth and approximately 60km northwest from Omiha on Waiheke Island.

On current tourist maps and other publications: 'Omiha', 'Rocky Bay', 'Omiha (Rocky Bay)', 'Rocky Bay (Omiha)', Omiha/Rocky Bay have all been noted naming the locality/village and/or small bay. This inconsistency may be confusing for those unfamiliar with the area.

At the intersection of Onetangi Road and O'Brien Road leading to the locality/village, a road sign shows 'Rocky Bay'. At the entrance to the locality/village, a sign erected by Omiha Welfare & Recreation Society states 'WELCOME TO OMIHA (Rocky Bay)'.

Altering to or assigning an official name to the locality/village may resolve these issues, and aid identification to emergency services.

Publications intended for travellers and tourists are official documents under the NZGB Act 2008. Should official names be altered, this may lead to some consistency over time. Where they exist, official names are required to be used on official documents.

Hydrographic
concerns

*Admiralty Sailing Directions*³² currently references 'Rocky Bay' as the name for the wider bay. There are no current references to Whakanewha or Omiha. Historical sailing directions recorded Whakanewha Bay for the wider bay.

³² Mason, S.C. (Ed.). 2010. *Admiralty Sailing Directions, New Zealand Pilot, 18th edition*. United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, Taunton, United Kingdom, 8.164

Media

There may be some media attention if the media consider the proposals to have a sufficiently high degree of public interest.

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

NZSL is an official language of New Zealand. Under the UNCRPD³³ the NZGB is obliged to recognise the existence and importance of geographic names in NZSL.

There are no standardised NZSL signs for Omiha, Whakanewha Bay or Rocky Bay in the online Dictionary, just the generic term 'bay'. The NZGB may consider recommending that if any of the names become official that they be added to the NZSL Dictionary.



bay
whanga
noun

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Proposals and supporting information
2. Additional discussion of proposal by the Secretariat
3. Better copy of Auckland War Memorial Museum map
4. Copy of P.W.D. 67395 Omiha Beach Estate flyer
5. Orthography advice
6. MLC Minutes Kauakarau Block

³³ United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities