

# Raupo Drainage Committee – 2022 ratepayer member elections

**Meeting:** Kaipara District Council  
**Date of meeting:** 27 July 2022  
**Reporting officer:** Tracey Deane, Governance Advisor

## Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To appoint ratepayer representatives on the Raupo Drainage Committee for the 2022-2025 triennium.

## Executive summary | Whakarāpopototanga

Council is required to confirm the Raupo Drainage District ratepayer membership (minimum of four members) of the Raupo Drainage Committee prior to the local government elections each triennium. After an advertised nomination process, six valid nominations were received. The nominations are from the six current ratepayer members on the Committee.

The current membership is six and historically council has confirmed around this number for the Committee. Council can decide to keep the membership to the minimum of four and hold an election for those positions, or can simply appoint all six candidates. This report recommends that six candidates be appointed to the Committee. Any elected member representation on the Committee may be appointed by the Mayor after the local government elections.

## Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That the Kaipara District Council:

- a) Appoints Ian Beattie, Greg Gent, David Hart, Grace Le Gros, Brian Madsen and Ross McKinley as the ratepayer representatives on the Raupo Drainage Committee for the 2022-2025 triennium.

## Context | Horopaki

The Raupo Drainage Committee is a statutory committee that must be maintained in accordance with the Local Government (Northland Region) Reorganisation Order 1989 (gazetted 13 June 1989), comprising *'not less than four persons who are ratepayers in respect of the Raupo Drainage District'*.

In 1989 when the Committee was established, Council chose to run an election process to select ratepayer representatives. Council is required to appoint members to the Raupo Drainage Committee prior to each triennium election.

Nominations were called from 1 July to 17 July 2022 in order to meet the election timeframe required. The call for nominations was advertised in the local newspaper (Kaipara Lifestyler), in social media, and on the council website, and nomination forms were sent to all 397 Raupo Drainage District targeted ratepayers on 29 June 2022.

The nominations closed on Sunday, 17 July 2022, with six valid nominations received. The nominations received are listed below (in alphabetical order):

- 1) Ian Beattie
- 2) Greg Gent
- 3) David Hart
- 4) Grace Le Gros
- 5) Brian Madsen

6) Ross McKinley

## Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

### Nominations

All candidates and nominators were checked against the current Raupo Drainage District targeted rate database. All nominations are valid.

### Number of vacancies

Raupo Drainage District Election Rules state that:

8) *If there are more nominations than vacancies then an election may be held. Council reserves the right to appoint more than the current six members to the Committee.*

10) *If there are less nominations than vacancies, those nominated will be deemed elected and Council reserves the right to appoint further people to the Committee.*

Neither the statute or the Election Rules specify the maximum number of vacancies. This allows council to decide to hold an election or appoint all candidates if more than four nominations are received.

### Previous council decisions from the last six terms are summarised below:

2004	Seven nominations received. Elections held for five ratepayer representatives.
2007	Seven nominations received. Council decided to increase membership rather than hold an election.
2010	Six committee members from the previous term were nominated. Council decided on six members rather than hold an election.
2013	No nominations received. Committee members from previous term agreed to stay on at council's request.
2016	Six nominations received. Commissioners decided on six members.
2019	Six nominations received. Council decided on six members.

Council representative/s will be appointed by the incoming Mayor after the 2022 local government triennial elections.

### Options

Council has three options:

#### Option 1:

To appoint all six nominees. This follows council practise in the past and will reduce the additional costs to the ratepayer of holding an election. As noted above, past councils and commissioners have decided to appoint all candidates.

As the nominees are the same six current ratepayer members who have served well on the committee in the 2019 to 2022 triennium, and the Raupo ratepayers have selected them again, there is no reason to change the number of members.

This is the recommended option.

#### Option 2:

To hold elections for four or more ratepayer representatives. Council can specify the number of vacancies as long as it is a minimum of four.

It should be noted that no elections have been initiated in the past due to the additional costs and staff time, with the precedent being to appoint all valid candidates to the committee (up to seven members).

#### Option 3:

Do nothing. Council is required by statute to appoint ratepayer members. If council chooses not to make a decision it is in breach of the statute.

## **Financial implications**

The process to seek nominations from ratepayers this round was completed inhouse. It included printing, reply-paid envelopes, and postage to almost 400 ratepayers, plus staff time. The remaining cost to continue the process now with a full Raupo Drainage Committee election would be the same again with the additional cost of more votes returning via the reply-paid envelopes.

Members of this committee fall under the non-elected member remuneration policy. Any claims under this policy will be accommodated as they are now, within current budgets.

## **Risks and mitigations**

The purpose of an elected committee is to provide democratic representation. The call for nominations was robust with the nomination period publicly advertised and all Raupo Drainage District Targeted Ratepayers directly notified.

## **Significance and engagement | Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā**

The decisions or matters of this report are considered to have a low degree of significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Raupo Drainage District Targeted Ratepayers will be informed in the local newspaper and on the council website.

If council chooses to hold an election, a second direct mail campaign will take place with a vote for each ratepayer.

## **Next steps | E whaiake nei**

The candidates will be informed of the decision and staff will implement council's decision.