

2021 Representation Review – Initial Proposal

Meeting: Kaipara District Council
Date of meeting: 25 August 2021
Reporting officer: Michael Day, Strategy, Policy and Governance Manager

Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To resolve an initial proposal for the review of representation arrangements for the Kaipara District, to apply for the 2022 and 2025 triennial elections.

Executive summary | Whakarāpopototanga

The purpose of the report is to present the 2021 Kaipara District Council Representation Arrangements Review Initial Proposal for adoption and release for formal public consultation, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That Kaipara District Council:

- a) Resolves, pursuant to sections 19H and 19J and clause 1 and 2 of Schedule 1A of the Local Electoral Act 2001, to adopt, as its Initial Proposal (as set out in **Attachment A**) for the review of representation arrangements for the 2022 and 2025 triennial elections, the following:
 - i. Kaipara District Council to comprise nine councillors elected under the ward system (specifically, eight general ward councillors and one Māori ward councillor) and the mayor elected at large.
 - ii. Kaipara District Council be divided into four wards, these being:
 - iii. Kaiwaka-Mangawhai General Ward (three general councillors)
 - iv. Otamatea General Ward (two general Councillors)
 - v. Wairoa General Ward (three general Councillors)
 - vi. Te Moananui o Kaipara Māori ward (one Māori councillor)
 - vii. No community boards be established
- b) Notes that the existing boundaries of the Kaiwaka-Mangawhai General Ward and the Otamatea General Ward are not proposed to be changed for the 2022 and 2025 triennial elections and that the existing Dargaville Ward and West Coast-Central Ward are proposed to be amalgamated into a single Ward for the 2022 and 2025 triennial elections, known as the Wairoa General Ward.
- c) Notes that the population each general councillor represents is within the population range of 2,688 +/- 10% (2,419 - 2,956), in compliance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001.
- d) Notes the reasons the total number of councillors is proposed to increase to nine (plus the Mayor) are:
 - i. to provide fair and effective representation to Kaipara District residents and ratepayers (whilst still ensuring accessibility to a large area made up of populated towns and villages and sparsely populated rural areas); and
 - ii. to provide effective representation of the Māori population of the district.

- e) Issues a public notice that informs the public of the Initial Proposal (as set out in **Attachment A**) and provides the opportunity to make a submission on the Initial Proposal between 27 August 2021 and 27 September 2021.

Context | Horopaki

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) requires all local authorities to undertake a representation arrangement review at least once every six years. Council's last review was undertaken in 2018/2019 (for the 2019 local government elections) with eight councillors being elected from four wards, plus the Mayor. The next review would normally occur in 2024/2025, however, Council signalled to the Local Government Commission at the previous representation review that it would undertake another review in 2021/22, due to the significant growth being experienced in the District.

Council has also resolved (at the October 2020 Council meeting) to introduce a Māori ward, which triggers a review. The review will enable the use of the latest population statistics (2018 Census with population estimates at 30 June 2020) when determining options.

There is a prescribed timetable and process that Councils are required to follow when undertaking a representation arrangement review and Kaipara District Council is working within these parameters.

Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

Considerations and principles

The Local Government Commission has issued guidelines for councils to consider when undertaking representation reviews. These guidelines identify the key principles to be considered when conducting a review. These key principles are:

- Identifying communities of interest
- Effective representation of electors (the optimal number of councillors)
- Fair representation of electors (compliance with the +/- 10% rule)

When undertaking a representation review, Council must also consider the following:

- The total number of councillors to be elected
- the number of councillors to be elected per ward
- Whether community boards are to be established
- The number, boundaries and names of the wards where councillors will be elected from.

Current arrangements

Because of the significant population growth in the district, the current ward structure does not comply with the +/- 10% fair representation criteria (Dargaville and Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Wards are non-compliant).

Ward	Population	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	% Variation
Dargaville	4,960	2	2,480	No	-21.18%
Kaiwaka-Mangawhai	8,680	2	4,340	No	37.94%
Otamatea	5,760	2	2,880	Yes	8.46%
West Coast-Central	5,770	2	2,885	Yes	-8.30%

How we arrived at the Initial Proposal

The population figures that must be used for the 2021 review are Māori and general electoral populations, estimated at 30 June 2020 (based on the 2018 Census). These are 3,680 and 21,500 respectively making a total population estimate of 25,180.

Between December 2020 and July 2021, six representation review briefings were held with Elected Members, which provided multiple opportunities to 'explore' the various representation review options (both compliant and non-compliant) and to develop and test scenarios.

The Initial Proposal

Kaipara District Council is to comprise the mayor elected at-large and nine councillors elected under the ward system, specifically eight general ward councillors and one Māori ward councillor.

Kaipara District Council be divided into four wards, these being:

Te Moananui o Kaipara Māori Ward (one Māori councillor) comprising the entire district as delineated on Plan LG-003-2019-W-1 deposited with the Local Government Commission.

The Initial Proposal (as set out in **Attachment A**) has been developed after taking into account all information received during the aforementioned six briefings, feedback received during the April 2021 informal representation review consultation (of which 167 responses were received) and the representation review presentation (and material) that Mangawhai Matters provided to the 28 April 2021 Council Meeting.

Kaiwaka-Mangawhai General Ward (three general councillors) being the area comprising the southeast section of Kaipara, including Kaiwaka, Mangawhai township and Mangawhai Heads and surrounding area, Oruawharo and the Oneriri Peninsula and Hakaru (being the current ward area).

Otamatea General Ward (two general councillors) being the area comprising the State Highway 12 townships from Tokatoka back to the Brynderwyns including Ruawai, Matakohe, Paparua, Maungaturoto, Taipuha, Ararua, Pahi, Whakapirau and Tinopai (being the current ward area).

Wairoa General Ward (three general councillors) being the area comprised of Dargaville township, plus the area surrounding Dargaville, through to Waipoua Forest, including Kaihu, Aranga, Donnelly's Crossing, Mamaranui, Omamari, Bayly's Beach, Hoanga, Tangowahine, Tangiteroria, Te Kopuru, Pouto, Turiwiri and Aropohue (being the current Dargaville and West Coast-Central ward areas).

The following two options are identified:

Options

Option 1: Adopt the initial proposal

Option 2: Do not adopt the initial proposal

The advantages and disadvantages of each option are described below:

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1 – Adopt the initial proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows Council to progress the representation review process and meet the requirements and timeframes as set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001 ▪ The Initial Proposal is fully compliant with the requirements for fair representation prescribed in the Local Electoral Act 2001 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None identified
2 – Do not adopt the initial proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A delay in progressing the representation review will result in council not meeting the 31 August 2021 timeframe for adopting an initial

		proposal, as set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001.
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The recommended option is **option 1**.

Policy and planning implications

None.

Impacts on Māori

As mentioned earlier in this paper, the decision to have a dedicated Māori ward for the 2022 and 2025 triennial elections has already been made. This will guarantee a mandated Māori voice at the governance table for the Kaipara district.

Significance and engagement | Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

This report and the associated decisions relate to a statutory consultation matter and therefore consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the legislative requirements (of the Local Electoral Act 2001) and following the process outlined in this report and its attachments, and as provided for in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

The 2021 Representation Review Initial Proposal will be made available with a month-long submission period. Council will consider all feedback on the proposal, hold hearings and use this feedback to guide decision making before a final proposal is adopted.

Next steps | E whaiake nei

Public notice of the Initial Proposal is scheduled for 27 August 2021 and there will be a month-long submission period, closing on 27 September 2021.

Hearings are scheduled for 6-7 October 2021 and the intention is to bring the Final Proposal to the 27 October 2021 Council meeting for adoption.

Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Kaipara District Council 2021 Representation Review – Initial Proposal