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Report to the
Kaipara District Council
regarding the

2019 Triennial Elections

From the
Electoral Officer

30 January 2020



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Outline

The 2019 local government triennial elections occurred on Saturday 12 October 2019. The elections for Kaipara District Council, Northland Regional Council and Northland District Health Board were conducted satisfactorily and on time and met all legislative and practical requirements.

This report summaries the electoral process.

Background

Local government elections are required to be conducted every three years, with the 2019 election occurring on Saturday 12 October 2019. The conduct of these elections is prescribed by legislation and regulation to ensure public confidence and electoral integrity are maintained.

The following preliminary actions/decisions were made:

- (i) during 2018, Council undertook a representation arrangements review (review of wards, boundaries, number of elected members etc). The final proposal retained the existing number of councillors (8) but increased the number of wards (from 3 to 4);
- (i) Northland Regional Council undertook a representation arrangements review with the number of elected members being retained, but minor changes to some constituency boundaries;
- (ii) the STV (single transferable voting) electoral system to be used for Kaipara District Council and Northland District Health Board elections; the FPP (first past the post) electoral system to be used for Northland Regional Council elections;
- (iii) postal voting to be used;
- (iv) the alphabetical order of candidate names to be used for Kaipara District Council, Northland Regional Council and Northland District Health Board.

The electoral officer appointed for the Kaipara District Council is Dale Ofoske of Election Services.

With the 2019 elections now complete, this report details the various electoral processes undertaken, together with election statistics for the information of Council.

Narrative

Elections Required

Elections were undertaken for:

Kaipara District Council

- mayor (elected at large)
- 8 councillors (elected from 4 wards)

Northland Regional Council

- 1 member (elected from the Coastal South Constituency);
or

- 1 member (elected from the Kaipara Constituency)

Northland District Health Board

- 7 members (elected at large) from the Far North District, Whangarei District and Kaipara District Council areas.

Election Timetable

Key election functions and dates were:

Nomination period

19 July – 16 August 2019

Inspection of Preliminary Electoral Roll

19 July – 16 August 2019

Delivery of voting mailers

20-26 September 2019

Special voting/early processing

20 September – 12 October 2019

Election day

12 October 2019

Preliminary count

13 October 2019

Official count

14-18 October 2019

Return of Electoral Donations & Expenses Form

by 13 December 2019

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll comprises two parts, the Residential Electoral Roll and the non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

The Residential Electoral Roll contains parliamentary electors, whose details are maintained and supplied by the Electoral Commission.

Each territorial authority is responsible for compiling its own non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll. This roll is available for ratepayers of property within the Council area but who reside outside the Council area and wish to vote for the Council they pay rates to. Enrolment is by application and is not automatic.

To compile the Ratepayer Electoral Roll, two actions are required:

- a nationwide advertising campaign on the criteria of ratepayer elector qualifications and enrolment procedures; and
- the issuing of Ratepayer Confirmation Forms to all eligible 2016 Ratepayer Electoral Roll electors, and if returned, these along with any new enrolments, form the basis of the 2019 Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

A national advertising campaign was undertaken by SOLGM during May 2019 advising readers in all major daily newspapers of the criteria and qualifications required to be eligible for the Ratepayer Electoral Roll. A 0800 free-phone service was again used as a national helpline for ratepayer roll enquiries.

In April 2019, 353 Ratepayer Roll Confirmation Forms were issued to eligible 2016 Ratepayer Electoral Roll electors. A total of 259 non-resident ratepayer electors appeared on the 2019 Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

Preliminary and Final Electoral Rolls

The Preliminary and Final Electoral Rolls contained elector details in alphabetical order with a flag denoting voting entitlement (ward, regional council constituency and district health board).

The Preliminary Electoral Roll was available for public inspection at all Council offices/libraries between 19 July 2019 and 16 August 2019.

Statistics relating to the Final Electoral Roll are:

Ward	Final Roll		
	No. Resident Electors	No. Ratepayer Electors	Total
Dargaville	3,203	1	3,204
Kaiwaka-Mangawhai	5,118	189	5,307
Otamatea	3,568	32	3,600
West Coast-Central	3,658	37	3,695
TOTAL	15,547	259	15,806

The total number of electors of 15,806 is an increase of 1,156 (+7.9%) when compared to the 2016 Final Electoral Roll of 14,650.

Nominations

The nomination period was 19 July to noon 16 August 2019.

Nomination material was available during this time by:

- (i) visiting Council's Main Office or Mangawhai Service Centre;
- (ii) downloading the material from the Council's website;
- (iii) phoning the electoral office to have the material posted out.

A detailed '2019 Candidate Information Handbook' was prepared and made available to all candidates, any interested party (e.g. media) and available online. The handbook contained relevant information about the electoral process to potential candidates.

A total of 18 nominations were received for the nine Council vacancies, these detailed as follows:

Issue	No. Nominations	No. Vacancies
Mayor	2	1
Councillors	16	8
Total	18	9

The 18 nominations received for mayor and council vacancies is slightly down from the 19 nominations received for these positions at the 2016 election.

For candidate names, refer Notice of Day of Election – **Appendix 2.**

No physical election was required for the Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Ward, as two nominations were received for the two vacancies.

Voting Mailers

Voting mailers consisting of an outward envelope, return prepaid envelope, voting document and a candidate profile booklet (which included instructions in English and Māori) were posted to electors from Friday 20 September 2019.

The voting mailers were produced by the NZ Post Group and were consistent in design layout to all other local authorities in the country.

Special Voting

Special votes were available from 20 September 2019 to noon 12 October 2019 by:

- (i) visiting Council's Main Office or Mangawhai Service Centre;
- (ii) phoning the electoral office.

73 special votes were returned prior to the close of voting, of which 56 (76.7%) were valid. This compares to 126 special votes returned in 2016, of which 92 (73.02%) were valid.

Elector Turnout

Of the 15,806 electors on the Final Electoral Roll, 6,737 electors returned their voting document. This represents a 42.62% return and compares to a 47.75% return in 2016.

A schedule of the number of daily returned voting documents over the voting period is attached (**Appendix 1**).

Of note, the 2019 average nationwide elector turnout is 41.7% compared to 42% for the 2016 election, 41.3% for the 2013 election and 49% for the 2010 election.

Results

The preliminary results were released on Sunday following the receipt and processing of votes received at Council offices on election day morning.

These results were released to candidates and placed on Council's website.

In 2016 it is estimated that 5% of all votes received were hand delivered on election day morning. In 2019, this increased to approximately 10%.

The final results (Declaration of Results of Election – see **Appendix 3**) were made on Friday 18 October 2019 and appeared in the Northern Advocate on Monday 21 October 2019.

Judicial Recount

Following the public declaration of results, an application for a judicial recount for the Dargaville Ward was made to the Whangārei District Court. The declaration of results had a candidate excluded who was showing as elected in the Preliminary Result (indicating a close result).

On consideration, the judge approved the application, and a judicial recount subsequently took place on 31 October 2019.

This process involved the capture and recount of all Dargaville Ward votes/preferences received under the supervision of Judge Kevin Kelly. There were two scrutineers appointed and present.

The result of the judicial recount confirmed the declared Dargaville Ward candidate(s), although there was a very

minor change to the final quota.

By order of the judge, an amended Declaration of Results was made and appeared in the Northern Advocate on Monday 4 November 2019 (see **Appendix 4**).

Election Costs

The 2016 estimated election cost set in September 2017 was \$106,000 + GST (or for 14,800 electors, \$7.16 + GST per elector), subject to actual third-party costs.

The 2019 final election cost has now been determined at \$112,430 + GST (or for 15,806 electors, \$7.11 + GST per elector). The cost increase is largely due to higher than budgeted NZ Post voting mailer cost (an additional \$4,052 + GST).

Of the \$112,432 + GST final cost, Council is able to recover \$50,827 + GST (47%) from other organisations elections were conducted on behalf of (noting a physical election was not required for the Kaipara Constituency of the Northland Regional Council).

Accordingly, this will leave a net cost to Council for their elections of \$61,603 + GST (52.92% of the total), or \$3.90 + GST per elector.

Upcoming Issues

Inquiry into the 2016 elections

Parliament's Justice Committee released its report 'Inquiry into the 2017 General Election and 2016 Local Elections' in December 2019.

Recommendations in the report relating to local government elections include:

- centralizing the running of local elections
- aligning DHB boundaries to TAs
- one voting method
- aligning advertising and campaigning rules with general elections
- shifting election day to avoid school holidays
- requiring candidates to provide evidence of citizenship
- requiring candidates to provide evidence of the existence of a political party/affiliation

The report can be viewed at:

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/reports/document/SCR_93429/inquiry-into-the-2017-general-election-and-2016-local-elections

Inquiry into the 2019 elections

Parliament's Justice Committee is to undertake its normal inquiry into the conduct of the 2019 local government elections. Submissions have been called for and close on Saturday 29 February 2020. The Terms of Reference include:

- examine the law and administrative procedures for the conduct of the 2019 local elections with particular reference to:
 - low voter turnout
 - licensing trusts
 - role of council staff during election periods around decisions on information release and public statements
 - disclosure of candidate criminal convictions
 - any irregularities that may have compromised the fairness of the elections
- consult stakeholders and the wider public regarding the Justice Committee's recommendations from the 2016 local elections, particularly:
 - giving responsibility of running all aspects of local government elections to the Electoral Commission
 - encouraging or requiring the same voting system to be used in all local elections
 - foreign interference
- examine the law and administrative procedures for the conduct of energy trust elections held since 2016.

Council may wish to consider making a submission to the Committee on the above (by 29 February 2020).

Electoral System Review

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, any local authority may resolve, before 12 September 2020, to change the electoral system used at the last election. Should Council wish to consider changing its electoral system (from single transferable voting to first past the post), it can do so by resolution no later than 12 September 2020.

However, a public notice must be given by 19 September 2020 providing the right of electors to demand a poll on the matter.

Māori Representation Review

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, Council may at any time resolve to introduce Māori wards. If a resolution is made before 23 November 2020 (to apply for the 2022 triennial elections), public notice must be given by 30 November 2020 providing the right of electors to demand a poll on the matter.

If Māori wards are to be introduced for the 2022 triennial

elections, this would require another representation arrangements review be undertaken.

Representation Arrangements Review

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires every local authority to undertake a representation arrangements review at least once in every 6-year period.

Council last undertook such a review in 2018 for the 2019 triennial elections, where the Local Government Commission, in its determination, recommended a further representation review process be completed for the 2022 elections - taking into account updated population data, with a suggested focus on community boards.

In light of this recommendation, Council should consider undertaking a further representation review in 2021 for the 2022 triennial elections.

Summary and Conclusions

The Kaipara District Council's 2019 triennial elections were conducted successfully and met all legislative and practical requirements. No issues or concerns of significance arose from these elections and all tasks were completed satisfactorily and on time.

There are however several electoral issues Council may wish to consider during 2020/21:

- (i) make a submission to the Justice Committee's inquiry into the 2019 local government elections (by 29 February 2020);
- (ii) consider whether Council retains the single transferable voting electoral system or adopts the first past the post electoral system for the 2022 triennial elections – by 12 September 2020;
- (iii) consider whether Council establishes Māori wards for the 2022 triennial elections – by 23 November 2020;
- (iv) undertake a further representation arrangements review in 2021, as recommended by the Local Government Commission (in its determination of the 2018 representation review).



Dale Ofoske
Electoral Officer // Kaipara District Council
Election Services

APPENDIX 1

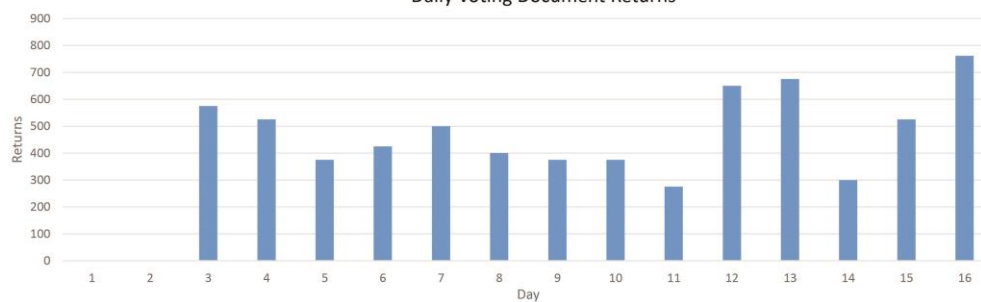


VOTING DOCUMENT RETURNS - 2019 ELECTIONS

ELECTION DAY																
WARD/ELECTORS	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct	4-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct
DARGAVILLE	0	0	175	125	100	50	100	75	100	75	50	175	100	25	150	166
3204	0	0	175	300	400	450	550	625	725	800	850	1025	1125	1150	1300	1466
			5.5%	9.4%	12.5%	14.0%	17.2%	19.5%	22.6%	25.0%	26.5%	32.0%	35.1%	35.9%	40.6%	45.8%
KAIWAKA-MANGAWHAI	0	0	50	150	50	225	175	75	125	150	75	100	250	200	100	261
5307	0	0	50	200	250	475	650	725	850	1000	1075	1175	1425	1625	1725	1986
			0.9%	3.8%	4.7%	9.0%	12.2%	13.7%	16.0%	18.8%	20.3%	22.1%	26.9%	30.6%	32.5%	37.4%
OTAMATEA	0	0	175	125	125	75	125	125	75	75	75	175	175	50	100	89
3600	0	0	175	300	425	500	625	750	825	900	975	1150	1325	1375	1475	1564
			4.9%	8.3%	11.8%	13.9%	17.4%	20.8%	22.9%	25.0%	27.1%	31.9%	36.8%	38.2%	41.0%	43.4%
WEST COAST-CENTRAL	0	0	175	125	100	75	100	125	75	75	75	200	150	25	175	246
3695	0	0	175	300	400	475	575	700	775	850	925	1125	1275	1300	1475	1721
			4.7%	8.1%	10.8%	12.9%	15.6%	18.9%	21.0%	23.0%	25.0%	30.4%	34.5%	35.2%	39.9%	46.6%
TOTAL	0	0	575	525	375	425	500	400	375	375	275	650	675	300	525	762
15806	0	0	575	1100	1475	1900	2400	2800	3175	3550	3825	4475	5150	5450	5975	6737
	0%	0%	3.64%	6.96%	9.33%	12.02%	15.18%	17.71%	20.09%	22.46%	24.20%	28.31%	32.58%	34.48%	37.80%	42.62%
DAILY %																
2010 Returns	0.3%	6.7%	11.4%	14.6%	17.5%	20.3%	24.9%	27.4%	29.3%	31.6%	34.5%	40.0%	43.8%	47.0%	48.8%	53.5%
2013 Returns	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	3.1%	5.4%	8.1%	12.2%	14.8%	17.1%	18.4%	20.0%	22.7%	24.9%	29.1%	30.4%	32.6%
2016 Returns		4.10%	7.68%	10.41%	12.80%	14.85%	18.77%	21.84%	23.72%	25.43%	26.96%	32.76%	36.35%	41.98%	43.00%	47.75%
*Final - Incl. Special																

*Final - Incl. Specials

KAIPARA DISTRICT COUNCIL 2019 ELECTION Daily Voting Document Returns



NOTICE OF DAY OF ELECTION for the Kaipara District Council 2019 elections



Nominations received

Notice is given under section 65 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 that the following persons have been duly nominated as candidates for:

Mayor *(one vacancy)*

MOHOAWHENUA, Moemoea

SMITH, Jason

Council

Dargaville Ward

(two vacancies)

JOYCE-PAKI, Keren
MCEWING, Brian John (Independent)
NAYYAR, Ash
STEWART, Marni
TANE, Jay
WILSON-COLLINS, Eryn

Otamatea Ward

(two vacancies)

CURNOW, Anna
JEPSON, Craig
LINTON, Wayne
MILLER, Ian
VINCENT, Mark Gregory

West Coast - Central Ward

(two vacancies)

DEL LA VARIS-WOODCOCK, Victoria
NATHAN, Josephine (Independent)
WILLS, David

As there are (for each office) more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, an election will be held between the listed candidates on Saturday, 12 October 2019, under the single transferable voting electoral system by postal vote.

Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Ward

(two vacancies)

LARSEN, Jonathan
WETHEY, Peter

As the number of candidates does not exceed the number of vacancies, Jonathan LARSEN and Peter WETHEY are duly declared elected members of the Kaipara District Council.

Issuing of voting documents

Voting documents will be posted to electors from Friday, 20 September 2019.

Return of voting documents

Voting documents must be returned not later than noon, Saturday, 12 October 2019 to the electoral office.

Voting documents can be returned by post or hand delivered to the following council offices between Friday, 20 September 2019 and Friday, 11 October 2019 during normal office hours, and Saturday,

12 October 2019 between 9am – noon:

- Council's Main Office, 42 Hokianga Road, Dargaville;
- Mangawhai Service Centre, Unit 6, The Hub, 6 Molesworth Street, Mangawhai.

Special voting

Special voting in terms of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 may be exercised at the above council offices and times.

A person can apply to enrol as either a residential or ratepayer elector right up to and including 11 October 2019 – the day before the close of voting.



Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer
Kaipara District Council
42 Hokianga Road, Dargaville

Phone 0800 922 822

APPENDIX 3

DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF ELECTION for the Kaipara District Council 2019 elections



I hereby declare the results of the elections held on 12 October 2019 for the following offices:

Mayor *(one vacancy)*

SMITH, Jason	Elected
MOHOAWHENUA, Moemoea	Excluded

Informal votes received: 17

Blank votes received: 306

I therefore declare Jason SMITH to be elected. The final quota as determined at the last iteration was 3207.

Council

Dargaville Ward *(two vacancies)*

WILSON-COLLINS, Eryn	Elected
JOYCE-PAKI, Karen	Elected
MCEWING, Brian John (Independent)	Excluded
NAYYAR, Ash	Excluded
STEWART, Marni	Excluded
TANE, Jay	Excluded

Informal votes received: 14

Blank votes received: 17

I therefore declare Eryn WILSON-COLLINS and Karen JOYCE-PAKI to be elected. The final quota as determined at the last iteration was 455.483819904.

Otamatea Ward *(two vacancies)*

CURNOW, Anna	Elected
VINCENT, Mark Gregory	Elected
LINTON, Wayne	Excluded
JEPSON, Craig	Excluded
MILLER, Ian	Excluded

Informal votes received: 15

Blank votes received: 41

I therefore declare Anna CURNOW and Mark Gregory VINCENT to be elected. The final quota as determined at the last iteration was 478.662985132.

West Coast - Central Ward *(two vacancies)*

DEL LA VARIS-WOODCOCK, Victoria	Elected
WILLS, David	Elected
NATHAN, Joesephine	Excluded

Informal votes received: 11

Blank votes received: 43

I therefore declare Victoria DEL LA VARIS-WOODCOCK and David WILLS to be elected. The final quota as determined at the last iteration was 556.000000001.

Full details of the official results of the election are available on request from the Electoral Officer.



Dated at Dargaville, 17 October 2019

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer

Kaipara District Council

42 Hokianga Road, Dargaville

Phone 0800 922 822

APPENDIX 4

AMENDED DECLARATION OF RESULT OF ELECTION

for the Dargaville Ward of the
Kaipara District Council 2019 election



Following a Judicial Recount of the Dargaville Ward of the Kaipara District Council election held on 31 October 2019, I declare the amended results of the above election (held on 12 October 2019):

Dargaville Ward *(two vacancies)*

WILSON-COLLINS, Eryn	Elected
JOYCE-PAKI, Karen	Elected
MCEWING, Brian John (Independent)	Excluded
NAYYAR, Ash	Excluded
STEWART, Marni	Excluded
TANE, Jay	Excluded

Informal votes received: 12

Blank votes received: 17

This amended declaration confirms Eryn WILSON-COLLINS and Karen JOYCE-PAKI to be elected. The final quota as determined at the last iteration was 455.513865145.

Dated Dargaville, 31 October 2019

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer

Kaipara District Council

42 Hokianga Road, Dargaville