

Elections for your local council are held every three years so you can decide who will represent you around the Council table.

To achieve fair and effective representation, council's must review their representation arrangements at least every six years.

The review asks how many elected members there should be in our district and from where they should be elected. For example, should councillors be elected from wards or 'at large' across the whole district?

The review considers our wards, their boundaries, names, and how many councillors are elected to each. It is also an opportunity to consider other options such as community boards.

The number of councillors in each ward is based on the number of people living in each area. Each elected member should represent a similar number of people.

For Kaipara's existing structure, it is currently two councillors per ward. Two of those wards (Dargaville and Kaiwaka - Mangawhai) are now outside the variation allowed due to population growth.

The addition of a Māori ward also means we need to reset how the wards are set up.



We must have your feedback by 30 April 2021
www.kaipara.govt.nz/RepReview

Current Council Wards (2019)

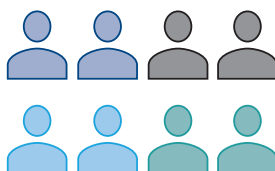


Current Situation

Mayor - Elected 'at large' (district-wide)



8 Councillors - Elected from four wards



What are Kaipara District's communities of interest?

As part of the review, we must identify Kaipara's communities of interest. Local Government Commission guidelines recognise a community of interest according to three criteria:

Perceptual	a sense of belonging to a place
Functional	meet service requirements – shops, amenities, etc
Political	ability to represent interests and reconcile conflicts of all members

There can be physical or topographical features that define a community of interest. Similar communities can be grouped. Communities can change over time.

Māori Wards

In October 2020, Kaipara District Council voted to establish a Māori Ward, under the Local Electoral Act.

Māori Wards are the local government equivalent of the Māori parliamentary electorates. Electors on the Māori electoral role will vote for and be represented by candidates contesting a Māori ward rather than candidates contesting a general ward. A councillor elected via a Māori ward represents the entire district in their decision making.

Our Journey

As a Council, we're wanting to ensure we continually reflect the communities that make up Kaipara, and ensure they have a voice at the table. In the past, representation had been removed from the people of Kaipara, and processes like this ensure it's safeguarded.

Questions and Answers

Where and what does the review cover?

The whole Kaipara District council. This includes all wards and boundaries.

Who will this affect?

You! The people you elect are the voice of your community. That voice should represent all people who choose to make Kaipara District their home and must represent and balance differing interests. It is important that you feel you are represented fairly and effectively. If you feel well-represented with the current system, tell us. If you do not feel well-represented by the current ward system, tell us what you think will improve it.

What are Community Boards?

A Community Board's role is to represent the interests of their community to the Council. It gets its powers through delegation from the Council. This could be decision making, administering grants or anything else as granted by Council.

A Community Board is about advocacy for a Community of interest. Their contribution helps ensure Council takes account of what each local community wants as they make decisions.

The pay is set by the Remuneration Authority (same as the currently elected members), however, there are additional costs when you factor in more meetings, staff to support and report to the board etc.

TIMELINE

Now:

Collecting feedback on what you'd like to see change

August 2021:

We put out an Initial Option we think works for Kaipara District

You have your say on the proposed structure

September 2021:

You can speak to Council about your submission

October 2021:

We put forth the proposal for the next two elections.

10 April 2022:

Determination by Local Government Commission (if required)

How do I have my say?

You can visit www.kaipara.govt.nz/RepReview and complete the representation review survey online. Printed survey forms will be available from Council offices and libraries.



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