

Representation Review 2020-21

Whangarei District Council

Briefing 1

4 March 2021

Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer

Representation Review 2020-21

- Objectives
 1. To provide information to councillors on the representation review process
 2. To update councillors on the proposed informal preliminary consultation approach
 3. To gauge councillors' expectations and appetite for change

'Representation arrangements are to be determined so as to provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities' (LGC)

Representation Review 2020-21

- Brief background
 - FPP electoral system retained for 2022
 - Māori wards to be established for 2022 and 2025
 - subject to a demand for a poll
 - valid demand received
 - poll provisions removed 26 February 2021
 - Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill
 - does not apply to community boards
 - representation review now required 2021

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- formula under Local Electoral Act 2001 determines number Māori and general councillors
- MEP: 18,800 (Pop Est June 2020)
- GEP: 79,600 (Pop Est June 2020)
 - 11 councillors = 2 Māori, 9 general
 - 12 councillors = 2 Māori, 10 general
 - 13 councillors = 2 Māori, 11 general
 - 14 councillors = 3 Māori, 11 general
- basically
 - between 8-13 councillors provides 2 Māori councillors
 - 14 councillors provides 3 Māori councillors

Representation Review 2020-21

- What is a representation review?
 - a review of Council membership and basis of election
 - includes
 - total number of councillors
 - how councillors are elected (wards, district-wide, mix)
 - if wards, number, boundaries, names, number councillors elected to each
 - community boards (consider establishing and if so, number, names, boundaries, subdivided, number elected/appointed to each)

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- prescribed formal process in LEA
- complex process, need to get it right
 - legal compliance
 - documentation
 - community consultation
- formal process 1 March 2021 - 20 December 2021
- start early, impact LTP etc

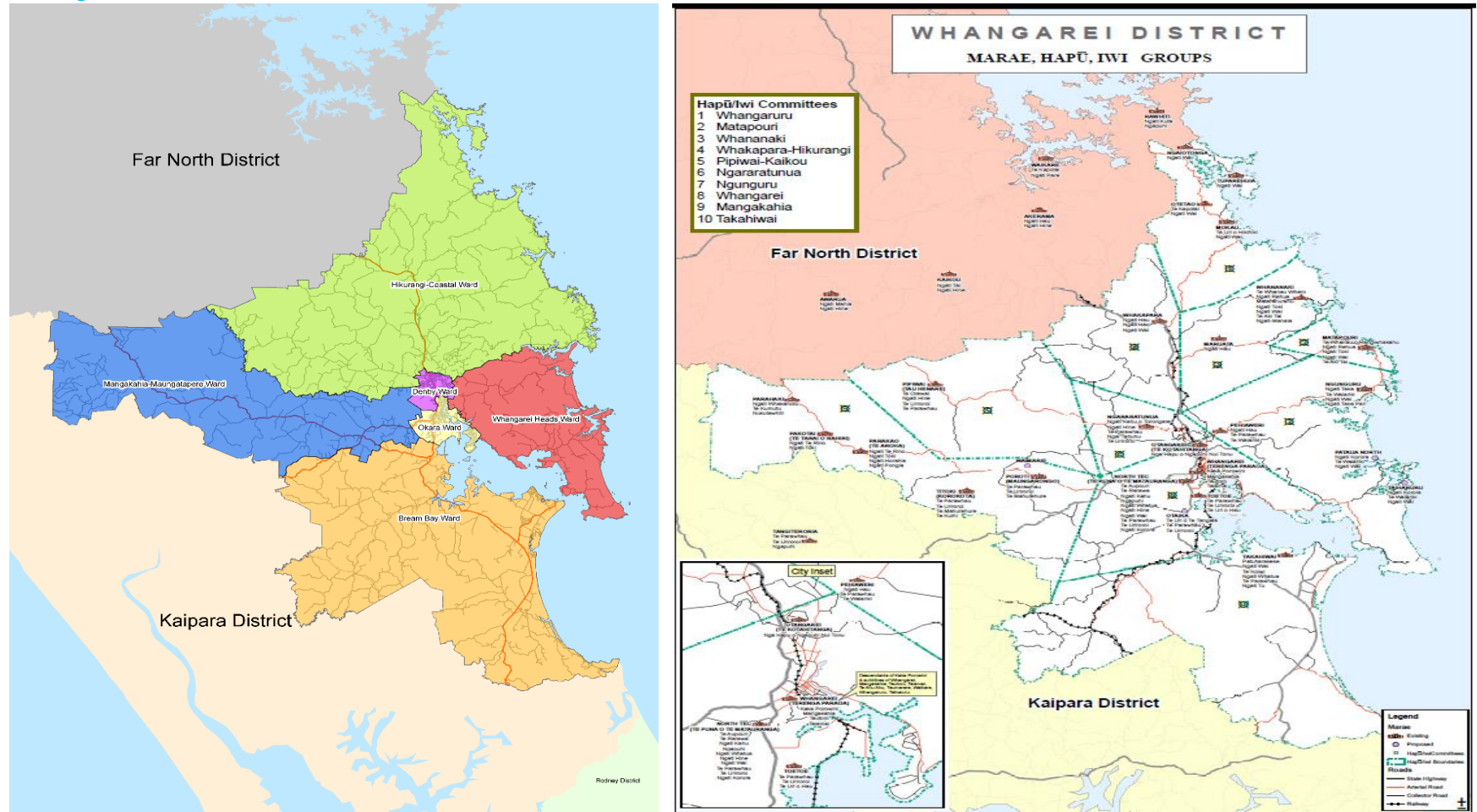
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- Why are we doing one?
 - must be undertaken at least once every 6 years
 - last review 2018-19
 - when establishing Māori wards, full representation review required (2021)

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- Current arrangements
 - mayor: elected district-wide
 - 13 councillors elected from 6 wards
 - Bream Bay Ward: 2 councillors
 - Denby Ward: 3 councillors
 - Hikurangi-Coastal Ward: 2 councillors
 - Mangakahia-Maungatapere Ward: 1 councillor
 - Okara Ward: 4 councillors
 - Whangarei Heads Ward: 1 councillor
 - no community boards

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- population statistics
 - 2018 Census - Estimated Resident Population 30 June 2020
- status quo: $98,330 / 13 \text{ members} = 7,564 \pm 10\% = 6,807 - 8,320$

Ward	Population	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	% Variation
Bream Bay	15,150	2	7,575	Yes	0.15%
Denby	23,700	3	7,900	Yes	4.44%
Hikurangi-Coastal	13,950	2	6,975	Yes	-7.79%
Mangakahia-Maungatapere	7,300	1	7,300	Yes	-3.49%
Okara	30,400	4	7,600	Yes	0.48%
Whangarei Heads	7,830	1	7,830	Yes	3.52%
TOTAL	98,330	13	7,564		

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- What needs to be considered?
 - identify communities of interest
 - area where one feels sense of community and belonging
 - access to daily goods and services
 - physical, geographical and topographical features
 - rohe or takiwā area for tangata whenua
 - similarities in economic or social activities
 - attitude of attachment and/or identity
 - similar communities can be grouped together
 - can change over time

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- LGC Guidelines identify three dimensions for recognising communities of interest:
 - perceptual: a sense of belonging to an area or locality
 - functional: the ability to meet the community's requirements for services
 - political: the ability of elected body to represent the interests and reconcile conflicts of all its members
- *'an area one feels a sense of belonging and to which one looks for social, cultural, service and economic support contributing to the development of a shared identity' (LGC)*
- what are Whangarei's communities of interest?

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- establish effective representation
 - consider how communities of interest most effectively represented
 - total number of councillors
 - councillors elected from wards/district-wide/mix
 - ward names, boundaries, number elected per ward
 - communities and community boards (establish, number, names, boundaries, members, subdivisions)
- what is the best number of councillors and how should they be elected?

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- ensure fair representation
 - population equity (+/- 10% of average)
 - generally means each elected member represents about same number of people (within +/-10%)
 - applies between general wards (if applicable)
 - applies between Māori wards (if applicable)
 - some tolerance e.g. if compliance splits a community or tribal affiliations
 - all current wards comply
- how do we ensure each councillor represents about the same number of people?

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- if take 6 current wards, less Māori electoral population, with 13 general councillors
- $79,600/13 \text{ members} = 6,123 \pm 10\% = 5,510 - 6,735$

Ward	General Population	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	% Variation
Bream Bay	13,200	2	6,600	Yes	7.8%
Denby	17,850	3	5,950	Yes	-2.8%
Hikurangi-Coastal	11,700	2	5,850	Yes	-4.46%
Mangakahia-Maungatapere	6,380	1	6,380	Yes	4.2%
Okara	23,300	4	5,825	Yes	4.9%
Whangarei Heads	7,170	1	7,170	No	17.1%
TOTAL	79,600	13	6,123		

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- Considerations
 - do current six wards still reflect our communities of interest – or should there be fewer or more?
 - what do iwi/hapu consider is best for two Māori councillors (ward or district-wide)?
 - are 13 councillors about right in total (more or less)?
 - ‘clean-slate’ approach to review or minimize current ward boundary changes?
 - consider larger wards or no wards
 - what about community boards?
 - are there known ‘issues’ we need to consider?

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- Preliminary consultation
 - not mandatory but recommended (LGC)
 - provides guidance to councillors
 - who should we consult?
 - Te Kārearea
 - community and business groups
 - iwi/hapu
 - ratepayer groups
 - other groups e.g. Federated Farmers
 - focus groups

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- how should we consult?
 - survey (online/paper)
 - information on website, at libraries etc
 - hui/public meetings
 - pop-up shops
 - roadshow

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- what should we ask?
 - which ward do you currently associate with?
 - how many councillors do you think is a good number?
 - 8-10, 11-13, 14-15, 15+
- how do you think we should elect our councillors?
 - wards/district-wide/mixture
- should there be community boards?
 - for all or part of the district
- do you have any other comments to help inform Council's deliberations?
- informal consultation period April/May 2021
- formal consultation process period June/October 2021

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- Next steps
 - gather feedback from
 - Te Karearea
 - community consultation
 - survey etc
 - summarise feedback and provide back to Council with potential scenarios to help in deliberations
 - are there other considerations/issues/options to research?

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