

PUKEKIWIRIKI CRATER

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M L Graham, Civic Trust Board Member

Pukekiwiriki is a volcanic landform (a breached explosion crater and tuff ring), located at the end of the Waiouru Peninsula, on the north side of Otara Creek, at its exit to the Tamaki River (directly opposite the power station).

It was at risk from the proposed new by-pass between Otahuhu and East Tamaki, but as a result of submissions made by the Volcanic Cones Society, the proposed road has been moved slightly and most of the volcanic landform will now come within an attractive park at the end of the peninsula.

The highway is currently well underway and details of progress can be obtained from the "East Tamaki connection" website supported by the local authority and Transit at www.easttamakiconnection.co.nz. Details of the Highbrook subdivision are available at www.highbrook.co.nz.

Overall, the subdivision design is acceptable and, in part, is quite forward thinking and sympathetic to the land/foreshore interface, but it is disappointing to see that there is only a narrow "Queen's chain" strip between many of the manufacturing sites and the adjoining waterfront. A major plus of the subdivision is that it retains the main feature of the site, namely the volcanic crater, together with a meaningful surrounding reserve.

Subdivisional documents give the name "Pukekiwiriki" to the locality.

A crude translation of the components making up this name would be *Puke* (Hill) *Kiwi* (Kiwi the bird) *riki* (small) or, the Hill of the Small Kiwi. However, the landform is hardly a hill, indeed quite the reverse and the provenance of that name needs to be checked. The name probably applies to the higher tuff ring component than to the crater, which is probably unnamed.

More importantly, this is already the name of an existing volcano at Red Hill, in Papakura District (although for that hill the name *Puke o Kaiwiriki* - the hill of Kaiwiriki, has also been suggested).

It will be necessary to confer with local iwi and the local authority, so that this important land form is given an appropriate name, which is as correct as possible in terms of Maori history, neither misleading, nor the duplication of another major Auckland regional landmark.