

Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 31 August, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting Room

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
(Chairperson)
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid

Scribe C Brindle (Senior Democracy Adviser)

1. Karakia/Prayer

Cr Cocurullo opened the meeting with a karakia/prayer.

2. Declarations of Interest

Noting the Council as a whole have an interest in this matter however legislation requires that Council review representation arrangements for the 2022 triennial local government elections.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies.

4. Decision Reports

4.1 Representation Review 2021 - Deliberation on submissions

Moved By Cr Vince Cocurullo

Seconded By Cr Nicholas Connop

That Council;

1. Note the 61 valid submissions received on the Representation Review Initial Proposal for the 2022 triennial local government elections.
2. Deliberate on submissions relating to the Representation Review Initial Proposal for the 2022 triennial local government elections.

Carried

Deliberations

Council deliberated on the submissions, taking into consideration the staff analysis and recommendations provided in the Submissions Report (Attachment 1).

1. Submissions unable to be considered as a part of the Representation Review

- 1.1 Establishment of Māori Wards
- 1.2 Choice of electoral system – STV
- 1.3 Electoral Population Statistics
- 1.4 Survey on where Māori are domiciled in the Whangarei district
- 1.5 Māori Electoral option
- 1.6 Only electors on the Māori electoral roll should be allowed to stand as a Māori ward councillor

Council agree with the staff analysis that the submissions are unable to be considered as part of the Representation Review.

2. Questions asked in the Submission Form

- 2.1 Do you support all aspects of the proposal?**
- 2.2 Do you agree with Council's proposal to continue to have 13 councillors and the Mayor?**

Council agree with the staff recommendation:

No change to the Initial Proposal.

- 2.3 Do you agree with the ward boundary changes to the existing Bream Bay ward**

Council agree with the staff recommendation that:

1. The Initial Proposal be changed to include Toe Toe Road at the south of the city in the proposed Whangarei Urban general ward for the following reasons:

- The location of Toe Toe Road is geographically more aligned to an urban ward than a rural/coastal ward and issues faced by residents of this road are of an urban nature.
 - The geographic proximity of Toe Toe Road is closer to the Whangarei urban area thereby providing urban councillors easier contact with residents of this road and therefore more effective representation.
 - The location of Toe Toe Road falls within the tribal boundaries of Te Parawhau whose boundaries fall within the urban area of Okara.
 - Submissions in opposition to the proposed boundary changes have provided justification for this change to the Initial Proposal.
2. The Final Proposal to include the proposal to move the southern part of Cemetery Road, north of SH15 to the west of the city into the Mangakahia-Maungatapere general Ward from the existing Bream Bay ward for the following reasons:
- The geographical and topographical features and issues faced by residents of this part of Cemetery Road are distinctly rural, as opposed to urban or coastal.
 - The inclusion of the southern part of Cemetery Road would not be dividing a community of interest between two wards.

2.4 Do you agree with the ward boundary changes to the existing Hikurangi Coastal Ward?

Motion

Moved By Cr Greg Martin

Seconded By Cr Phil Halse

That Council, having considered the feedback received from submitters on Question 2.4, make no change to the Initial Proposal.

The motion was Lost

Council agree with the staff recommendation that:

1. The Initial Proposal be changed to include the Springs Flat area, including Taylor Road, Rose Place, Great North Road, Winger Crescent, Springs Flat Road and all roads to the west of Great North Road down to Station Road (including the beginning of Pipiwai Road, Hiko Road, Waipanga Road, Onoke Lane, Northcroft Drive, Oakwood Rise, east side of Dip Road, Georgia Lane, Brickworks Lane, Whitelaw Place, Butler Place, Tustian Way, Lilian Road, west side of Kamo Road to Station Road, Ford Avenue, Moehau Road, Tuatara Drive,

Crawford Crescent, Iti Street and Wentworth Place) into the proposed Whangarei Urban general ward; for the following reasons:

- The current and historic boundaries relating to the proposed streets in the urban area of Kamo and the rural area of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward are still relevant.
- The physical, geographical and topographical features of the urban area of Kamo and the rural area of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward differ significantly.
- The issues faced by the communities in the urban area of Kamo and the rural area of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward differ significantly.
- The similarities in the demographical and socio-economic characteristics of the urban residents of Kamo and the rural residents of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward differ significantly.
- The services provided to the urban residents of Kamo and the rural residents of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward differ significantly.
- The location of these streets is geographically more aligned to an urban ward than a rural ward and issues faced by residents of this road are of an urban nature.
- The proposal would split both an established community of interest and a unified business and residential area.
- The proposal would see residents in Kamo represented by rural / coastal councillors in the Hikurangi-Coastal ward.
- The residents of the urban area of Kamo do not identify with either Hikurangi or the coast.
- Submissions in opposition to the proposed boundary changes have provided justification for this change to the Initial Proposal.
- Urban councillors are in reasonable proximity to the the urban residents of Kamo than councillors for easy contact and face-to-face meetings.

2.5 Do you agree with the ward boundary changes to the existing Mangakahia-Maungatapere ward?

Council agree with the staff recommendation that:

1. The Initial Proposal be changed to include Redwood Rise, Westwood Lane, Taiko Street, Hihi Rise, Tieke Place, Kokako Place, Pukenui Road, Highfield Way, Pohutukawa Place, Tealmere Grove, Heron Place, Barge Lane, Beaumont Court and Rockwall Place and the northern end of Puriri Park Road, Sutton Close, Tui Crescent, the northern end of Kiwi Avenue, Le Ruez Place, Kowhai Park Road, Clarkson Crescent, Rosella Place into the Mangakahia-

Maungatapere General Ward from the existing Okara ward. into the proposed Whangarei Urban general ward for the following reasons:

- The location of these streets is geographically more aligned to an urban ward than a rural ward and issues faced by residents of this road are of an urban nature.
 - The geographic proximity of these streets is closer to the Whangarei urban area thereby providing urban councillors easier contact with residents and therefore more effective representation.
 - The issues faced by the communities in the urban area of Maunu and the rural area of the Mangakahia-Maungatapere ward differ significantly.
 - Submissions in opposition to the proposed boundary changes have provided justification for this change to the Initial Proposal.
2. The Final Proposal to include the proposal to move the southern part of Cemetery Road, north of SH15 to the west of the city into the Mangakahia-Maungatapere general Ward from the existing Bream Bay ward for the following reasons:
- The geographical and topographical features and issues faced by residents of this part of Cemetery Road are distinctly rural, as opposed to urban or coastal.
 - The inclusion of the southern part of Cemetery Road would not be dividing a community of interest between two wards.

2.6 Do you agree with retaining the existing Whangarei Heads ward?

Council agree with the staff recommendation: No change to the Initial Proposal.

2.7 Do you agree with combining the existing Okara and Denby wards into one Whangarei Urban general ward?

Council agree with the staff recommendation that:

1. The existing Okara and Denby wards be combined into one Whangarei Urban general ward.
2. The Initial Proposal be changed to include Toe Toe Road at the south of the city in the proposed Whangarei Urban general ward, for the following reasons:
 - The location of Toe Toe Road is geographically more aligned to an urban ward than a rural/coastal ward and issues faced by residents of this road are of an urban nature.
 - The geographic proximity of Toe Toe Road is closer to the Whangarei urban area thereby providing urban councillors

easier contact with residents of this road and therefore more effective representation.

- The location of Toe Toe Road falls within the tribal boundaries of Te Parawhau whose boundaries fall within the urban area of Okara.
 - Submissions in opposition to the proposed boundary changes have provided justification for this change to the Initial Proposal.
3. The Initial Proposal be changed to include the Springs Flat area, including Taylor Road, Rose Place, Great North Road, Winger Crescent, Springs Flat Road and all roads to the west of Great North Road down to Station Road (including the beginning of Pipiwai Road, Hiko Road, Waipanga Road, Onoke Lane, Northcroft Drive, Oakwood Rise, east side of Dip Road, Georgia Lane, Brickworks Lane, Whitelaw Place, Butler Place, Tustian Way, Lilian Road, west side of Kamo Road to Station Road, Ford Avenue, Moehau Road, Tuatara Drive, Crawford Crescent, Iti Street and Wentworth Place) into the proposed Whangarei Urban general ward; for the following reasons:
- The current and historic boundaries relating to the proposed streets in the urban area of Kamo and the rural area of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward are still relevant.
 - The physical, geographical and topographical features of the urban area of Kamo and the rural area of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward differ significantly.
 - The issues faced by the communities in the urban area of Kamo and the rural area of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward differ significantly.
 - The similarities in the demographical and socio-economic characteristics of the urban residents of Kamo and the rural residents of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward differ significantly.
 - The services provided to the urban residents of Kamo and the rural residents of the Hikurangi-Coastal ward differ significantly.
 - The location of these streets is geographically more aligned to an urban ward than a rural ward and issues faced by residents of this road are of an urban nature.
 - The proposal would split both an established community of interest and a unified business and residential area.
 - The proposal would see residents in Kamo represented by rural / coastal councillors in the Hikurangi-Coastal ward.
 - The residents of the urban area of Kamo do not identify with either Hikurangi or the coast.

- Urban councillors are in reasonable proximity to the the urban residents of Kamo than councillors for easy contact and face-to-face meetings
 - Submissions in opposition to the proposed boundary changes have provided justification for this change to the Initial Proposal.
4. The Initial Proposal be changed to include Redwood Rise, Westwood Lane, Taiko Street, Hihi Rise, Tieke Place, Kokako Place, Pukenui Road, Highfield Way, Pohutukawa Place, Tealmere Grove, Heron Place, Barge Lane, Beaumont Court and Rockwall Place and the northern end of Puriri Park Road, Sutton Close, Tui Crescent, the northern end of Kiwi Avenue, Le Ruez Place, Kowhai Park Road, Clarkson Crescent, Rosella Place into the the Mangakahia-Maungatapere General Ward from the existing Okara ward. into the proposed Whangarei Urban general ward; for the following reasons:
- The location of these streets is geographically more aligned to an urban ward than a rural ward and issues faced by residents of this road are of an urban nature.
 - The geographic proximity of these streets is closer to the Whangarei urban area thereby providing urban councillors easier contact with residents and therefore more effective representation.
 - The issues faced by the communities in the urban area of Maunu and the rural area of the Mangakahia-Maungatapere ward differ significantly.
 - Submissions in opposition to the proposed boundary changes have provided justification for this change to the Initial Proposal.

2.8 Do you agree with the establishment of a single Whangarei District Māori ward comprising the whole area of our District?

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Nicholas Connop

- (i) The Whangarei District Council final proposal to comprise the mayor elected at large, and 12 councillors elected under the ward system, specifically 10 councillors elected district wide and 2 Maori ward councillors elected district wide.
- (ii) The Whangarei District Council be divided into two wards, consisting of the following:
 - Whangarei District General Ward (represented by 10 general ward councillors)

- Whangarei District Maori Ward (represented by 2 Maori ward councillors).

(iii) No community boards to be established.

On the motion being put Her Worship the Mayor called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Tricia Cutforth	X		
Cr Shelley Deeming		X	
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Greg Innes		X	
Cr Greg Martin		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
	7	7	

(7 to 7)

A majority was not reached, consequently no change to the Initial Proposal.

2.9 Do you agree that no community boards be established?

2.8 and 2.9 considered together - no change to the Initial Proposal.

1. Other issues raised through submissions?

- 3.1 One General Ward and One Māori ward with voting at large?
- 3.2 Mixed model of electing councillors
- 3.3 Retain a ward system but cut the number of rural councillors to four and increase the number of urban councillors to six, plus two Māori councillors, with the mayor still elected at large.

Council agree with the staff recommendation: No change to the Initial Proposal.

Motion

Moved By Her Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Vince Cocurullo

That Council:

Notes the recommendations as contained in the Submissions Report (Attachment 1 to the agenda report), will be used to inform development of the Representation Review Final Proposal for the 2022 triennial local government elections (including any changes made as a result of deliberations).

Carried

2. Closure of Meeting

The meeting concluded at 11.45am

Confirmed this 23rd day of September 2021

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson)