



# **APPENDICES MINUTES**

**Kaunihera | Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, 24 September 2024**



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**Pat Duignan for the Waikanae and Peka Peka Beach Residents Society Inc**  
**Statement to KCDC re Submission on the Initial Representation Proposal**

The submissions on the Initial Representation Proposal were posted on the KCDC website yesterday, 23 September 2024. An initial review of the submissions indicates the survey questions were unsatisfactory in terms of providing a sound basis for decisions on the KCDC Final Representation Proposal.

The most concerning aspect of the survey is that the information provided regarding the boundary changes asserted *"These proposed boundary changes are in line with community feedback following the Local Government Commission's decisions during our last representation review process and feedback received from members of these communities since the last elections in 2022."*

The response to my information request for all written feedback from the Kapiti Coast District residents or ratepayers regarding the Otaki Ward-Waikanae Ward boundary since the Local Government Commission's 2022 determination.

*"In relation to the boundary changes suggested in the initial representation proposal for the Ōtaki-Waikanae General Ward boundary, one formal written submission (attached) was received as part of the preliminary community engagement undertaken."*

The specific written submission simply state "Te Horo should be in Otaki Ward".

The Council's assertion regarding "community feedback" will have been interpreted by many survey respondents as indicating Te Horo residents had made substantial submissions to the Council favouring Te Horo being in Otaki Ward. The reality is that all the Council has is anecdotes regarding the issue. The assertion will have resulted in many respondents supporting the boundary change because they believe the Council have a robust knowledge of Te horo Residents views when in fact the Council did not have any detailed assessment of the residents views.

Submitter 12 comments that the questions on the should be only answered by Otaki and Waikanae ratepayers (or residents). Submitter 13 suggests there should have been a "Not applicable" choice available to the survey respondents. The appropriate approach would have been that Otaki and Waikanae residents and ratepayers were invited to respond regarding the Otaki Ward – Waikanae Ward boundary and Paraparaumu and Paekakariki-Raumati Residents and ratepayers were invited to respond regarding the Paraparaumu Ward - Paekakariki-Raumati Ward boundary. I suggest that the Councillors ask that responses on the boundaries be reported on the basis that the views that count regarding each of the two proposed boundary changes are those of the residents and ratepayers in the wards affected by each of the proposed boundary changes.

In this context I note that only 20 of the first 50 responses posted are from Otaki or Waikanae. The views on the Otaki Ward–Waikanae Ward boundary of the other 30

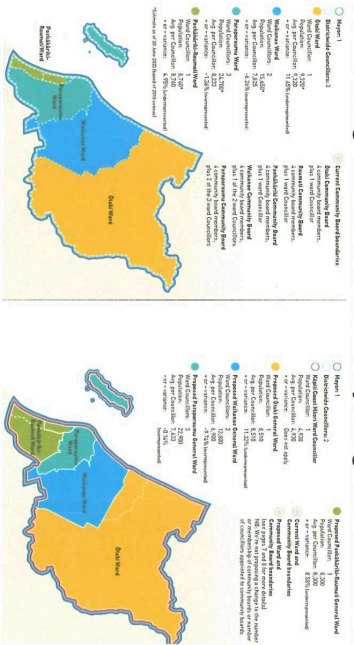
respondents who are not from the Otaki or Waikanae Wards should be consider much less relevant.

It is not clear to me whether the responses to the survey will reveal the views of Te Horo residents. I hope this will be clarified.

Pat Duignan

24 September 2024

**Richard Young – Submission on boundary changes Paekākāriki-Raumati Ward**



- Existing Ward of Paekākāriki-Raumati has 8,760
- Proposed change is to enlarge the Ward – any boundary change is to a bigger size
- Proposed Ward of Paekākāriki-Raumati has 8,300
- So 460 fewer people but a larger area.
- Are Council staff confident that they have the numbers right?
- Extra feedback – Congratulations on refusing to disestablish the Māori Ward.
- Will Councilors follow some other councils and ask staff to report on the implications of not undertaking a binding referendum on abolishing a Māori Ward.

**KCDC Representation review 2024****Chris Mitchell submission speaking notes****2 points:**

1. All councillors to be elected on a ward system
2. More councillors

**Some factual background relevant to these points:**

KCDC was created in 1989 as part of a nationwide restructure of LG

It was an amalgamation of Otaki Borough, Horowhenua County and Kapiti Borough

The newly created KCDC had a mayor, and 14 councillors all elected on a ward basis – there were 5 wards.

At that time the district population was around 32,000. It is now just under 60,000.

In 1989 we had 1 councillor for every 2,285 people. Now it is one for every 5,900 people – and for ward councillors it is one for every 8,400 people.

The council itself reduced its membership to 10 councillors in 2004 and while it wanted all elected on a district wide basis the LGC determined a 5:5 split. This remained in place until 2022 when the LGC set the current 7:3 split.

The Council has now (2024) proposed an 8:2 split to fit a Māori ward.

**The submission**

The first statutory purpose of local government (ie why this Council exists) is

*to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities*

The simple arithmetic above shows that the Council has deliberately chosen and re-chosen a representation model which is less and less designed to effectively represent its communities.

Whilst the governance group has been reduced by around a third, the population has nearly doubled and the organisation itself has grown considerably.

In recent history, there is virtually no analysis of the representation model in terms of this statutory purpose and the available options. The 'downsize' decision 20 years ago reflected the 'neo-liberal' view that any public service could be improved by making it more 'business like', and that governance, specifically, would be improved by getting better qualified 'good' people to replace people known in the various communities.

Leaving aside any broader discussion on where this approach has led us, there is no evidence at all that the 2004 decision helped to make the Council a better governed and/or better performing organisation than it was before. That surely should be a reference point as well.

Instead, the only justification I can see for continuing the current representation model is that there is no apparent public pressure to change it. And that conclusion is based on the statistically insignificant level of engagement on these issues as well as interpreting silence as support.

In reality, I suspect that it is a difficult or even impossible conversation for councillors because it involves terminating the roles of some existing councillors (elected on a district wide basis).

The issue is then whether, leaving aside personal interests, 10 ward councillors is a better form of representation than 8 ward councillors and 2 elected district wide; and if an all ward councillor model is better, whether it would be more effective if there were 12. A 12 ward councillor model would be an increase of 50% of ward representation over the Council's current proposal. But the increased costs of representation would be comparatively minimal.

In case you might be concerned that an increase would put the Council out of step, the following may help:

Horowhenua DC	pop.38,000	12	councillors ward system
Manawatu DC	pop.34,000	11	councillors ward system
Rangitikei DC.	pop.17,000	11	councillors ward system
Whanganui DC.	pop.49,000.	12	councillors ward system
Porirua City	pop. 62,000.	10	councillors ward system
Upper Hutt City	pop.48,000.	10	councillors district wide system

My submission is hardly a 'back to the future' request. Even with 12 ward councillors, the actual size of the governance group would remain significantly smaller and far more stretched than it was in 1989 given population growth and the extra responsibilities imposed on the Council since then.

But it would bring more community voices to the table, better representation of those communities, and ultimately a better council.

**Chris Mitchell**  
**24 September 2024**