



**CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Initial Representation Proposal Statement of Proposal

2024

**Have your say by
25 August!**

**What's the future representation you want
for your community?**

Raarangi kōrero

Contents

Time for change?	1
Timelines	1
Representation Review Requirements	2
The Review Process	3
The Initial Proposal	4
Existing and Proposed Wards	5
The Initial Proposal	6
How will this change for me?	8
Have your say!	9

This Statement of Proposal was adopted by Council on 27 June 2024, in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001 for formal consultation with community.

Kia ora

What's this all about?

This is your chance to have your say on how you are represented by your local council.

Every six years, Council is required by the Local Electoral Act 2001 to complete a review of its representation arrangements.

Council last reviewed its representation arrangements in 2018 prior to the 2019 elections.

Having considered the options, Council is proposing new representation arrangements.

This document explains the proposed changes and how to make a submission.

Time for change?

A lot has changed over the last 17 years.

Our current Council representation arrangements have remained the same over this time, having last been changed in 2007.

As Council has resolved to establish a Māori Ward, Council's representation arrangements must change to include a Māori Ward.

Māori Wards legislation change

New legislation is currently being enacted by Central Government that proposes to restore binding public polls as the basis for any decision to establish Māori Wards.

For Central Hawke's Bay, the bill would require Council to either rescind its decision to establish a Māori Ward or to hold a poll as part of the 2025 local elections.

If Council were to hold a binding poll alongside the 2025 local elections, any future change relating to a Māori Ward would take effect from the 2028 local elections.

Want to know more about the proposed changes to Māori Wards?

Head to the Local Government Commissions by scanning the QR code:



Timelines

The review process is subject to a statutory timeline and process.

We are currently in the process of formally consulting on the Initial Representation Proposal.

The final proposal is subject to rights of appeal and/or objection to the Local Government Commission.



Stage one of review - decision on electoral system

15 August 2023

Council resolved to retain the status quo and continue with the First Past the Post electoral system.



Stage two - Māori wards

15 November 2023

Council resolved to establish a Māori Ward for the 2025 and 2028 local body elections.



Pre-engagement community survey

28 March–28 April 2024



Stage three – develop representation review

March 2024



Adopt proposed draft representation review

27 June 2024



Public notification of Initial Representation Review proposal

15 July–25 August 2024

Formal consultation and open for submissions



Hearing of submissions/deliberations

5 September 2024

Council adopts final Representation Review

19 September 2024



Public notification of final proposal

4 October–4 November 2024

Representation Review Requirements

The Local Electoral Act 2001 sets out the steps that Council must go through and what it must consider to ensure fair representation.

Council needs to review its representation arrangements in respect to:

- the number of elected members.
- whether those members are to be elected at large, or by ward, or by a combination of both.
- ward boundaries, ward names and the number of elected members for each ward.
- whether there should be community board(s) and if so, the nature and structure of the community board(s).

The results of the representation review undertaken by Council this year will apply for the next local government triennial elections, which are to be held on Saturday 11 October 2025.

Key considerations

In reviewing their representation arrangements, councils must take into account three key factors:

- **Communities of interest** – this involves identifying areas where groups of people have a sense of belonging and which they relate to for social activity, services and economic support. Physical and geographical features, and transport and communication links can also help identify communities of interest.
- **Effective representation of communities of interest** – this relates to the number of elected members and how they are elected, so that they are able to adequately represent their ward and ensure matters important to residents are heard.
- **Fair representation** – this is about ensuring approximate equality of population per member, so that each elected member represents about the same number of people, (within +/-10 percent of the region's population divided by the total number of councillors). For example, the population of the district's general wards (13,510) divided by 8 councillors, produces a population per member of 1,689. Under the +/-10 percent rule, this would mean the population per member in each ward must be between 1,520 and 1,858.

Community Boards - Council must also consider whether there should be community boards.



Current Representation Arrangements

Under the current representation arrangements, Central Hawke's Bay District Council comprises a Mayor and eight councillors, elected from general wards:

- Aramoana – Ruahine General Ward (four councillors).
- Ruahine General Ward (four councillors).
- The Mayor elected at large.
- There are no community boards.

As Council has already resolved to establish a Māori Ward for the 2025 Elections, the current arrangements must be reviewed.



The Review Process

All of Council's elected members have been fully involved in considering the options for our future representation arrangements. This section outlines the options considered and the background to get to this point in the review.

First Past the Post

The first key decision of this representation review was to confirm whether to retain the existing First Past the Post (FPP) electoral voting system or change to Single Transferable Vote (STV) as our electoral system.

At its meeting on 17 August 2024, Council voted to retain the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system.

Establishment of Māori Wards

In the second key decision of this representation review, at Council's meeting on 15 November 2023, it resolved to establish a Māori Ward under the Local Electoral Act 2001 for the 2025 Election. This decision was made following:

- a series of kahui with Mana whenua leaders of Tamatea – Central Hawke's Bay, who confirmed their intent to have a Māori Ward established.
- community consultation from 29 September to 27 October 2023 on Māori Wards, where we sought feedback and submissions on the establishment of a Māori Ward. You can find the supporting information relating to our consultation on this here: www.chbdc.govt.nz/our-council/maori-representation-for-tamatea-central-hawkes-bay

Community pre-engagement

Having resolved to establish a Māori Ward, we sought further input and feedback from the community in April 2024 about how best community could be represented in future representation arrangements.

This feedback was one of the inputs that informed the options considered by Council.

Options considered

Council considered multiple options with eight being presented to Council to confirm its proposed option for future representation. This followed public workshops and opportunities for councillors to have input and seek further information.

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, Council can only propose a single preferred option for consultation. The key differences between the options that were considered included:

- decreasing/increasing the total number of councillors from the current eight councillors plus the Mayor, down to seven councillors and up to ten councillors, plus the Mayor.
- considering removing the existing Ruataniwha and Aramoana – Ruahine General Wards to have councillors elected at large.
- retaining the existing wards, however changing the total number of councillors in each ward.

Confirming a proposed option

At its meeting on 27 June 2024, Council confirmed its preferred representation model for inclusion in this proposal. A copy of this Council report will be available on the website (www.chbdc.govt.nz).

The proposed option is outlined in our Initial Proposal on the next page.



The Initial Proposal

Having considered the range of options available, Council is proposing the following new representation structure to take effect from the 2025 local body elections:

Change #1: Increase to Three Wards

Having resolved to establish a Māori Ward in November 2023, Council's existing representation must change. We propose to increase the total number of wards to three:

- Ruataniwha General Ward (existing)
- Aramoana – Ruahine General Ward (existing)
- Rautahi Māori Ward (new)

The boundaries of the **Aramoana – Ruahine** and the **Ruataniwha** General Wards **remain unchanged**.

The Ruataniwha General Ward comprises the mostly urban areas of Waipukurau and Waipawa.

The Aramoana – Ruahine General Ward comprises the rural and coastal areas of the district.

The new **Rautahi Māori** Ward will cover the entire district.

New Rautahi Māori Ward

The name Rautahi was gifted by Mana whenua as the name for the new Māori Ward.

Rautahi recognises that while there is one person (tahi) proposed to be elected as a councillor to the new Māori Ward, there are many people (rau) behind that person in support.

I runga i te whakaaro - ahakoa he tangata kotahi, kei muri i a ia ko te rau, te tini, te mano

While there is one person, behind them are many people in support.

Our rationale:

Retention of the Existing Ruataniwha and Aramoana – Ruahine General Wards

Council proposes that the retention of the existing general ward structure, with no boundary changes, maintains a level of familiarity for residents, acknowledging that the existing ward structure has been in place for 17 years.

The retention of this ward structure also recognises that while the differences between urban and rural are decreasing, there are still distinct communities of interest that are best reflected in the current ward structure.

Establishing a Māori Ward

In November 2023, Council heard clearly from Mana whenua that there was benefit in Māori being represented through a Māori Ward. This also followed engagement with community.

Having resolved to establish a ward, the new Rautahi Māori Ward is included in this proposal.



Existing and Proposed Wards

A single Māori Ward across the entire district is proposed.
No changes are proposed to the Ruataniwha or Aramoana – Ruahine General Wards.



These maps show the boundaries of the wards. Ruataniwha and Aramoana – Ruahine General Wards remain unchanged (below), while the new Rautahi Māori Ward encompasses the whole district.

If you are unsure which ward you currently live in, scan the QR code to head to our website to find out more or visit www.letstalkchb.co.nz

Proposed Māori Ward



Existing General Wards



The Initial Proposal

Change #2: Changes to Councillors

We are proposing to increase the total number of councillors from **eight (8) to nine (9)** and to **change** how they are elected.

We are proposing:

- Three (3) councillors in the Ruataniwha General Ward (reduced from four (4))
- Three (3) councillors in the Aramoana – Ruahine General Ward (reduced from four (4))
- One (1) councillor in the Rautahi Māori Ward (new)
- Two (2) councillors elected 'at large' by the whole district (new).

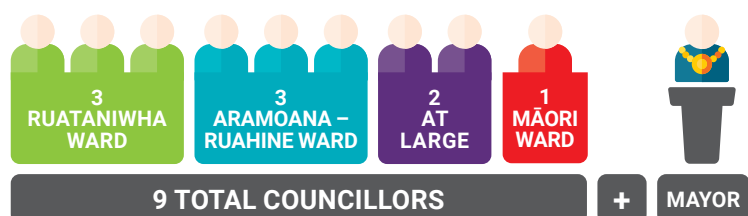
There is no change to the Mayoral election, with one (1) Mayor Elected at large (no change).

It is not proposed to establish any Community Boards (no change).

Current Representation



Proposed Representation



Our rationale:

Establishment of two at large Elected Councillors

Since 2018, how we work together as a community has continued to change, with an ever increasing number of Aramoana – Ruahine and Ruataniwha Ward activities overlapping as our district grows and changes.

Council proposes that the establishment of two at large councillors acknowledges this change, being that communities of interest are spread across the district and are not just geographically distinct, particularly those of lifestyle property owners and a growing mobile/transient workforce, who do not necessarily identify as urban or rural.

With the establishment of a Māori Ward, it also provides the opportunity to increase the total number of votes that those on the Māori Electoral Roll have, supporting the principle of fair representation.

The total votes of those in the General Ward will increase, changing from a total of five (5) to six (6) votes: three (3) for either General Ward, two (2) for the at large and one (1) for the Mayor.

Māori Ward Councillor

The number of Māori councillors that can be elected from Māori Wards is determined by a formula set out in legislation. If the total number of councillors to be elected from wards (both General and Māori) is from five to nine, then one Māori member can be elected.

The kahui of Mana whenua leaders sought to see one ward established with two Māori Ward councillors appointed.

Council proposes that one Māori Ward with one councillor is an appropriate introduction of Māori Wards to the district at this time. When combined with the proposed two (2) at large councillors, those enrolled on the Māori Electoral Roll have the opportunity to appoint up to three councillors – being one (1) Māori Ward councillor and two (2) at large councillors, along with a vote for the Mayor, so a total of four (4) votes.

Other considerations:

No requirement for Community Boards

In Council's pre-engagement with community and in formulating the options for representation, the need for Community Boards was not seen as a priority for the community. This supports the current situation where the district has no community boards.

Fair representation

For the proposed review, StatsNZ population data shows that after adjustment for the introduction of a Māori Ward, the population per member ratios remains fully compliant with the +/-10 percent requirement for the population per member ratio. This is shown in the table below:

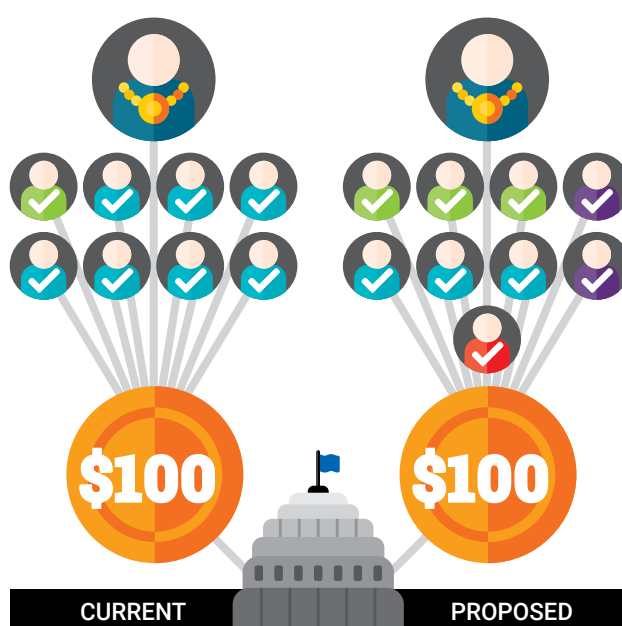
Option 4	Population	Members	Pop per member	Difference from quota	% diff from quota
Aramoana – Ruahine Ward	7,050	3	2,350	98	4.37
Ruataniwha Ward	6,460	3	2,153	-98	-4.37
Total General	13,510	6	2,252		
Māori Ward	2510	1	2,510		
At large	16,020	2			
Total	16,020	9			

More councillors – more cost?

While the total numbers of councillors might increase by one, the same pool of money will be shared out to more people - i.e the same pie but each councillor receives smaller pieces.

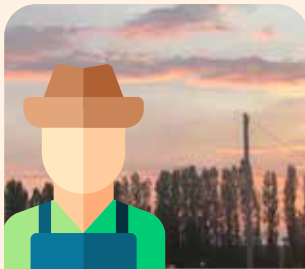
The Remuneration Authority determines and sets the total pool of remuneration for each council. This is calculated based primarily on population and the size of the district, amongst other factors. It is not based on the number of councillors a district has.

Within this remuneration pool, the Authority informs each council how much it should pay the Mayor and a minimum salary for councillors. The council then decides how the remainder is split amongst themselves depending on responsibilities.



How will this change for me?

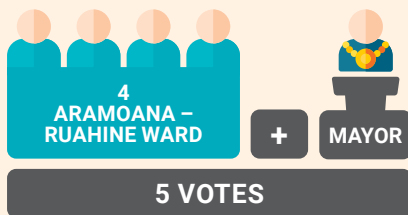
We've created the following profiles to help explain what the proposed changes will mean:



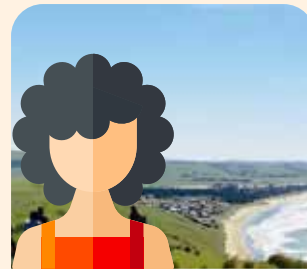
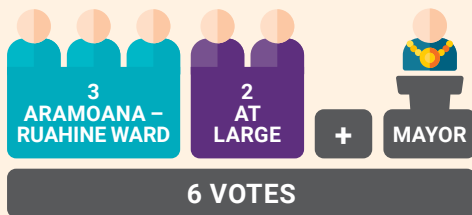
Meet Alan

Alan lives in Tikokino. He is in the Aramoana – Ruahine General Ward and is registered on the General Electoral Roll.

Current:



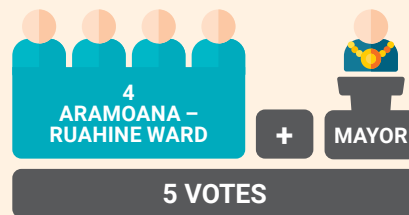
Proposed:



Meet Georgie

Georgie lives near Pōrangahau. She is in the Aramoana – Ruahine General Ward and is registered on the Māori Electoral Roll.

Current:



Proposed:



Meet Joe

Joe lives in Waipawa. He is in the Ruataniwha General Ward and is registered on the Māori Electoral Roll.

Current:



Proposed:



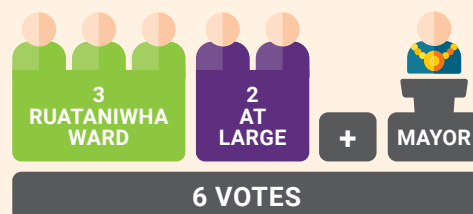
Meet Sue

Sue lives in Waipukurau. She is in the Ruataniwha General Ward and is registered on the General Electoral Roll.

Current:



Proposed:





Have your say!

We want to hear your views and feedback on our initial representation proposal.

While councillors make decisions on behalf of our community, their decisions are ultimately shaped by your voice.

Submissions close on 25 August 2024 at 11.59 pm.

Need to know more?

If you're not sure about anything or would like more information, please contact us.

P: 06 857 8060

E. representation@chbdc.govt.nz

How to share your feedback



Online

Go to **letstalkchb.co.nz** to complete the survey and to make a submission.

Offline

Hard copy submission forms are available from Te Huinga Wai – Knowledge and Learning Hub, Waipawa Library or Council offices.

Email / Post

You can also provide us your feedback by email
(representation@chbdc.govt.nz)
or by post to:

Representation Review
Central Hawke's Bay District Council
PO Box 127
Waipawa 4240

In person

You'll have an opportunity to speak at the council hearings on 5 September 2024.

Tick the box on your submission form if you'd like to attend the hearing and speak to your submission. Please remember to include your name and contact details so that we can arrange a time for your oral presentation.

When you make an oral presentation, we will document your name and the key elements of your presentation.

Scan the QR code to head to our online portal to make a submission:



CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.chbdc.govt.nz • representation@chbdc.govt.nz • 06 857 8060
PO Box 127 • 28 - 32 Ruataniwha Street, Waipawa 4210



**CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY**
DISTRICT COUNCIL