

Council Briefing Agenda

Date: Tuesday, 10 July, 2018

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

Elected Members: Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
(Chairperson)

Cr Stu Bell

Cr Gavin Benney

Cr Crichton Christie

Cr Vince Cocurullo

Cr Tricia Cutforth

Cr Shelley Deeming

Cr Sue Glen

Cr Phil Halse

Cr Cherry Hermon

Cr Greg Innes

Cr Greg Martin

Cr Sharon Morgan

Cr Anna Murphy

For any queries regarding this meeting please contact
the Whangarei District Council on (09) 430-4200.

1. Apologies

2. Reports

2.1 Representation Review 2018 - Briefing

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3. Closure of Meeting

Representation Review 2018 – Briefing

Meeting: Whangarei District Council Briefing
Date of meeting: 10 July 2018
Reporting officer: Kathryn Candy, Senior Legal Adviser

1 Purpose

To present feedback from pre-consultation, provide detail on representation review options and seek feedback on a preferred option.

2 Background

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires that all local authorities undertake a representation arrangements review at least once every six years. Council's last review of its representation arrangements was in 2012 (for the 2013 and 2016 triennial elections) and therefore Council is now required to complete a review in 2018 (for the 2019 and 2022 triennial elections).

In February 2018, a briefing was held with Council which provided detailed information about the review process, some options to consider and a timetable for the review which included a period of pre-consultation.

This briefing will advise Council of the feedback received from the pre-consultation and provide representation options based on both the community feedback and Council's feedback from the first briefing in February.

The objective of this briefing is to seek feedback on representation arrangements in order to send an initial proposal to Council for consideration.

3 Discussion

Options considered to date:

At the February 2018 briefing staff presented six options for consideration:

Option 1: Status quo – 13 councillors elected from six wards, plus the mayor;

Option 2: Modified status – 13 councillors elected from six wards, plus the mayor – with the Okara and Bream Bay ward boundary adjusted to include the areas around Smeatons Drive and Acacia Drive in the Okara ward.

Option 3: Reduced number of wards – 13 councillors elected from three wards, plus the mayor - an amalgamation of the wards:

- a. Urban ward (Denby and Okara wards combined – seven councillors);
- b. Northeastern ward (Hikurangi-Coastal and Whangarei Heads wards combined – three councillors); and
- c. Southwestern ward (Bream Bay and Mangakahia-Maungatapere wards combined – three councillors);

Option 4: Reduced number of councillors and wards – nine councillors elected from three wards, plus the mayor - the same amalgamation of wards as Option 3 but with nine councillors:

- a. Urban ward – five councillors
- b. Northeastern ward – two councillors
- c. Southwestern ward – two councillors;

Option 5: At large – between five and 29 councillors, plus the mayor - no wards;

Option 6: Mix of at large and wards with 13 councillors plus the mayor:

- a. four at large councillors
- b. Urban ward – five councillors
- c. Northeastern ward – two councillors
- d. Southwestern ward – two councillors.

The feedback from elected members at the February 2018 briefing was that Option 2 - the modified status quo or Option 3 - the combined wards with the same number of councillors (modified to split the urban ward into two) were preferred.

Pre-consultation:

To understand the community's view of representation arrangements, the Local Government Commission has recommended that councils undertake informal "pre-consultation" with their communities. Pre-consultation was undertaken from 1 – 27 June 2018 and consisted of the following:

- an online survey accessed from a representation review page on Council's website. That page also had the option to print out the survey and mail it to Council;
- meeting with Council's Positive Ageing, Youth and Disability advisory groups;
- meeting with Te Huinga;
- communication with resident and ratepayers groups advising of the review, and asking whether they wanted Council to attend their meetings. The Onerahi Residents and Ratepayers took up that offer and staff attended their June meeting;
- an article in Council News (in the Leader);
- posts on Facebook
- a small flyer was handed out at all meetings and left in each Council library, together with paper copies of the survey.

Attached is a summary of the results of the survey, which was accessible to anyone wishing to participate (rather than being a representative sample). There were 73 responses to the survey, 71 of which were online, with two in hard copy.

The results showed that the majority of those who participated in the survey are satisfied with the status quo in relation to the six-ward structure, number of councillors, names of wards and having no community boards. There was however a strong indication (56% of the online participants) that the participants did not think that the current wards reflected Whangarei's communities of interest.

The Facebook feedback has been summarised and is also attached.

Next steps:

The representation review follows a prescribed legislative process, which Council must adhere to.

At this briefing staff will give a presentation on progress of the review (particularly on the two short-listed options) and seek feedback on a preferred option. An initial proposal will then be presented to the Council's meeting of 26 July 2018 for consideration. A public notice and submission period will follow.

It is important that our communities are informed about the review process and provided with an opportunity to give their views and feedback. To this end, an engagement plan will also be presented at the briefing.

4 Attachments

Summary of online survey

Summary of Facebook comments

Total responses from **ALL DEVICES**

Responses	Total visits	Unique visits	Completion rate	Average time to complete
71	195	121	58.7%	06:29

All Devices	PC & Laptops	Smartphones	Tablets	Other
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Responses	Total visits	Unique visits	Completion rate	Average time to complete
48	136	73	65.8%	07:05

All Devices	PC & Laptops	Smartphones	Tablets	Other
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Responses	Total visits	Unique visits	Completion rate	Average time to complete
17	44	38	44.7%	05:17

All Devices	PC & Laptops	Smartphones	Tablets	Other
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Responses	Total visits	Unique visits	Completion rate	Average time to complete
6	15	10	60%	05:13

<p>Would you like to see a change to the current six ward structure?</p>	<p>31.9% No changes 22Responses</p> <p>27.5% Yes - No wards (this would be an election "at large" which means that the elected member is elected by anyone in the District rather than just from a particular ward) 19Responses</p> <p>20.3% Yes - More wards 14Responses</p> <p>10.1% Yes - A mix of wards and at large 7Responses</p> <p>7.2% Yes - Less wards 5Responses</p> <p>2.9% I don't know 2Responses</p>
<p>Tell us more about wanting more wards</p>	<p>With the growth in Bream Bay, the existing Bream Bay ward should be split in two 18 hours ago</p> <p>Maori representation should be paramount under Te Tiriti...the ward structure of Whangarei D.C does not reflect partnership between Maori and the Crown as envisaged under Te Tiriti a day ago</p> <p>With the spread of suburbs more wards/boundaries are needed</p>

	<p>a day ago</p> <p>The Okara and Denby wards are too large and should both be split in two.</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>Some of the wards are too big it is unlikely the councilors can keep up with the pulse of the community. And then the smaller wards with only one councilor it's unfair as they have less 'votes' when deciding on issues, it seems like resources are more likely to get directed to the larger wards. Should be a minimum of 2 councilors for each ward.</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>At present there is a representational balance. At present there are between 4 and one councilor per ward. There should be one or two councilors per ward</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>Just a wider representation. Like I think there should be at least one more ward as there are more people in Whangarei now. The population concentration has shifted to different areas.</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>More smaller wards to better represent local communities rather</p> <p>21 days ago</p> <p>There is a definite disconnect in having Okara Ward representing electors of Onerahi, Central City and Maunu areas of Whangarei. They are all part of the city, but have totally separate social, community and location identities. Okara should be split into at least two wards. Perhaps the central city too, needs a separate ward, being primarily a commercial and industrial area. In past elections wards have been recognised only for the purpose of achieving a spread of representation, which has largely been successful. Recent events in Maunu concerning the sale of what most thought was WDC reserve have shown that councillors become "at large" after the election and perhaps lose sight of those who elected them. Cr. Cherry Hermon was the exception in this case. A split of Okara need not necessarily lead to the election of extra councillors. Councillors should retain a strong bond with the ward they represent after the election, especially if the Community Board proposal is introduced.</p> <p>21 days ago</p> <p>Okara ward is large with four representatives, it would be better to split into two wards</p> <p>22 days ago</p>
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	<p>Population growth has exceeded projections and the community requires more representation from people vested with and knowledgeable of the community they speak for.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>I think the wards should be broken up into smaller sections and redesigned overall, then have 1 elected member for each of those wards. Currently 6 wards - 14 members I propose 14 wards (1 member per)</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>The rural wards are large and cover different communities so for example the Bream Bay Ward is dominated by Ruakaka/Waipu as this is where the main population is in this ward</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>I am not sure about the mixed wards concept, as places a popularist pressure on the whole district, where the most popular candidates in more populous areas do not represent the less populous areas which often house those with less voice, less visibility eg Whangaruru and Mangakahia Valley. I would like to see more wards, to (hopefully) support more diversity on our council.</p>
Tell us more about wanting less wards	<p>We don't need any more</p> <p>6 days ago</p> <p>don't know</p> <p>9 days ago</p> <p>rural wards should stay the same but should be a single city wards, as interests of Denby and Okara are much the same</p>
Tell us why you think there should be no wards	<p>I believe there should be an STV system</p> <p>17 hours ago</p> <p>Wards don't make a difference</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>I see no benefit to the current ward system. Also I think it could limit excellent candidates on our council (ie if there are more in the ward than seats)</p> <p>a day ago</p>

	<p>I favour an election at large system based on STV a day ago</p> <p>Would prefer to vote on all candidates, rather than a restricted pool 2 days ago</p> <p>Wards do not really represent communities of interest, I think we will be better served by councilors elected at large by the whole District. Wards may also create expectations that their council representative will solely work for the Ward, the reality is they work for the District at large, hence we should be able to vote for candidates that may be out of our ward but considered to provide better representation of the values I carry. 3 days ago</p> <p>Because the funding isnt equally spread amongst the Wards with the representations all not being equal in each ward. Also the representatives aren't well known in the community 8 days ago</p> <p>Best people get in cos they get the most votes 8 days ago</p> <p>I would like to vote for someone representing my ideas and values as "close" as possible. This person, most likely (statistical), is not in my ward. Ward system had a function in medieval England, not in twenty-one century NZ. 8 days ago</p> <p>Cause there's a feeling that Councillors only care about their ward, not the whole district. 9 days ago</p> <p>The current ward system no longer represents the community. For example, Bream Bay is classed as a rural ward, however many of those living in this ward do not see themselves as rural. According to Council's website, councillors should represent the entire district. However, in practice, councillors are biased towards their wards and particular parts of their ward. The ward system interferes with good decision making for the entire district. 9 days ago</p> <p>Community Boards would represent local interests, while Councillors would represent community-wide interests 13 days ago</p> <p>Too influenced by lobbying a small area</p>
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	<p>13 days ago</p> <p>I'm living in Glenbervie, and have no connection with Hikurangi or the Coast, yet I'm forced to choose someone to represented me from that area.</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>Local councillors do not adequately represent their physical wards. I'd rather chose people based on merit over location.</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>Because for the last 2 elections I was only able to use one vote because there was only one person standing in my ward that I thought would be a positive addition to council. There were councillors standing in other wards I would have liked to vote for.</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>Cross area representation with broader district wide focus not just ward concentration. Also reducing competitive ward behavior</p> <p>17 days ago</p> <p>With wards, candidate choice at elections is limited to long-term incumbents who have entrenched themselves in their wards, with little or no chance for newcomers. Councillors will focus on their wards and not consider the whole district.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>Councillors are elected to make decisions based on the best interests of the whole district, yet they're currently elected by a ward. There's an irresolvable conflict of interest. To get re-elected, councillors will vote in the interest of their ward and against the interest of the district. I wish to vote for the councillors who are best able to govern, yet I'm currently limited to voting for a sub-set of those standing. That seems sub-optimal.</p> <p>23 days ago</p>
Tell us more about having a mix	<p>We could possibly get a better representation across the district</p> <p>a day ago</p>

	<p>I support retaining all the current wards (with some small boundary changes to Whangarei Heads Ward) but look at what the benefits/disadvantages would be if Okara and Denby were changed to at large wards as these wards incorporate areas within Whangarei city centre. I am unclear of how voting would work relating to these changes? a day ago</p> <p>Maori wards 9 days ago</p> <p>I think there needs to be single counsellors for more wards (eg hikurangi coastal is too big an area compared to okara and Denby) and then an overall elected counsellor team 10 days ago</p> <p>Some wards. Some general. People cannot run for both they must choose. Divide up current wards so that Otangarei, Raumanga and Tikipunga each have a rep 11 days ago</p> <p>Since some wards only have one or two representatives, it would be helpful for people to have extras who could help anyone no matter which ward they are in. I understand this should be the case anyway, but I have also heard that some (Sue Glenn, saying she only represents Onerahi, yet she is part of a much larger area) only represent some portions of their area. Also if councillor's could have open days where constituents could get assistance that would be quite nice, and make them seem more approachable.</p>
Tell us more	<p>We want to retain our Whangarei Heads Ward. a day ago</p> <p>I feel wards are needed to represent each area a day ago</p> <p>Works as it is 8 days ago</p> <p>Currently good representation 10 days ago</p> <p>There are enough councilors for each Ward already.</p>

	<p>11 days ago</p> <p>I feel the amount of wards is fine but will require boundary shifts and more councillors</p> <p>12 days ago</p> <p>Current numbers sufficient.</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>At times candidates have stood unchallenged. I don't believe change is necessary at present.</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>I think that the current system works well and should be maintained. As a small close community there is no need for Community Boards.</p> <p>15 days ago</p> <p>The system as current serves our mixed city/rural district well. The Council is reasonably balanced. I particularly select the Whangarei Heads which needs to retain its own ward. This peninsula has soecial features and nothing in common with any other part of the district and as a burgeoning area needs its own ward</p> <p>16 days ago</p> <p>It is working well at the moment, particularly for Whangarei Heads</p> <p>17 days ago</p> <p>Our council has enough wards we just need councilors and staff that listen to the ratepayers about how the monies are spent. We certainly don't want the offices moved to inner city.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>No</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>We should ONLY have the Councillors elected. if they LIVE in the WARD. We need the system to work sadly he present elected wouldn't like this..... we need everyone to give feed back..... .Thanks Tony Gill</p> <p>23 days ago</p>
How many councillors do you think the Whangarei	<p>38.6%</p> <p>What we currently have (13 councillors and the Mayor)</p> <p>27Responses</p>

District Council should have?	<p>32.9% Less 23Responses</p> <p>20% More 14Responses</p> <p>8.6% I don't know 6Responses</p>
Comment	<p>8 elected councillors plus the mayor selected under STV. This allows individual councillors to be paid more within the same or similar budget and therefore being a more attractive prospect in attracting a higher calibre of candidate. 17 hours ago</p> <p>Two councillors for a new Bream Bay coastal ward, plus one for a mid Western ward covering some of the existing BB ward 18 hours ago</p> <p>Perhaps 8 councilors plus Mayor. This may allow budget for higher paid and focused representatives for Whangarei. a day ago</p> <p>We seem to have some very embedded thinking in council - need fresh ideas a day ago</p> <p>There is no Maori representation increase to include more Maori reps a day ago</p> <p>We need to improve the input communities have. The current structure/process is not effective, is time consuming and incredibly frustrating. There is the perception that decisions are made prior to consultation with community. It would be better for council to clearly disclose and communicate any recommendations they have prior to seeking input from community. I am unsure how effective all current councillors are at representing their local communities but I am aware of a growing number within the community who have written to councillor's regarding their various concerns</p>

	<p>and had no response in return. There is a need to improve communication with and better support and fund local rate payers and citizen associations and other community groups.</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>seems to be a good number</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>I favour 8 elected councillors elected at large under STV plus a mayor. This allows individual councillors to be paid more within the same or similar budget and therefore being a more attractive prospect in attracting a better quality of potential councillors with higher levels of capabilities. Lesser number also improves the decision-making process allowing for faster decisions made by more competent councillors.</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>Optimum number of 8 plus mayor</p> <p>2 days ago</p> <p>I would suggest 8 councilors at large (Elected with STV system) and 1 mayor as the maximum size of the WDC Council</p> <p>3 days ago</p> <p>We have two many now .They don't listen to people now</p> <p>6 days ago</p> <p>Why not have the counsellors looking after a specific role rather than a ward of better know community personal who would actually represent locals</p> <p>8 days ago</p> <p>IMO 8 plus a mayor is plenty . It's only a small town .</p> <p>8 days ago</p> <p>8+Mayor would be more cost-effective and would probably be more professional and passionate, especially when the ward system is abandoned. Now we have a few that are non-responsive, others are in because "they always have been" (First past the post), and a few that seem to have know clue what governance is about.</p> <p>8 days ago</p> <p>ok</p> <p>9 days ago</p>
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	<p>There's no need to have so many. 9 days ago</p> <p>11 including the mayor should be sufficient. Plus, having an uneven number will mean decisions can be reached by a majority. 9 days ago</p> <p>At least 3 Maori Wards reflective of the 25% + Maori population, as per Local body Laws. If a referendum is called for by citizens then it should proceed to assess where we are at as a Community on this issue - Maori representation and participation 9 days ago</p> <p>1 counsellor per ward 10 days ago</p> <p>Fine as is 10 days ago</p> <p>Enough already 11 days ago</p> <p>There should be two representing each ward and 4 Councillors for the urban wards 12 days ago</p> <p>Fewer district-wide councillors balanced with Community Boards 13 days ago</p> <p>Retain status quo 13 days ago</p> <p>Each ward should have the same number of Councillors, either two each or 1 each. It is currently unfair that Whangarei Heads and Mangakahia have only 1 Councilor each. 13 days ago</p> <p>Depends on the workload 13 days ago</p> <p>Enough for at least 2 councilors for each ward. 13 days ago</p>
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	<p>My view is that Councillors ideally require a wide range of skills, if not individually then certainly collectively. At present there are some clear agendas being pursued, and commercial acumen is not at the forefront. Wishlists are invited without informing ratepayers of the financial consequences of the choices they are making and that is simply irresponsible. Increasing the number of Councillors would probably worsen this situation in my view. (sadly)</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>Well done council we got part way filling out your survey and were timed out how useful is that please send me a survey that I can have time to consider your questions and answer intelligently</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>Less Councillors, more highly skilled, paid more.</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>Maybe we should have two or three more. There ought to be two Māori council spots as well.</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>I think the number of councillors is OK but I think rural voters are favoured by urban and city limits areas being sucked into rural wards. The inclusion of Raumanga in Bream Bay ward is a disgrace</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>There needs to be more because of population growth and the change in demographic.</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>works fine</p> <p>15 days ago</p> <p>We certainly need the odd number of councillors. The balance of rural and city representatives is essential and this is achieved with the current system.</p> <p>16 days ago</p> <p>One less councillor for the two inner city wards as the present system skews decisions away from the more rural wards</p> <p>17 days ago</p> <p>reduce to 8; a more functional group size, better quality and reduced quantity of elected members</p> <p>17 days ago</p> <p>One less would make no difference in decision making.</p>
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	<p>19 days ago</p> <p>Keep the same number.</p> <p>21 days ago</p> <p>If a Central Whangarei ward is introduced a further two councillors could be a valuable addition.</p> <p>21 days ago</p> <p>Do not want the council to have more expenses or people making more expensive projects</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>A councillor should represent a given number of the community- Just as the number of Electorates is proportional to the number of enrolled voters. Whangarei has experienced considerable population growth and extra councillors would represent the growth.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>If the mayor always votes, then 13+mayor means that mayor may always need to cast a deciding vote. If there was 14+mayor of 12+mayor voting, there shouldn't need to be a casting vote and all votes would appear more democratic.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>An odd number (7, 9, or at maximum 11) feels right to me. My preferred number would be 9 (including the mayor).</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>The current number is good, but as mentioned above, there representation should be more spread</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>The number is good</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>There are good examples of boards with 15 members, so would support the numbers increasing to this amount</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>No</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>If you have great people you don't need more</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>Fewer, not less. Yes, I'm a pedant. :-)</p> <p>23 days ago</p>
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<p>Would you like to see the introduction of community boards?</p>	<p>55.7% No 39Responses</p> <p>34.3% Yes 24Responses</p> <p>10% I don't know 7Responses</p>
<p>So you do want to have more Community Boards, tell us more!</p>	<p>help the community to raise their voice to the ward councillor a day ago</p> <p>Individual communities have their own issues that need addressing for example safety in the Tikipunga area, rural areas with dumping of rubbish and roading maintenance issues 8 days ago</p> <p>Increases the communities ability and right to have input to the Council 9 days ago</p> <p>Perhaps would be worth a trial. At least we would have someone to talk to about problems in our area which is not happening now. 11 days ago</p> <p>Community boards should include the ward councillors or that who they report to. 12 days ago</p> <p>Strengthen the communities 13 days ago</p> <p>A district has a mixture of district-wide interests and local interests. Community Boards would represent the interests of local people 13 days ago</p> <p>Refer previous answer</p>

	<p>14 days ago</p> <p>If you have less Councillors, elected at large, it leaves room for specific community-focused boards (that don't need to be represented by arbitrary physical boundaries).</p>
	<p>14 days ago</p> <p>It would be a good idea to implement but maybe at a smaller scale. I don't see many people being interested but it is a good idea, but a more gradual implementation may be required. People might not take it too seriously, so the rules and how significant it is should be emphasized.</p>
	<p>15 days ago</p> <p>For better representation of the majority position of ratepayers from the more rural wards</p>
	<p>17 days ago</p> <p>Vast distance between say Kamo north and Ruakaka would suggest a local board could better offer local input into local affairs.</p>
	<p>19 days ago</p> <p>Yes community boards allow for local decision making and ensure all issues within community are listened too</p>
	<p>21 days ago</p> <p>Whangarei suburbs over various times have had Ratepayer or Resident Committees formed to liaise with the Councils of the time, whether Borough, City or District. While started with enthusiasm, most of these have gone out of existence through lack of a backbone structure. The exception has been the Onerahi Community Association. When we formed this group in the 1970s the City Council had just relocated the Community Hall and wanted a local group to look after the management of this community asset. This provided the elected group with a solid backbone for its existence, and allowed residents to discuss problems locally, before approaching Whangarei City Council. A City Councillor attended most monthly meetings the group held. Any new community boards formed should also have some function which becomes their backbone, and avoids meetings being grizzle sessions, or having no agenda.</p>
	<p>21 days ago</p> <p>A chance for communities to have a say, do local projects and improve their area</p>
	<p>22 days ago</p>

	<p>Community boards are vital for the needs and opinions of the community to be heard. They work well throughout the country and would introduce a degree of transparency into decision making and hopefully lessen the current reak of nepotism that exists in Whangarei.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>It sounds like an idea worth trying, to get the communities more involved. However, if it led to more bureaucracy or controversy then I'd decide not to keep them. It should be done as a trial for one election period (3 years), with a review at the end of that.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>This would increase the pool of people knowledgeable about governance, and the role of WDC through practical involvement as representatives. This would support a better equipped pool of candidates to run for councillor in the elections, as well as increase the transparency, cohesiveness and connectivity between communities and decisionmakers.</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>This is an idea that works in concert with electing councillors at large. Community boards will have budgets for spending on discretionary projects within their rohe. They will have real power. They will also be incubators for people to learn the ropes to put themselves up for election as councillors. Currently there are ratepayer groups like TCR&R that seem to be ignored by council. That's stink.</p> <p>23 days ago</p>
<p>So you don't want to have Community Boards, tell us why?</p>	<p>Boards would add an additional layer of complexity that is not required to achieve effective and efficient governance. It assumes that we have people of sufficient competency within all communities interested in being involved in decision making in our communities and this is simply not true.</p> <p>17 hours ago</p> <p>The community is small enough that councillors should have a good understanding of the issues. Community boards would add another unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and cost we don't need to pay for</p> <p>18 hours ago</p>

	<p>More layers of people 20 hours ago</p> <p>Money for community boards will need to come from somewhere. I would hate to think that children could miss out on a park in their area if there was funds that needed to be re-directed to a community board a day ago</p> <p>Unless they have a seat at the decision making table I do not see any use for them a day ago</p> <p>Boards would add an additional layer of complexity that is not required to achieve effective and efficient governance. It assumes that we have people of sufficient competency within all communities interested in being involved in decision making in our communities and this is simply not true. a day ago</p> <p>The elected representatives are capable of engaging with community effectively. 2 days ago</p> <p>They are not needed 6 days ago</p> <p>Theres enough coucellors already. This is just more people that rate payers have to pay! 7 days ago</p> <p>It's just more people slowing down the system . Council make decisions and only need them 8 days ago</p> <p>Another layer of bureaucracy, not cost effective, danger of involving more amateurs, more nepotism, longer decision-making procedures, tokenism etc. Might work for a multi-million people district. 8 days ago</p> <p>ok 9 days ago</p> <p>Just another level of bureaucracy and cost. 9 days ago</p>
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	<p>We elect councillors to represent us. Having community boards will mean additional election and administrative costs, as well as adding an extra layer of bureaucracy and decision making. Council already has advisory groups that could be better utilised.</p> <p>9 days ago</p> <p>More cooks to spoil the broth</p> <p>10 days ago</p> <p>Another layer of beauracracy with NO teeth.</p> <p>11 days ago</p> <p>We don't need more people paid to do things</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>Not required in Whangarei. Current representatives should be able to handle issues with the Council staff.</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>With the current number of wards and Councilors, community boards would be too much representation. However if the number of Councilors for each ward were reduced to 1 and the number of wards either stayed the same or were reduced, then Community boards could be workable. Community boards should have limited decision making power over certain issuses like community development, but not financial, planning or infrastructure.</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>Another layer of bureaucracy</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>Sounds to complicated.</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>Council struggles with financial control. I hate to think how they would cope with delegating financial powers to Community Boards, and establishing the governance necessary to control them. Then of course you have the question of how you ensure you have competent people involved in Community Boards rather than people who are fanatics about a specific issue,or a narrow range of issues. I strongly believe you need a very broad outlook and an ability to be very open-minded in order to operate in such an arena. I don't believe that talent is in great supply in Whangarei. Too many bullying styles prevail.</p>
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	<p>14 days ago</p> <p>An unnecessary cost for a small district. Maybe consider them when we hit 100,000</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>It just feels like another layer. We are not that big</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>Whangarei is a small close community and Council deals with issues adequately as is.</p> <p>15 days ago</p> <p>Unnecessary duplication. Ratepayers and Residents Assoc for the local community (of interest) already exist and the elected ward Councillors dutifully attend their meetings.</p> <p>16 days ago</p> <p>Just another layer of paid decision makers. In some large cities these can make sense especially if they are given budgets to manage and spend with little interference from Council but for Whangarei NO.</p> <p>16 days ago</p> <p>added layer of unnecessary bureaucracy</p> <p>17 days ago</p> <p>Unnecessary, community boards aren;t needed social media interaction with community is a more modern, practical and efficient approach</p> <p>17 days ago</p> <p>I live in Whangarei and Work at fndc which has 3 wards and 3comm boards. The cost does not outweigh any benefit.</p> <p>19 days ago</p> <p>I don't think we need boards where people are appointed. These will always be people who are good at putting themselves forward, but not always good at putting others' needs to the fore, or doing things for the greater good. There are enough self-serving people in positions of power already without willingly adding to them.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>Waste of money</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>We aren't big enough to warrant it, councillors should be in touch enough with their community</p> <p>23 days ago</p>
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	<p>No</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>Your elected representatives should know what is going on ...</p> <p>23 days ago</p>
Any further comments	<p>Sounds like a nice idea but unsure about how this would work practically and, it may not help with decision making it may just make it more complex.</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>We would like see a discussion document that outlines possible structures, costs, advantages and disadvantages of introducing community boards within the District and including examples and feedback from districts that do have community boards. This document would be circulated to communities for their input and recommendations</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>I would like see a discussion document that outlines possible structures, costs, advantages and disadvantages of introducing community boards within the District. This document would be circulated to communities for their input and recommendations. It is important that communities have the ability to bring decision-making down to a level where citizens can have real influence and community boards could enable this.</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>Need to see a clear cost/benefit analyses of this proposal.</p> <p>3 days ago</p>
Do you think the current wards reflect Whangarei's communities of interest?	<p>64.3%</p> <p>No</p> <p>45Responses</p> <p>30%</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>21Responses</p> <p>5.7%</p> <p>I don't know</p>

	4Responses
Comment	<p>Communities of interest spread far beyond a geographical boundary so current ward system does not necessarily reflect those communities in the same way elected at large could. 17 hours ago</p> <p>See earlier comments about splitting the Bream Bay ward to allow for growth in the coastal area, and the very differing interests of the growing coastal area and the isolated, rural areas 18 hours ago</p> <p>the Councillors do not care what there ward thinks a day ago</p> <p>Interest is not bound by geography a day ago</p> <p>I think its Ok at the moment a day ago</p> <p>We want to retain The Whangarei Heads ward. The Whangarei Heads is a vibrant, active and diverse community consisting of a large coastal community with significant natural habitat. The activity within our community is reflected in the number of associations including ourselves, Pataua Area Ratepayers & Residents Association, Pataua Outdoor Education Trust, Urquhart's Bay Association, Parua Bay Community Focus Group, Parua Bay Residents and Ratepayers, Whangarei Head Landcare Forum, and The Bream Head Conservation Trust. In addition there are a large number of social, cultural and educational groups plus five community halls and two schools a day ago</p> <p>As previously stated wards do not reflect tangata whenua in the Whangarei rohe a day ago</p> <p>We live 2 minutes drive from Kamo shops and are represented by Maungatapere?? Seems strange a day ago</p> <p>The Whangarei Heads is a vibrant, active and diverse community consisting of a large coastal community with significant natural habitat that is connected by a number of roads. The diversity within our community is reflected in</p>

	<p>the number of associations including the Whangarei Heads Citizen Association, Pataua Area Ratepayers & Residents Association, Pataua Outdoor Education Trust, Urquhart's Bay Association, Parua Bay Community Focus Group, Parua Bay Residents and Ratepayers, Whangarei Head Landcare Forum, and The Bream Head Conservation Trust. In addition there are a large number of social, cultural and educational groups plus five community halls and two schools. With increased growth and now a major tourist destination the Whangarei Heads Ward is a 'community of interest'.</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>I feel the wards need to be changed as Whangarei Heads covers some areas that I would not classify as Whangarei Heads and more Denby</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>Communities of interest spread far beyond a geographical boundary so current ward system does not necessarily reflect those communities in the same way elected at large could.</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>As per previous comments</p> <p>2 days ago</p> <p>There are very different communities of interest in each Ward, lumping them together on a geographical basis makes little sense</p> <p>3 days ago</p> <p>One would think/hope decisions are made in the interest of the whole district. It might not be the case, some Councillors might support decisions favouring their ward. There is the danger of unfair, unbalanced outcomes, Councillors who are making deals, etc...</p> <p>8 days ago</p> <p>they seem to be very working class European</p> <p>8 days ago</p> <p>Living on Ngunguru ford road and being part of the Whangarei heads ward does not represent the community I am involved in or the area I use the most which is the Tutukaka coast</p> <p>9 days ago</p>
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	<p>We're on the top border of Whangarei Heads ward and feel more affiliation with coastal ward as that is where we play at beaches etc, not the Whangarei Heads coast.</p> <p>9 days ago</p> <p>I don't identify with my ward of Bream Bay. I live inland, not on the coast, and as I work in the city I don't see myself as rural. I don't identify myself with Ruakaka or Waipu or Maungakaramaea. I identify myself with Whangarei, and as middle aged working class. An open system would better represent our significant elderly/retired, disabled and low income communities.</p> <p>9 days ago</p> <p>Not representative of Maori population and tangata whenua/local tribes as per Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Central Govt Maori seats.</p> <p>9 days ago</p> <p>I am unhappy with the hikurangi coastal ward in particular</p> <p>10 days ago</p> <p>Effective as is</p> <p>10 days ago</p> <p>White old middle class is NOT representative. Maori representatives are not present.</p> <p>11 days ago</p> <p>It would be easier to answer this if the council decides where they are looking 50 years from now. Personally they should be pushing all new stuff to ruakaka one tree point area as that is the area of growth for the district. It is closer to Auckland and the port. The best thing is the council has an opportunity to lay out a future city in that area and should make that the priority in development instead of extending the city boundaries without making any extra infrastructure upgrades.</p> <p>12 days ago</p> <p>Sometimes the boundaries are manipulated to represent numbers - not actual communities of interest</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>The wards are geographic in nature and therefore can't be expected to represent communities of interest. The current advisory panels are a tokenistic attempt to represent the issues of younger people, older people and those with</p>
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	<p>disabilities. I have not seen direction given by one of these panels truly reflected in Council decision making. Give the advisory panels more resource and require all key decisions to be reviewed by them and their recommendation made known to the Councillors. Also introduce more groups including ethnic peoples and LGBQ</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>Living in Glenbervie I don't feel connected to Hikurangi or the coast.</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>Except there needs to be a minimum of 2 councilors per ward.</p> <p>13 days ago</p> <p>Broadly I do think the balance is about right.</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>For example, the Tutukaka coast and the Hikurangi rural area do not have compatible/comparative interests. With at-large councillors and a small number of focused community boards, special interests would be better served.</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>They seem fairly random. If there is logic behind then I do not understand it</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>I think it's pretty obvious we have no Maori representation despite the high number of Maori politicians in this area. Unless that changes it is not representative. I think rural councillors get far fewer votes to get voted in and 'carve off' a bit of urban and 'slightly out of town' residents to bump them up. Bream bay should definitely only have one councillor and 'South Whangarei' should be it's own ward. I suspect Hikurangi/ Coastal may also include some areas that are not really rural or coastal and are not well represented by their councillors</p> <p>14 days ago</p> <p>It is a bit different now so a change of names for the more central areas could be good.</p> <p>15 days ago</p> <p>no</p> <p>15 days ago</p> <p>No unless the tangata whenua community of interest is served via the current system.</p> <p>16 days ago</p>
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	<p>As mentioned above the elements of commonality make for good ward boundaries. 16 days ago</p> <p>denby and okara likely have the same community of interest 17 days ago</p> <p>Ward division is O.K. and has worked for a long time but there is a need to ensure that the community of interest remains strong in the more rural wards 17 days ago</p> <p>Add a central city ward plus a separate Marsden Point / Industrial ward 17 days ago</p> <p>How on earth Maunu and Onerahi can be said to have a community of interest in beyond believe. 19 days ago</p> <p>The only ward I have any knowledge of is Okara, and we have had homes in both the Onerahi end and now the Maunu end of this ward. There is very little community of interest between these two parts of the ward. The communities are different. 21 days ago</p> <p>Yes the rural communities have their wards which is good. Urban Whangarei is banded together in two wards, the demographics are not represented in the ward areas, for example Maunu, Raumanga and Onerahi have different populations and needs, 22 days ago</p> <p>As previously stated the population growth in the district has caused widespread changes in the wants and needs of the entire population. Many of the current Council appear to have been elected on name not ability. They push personal agendas rather than listening to the wider community. The disconnect between the community need and council decision-making is evident with the lack of long term infrastructure planning, for roading rail and robust public transport . As a rural resident i dont want to see my community swallowed up by a continuous march of housing over quality farmland whilst roads deteriorate, schools are bursting at the seams and all vital services are 20km away on an</p>
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	<p>increasingly congested road. The HAVE YOUR SAY road show was a joke and merely lip service to a few who were lucky enough to know about the "consultation " the majority were unaware.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>Okara is a very big ward, it could perhaps be split.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>Currently there is too much emphasis on the city centre and surrounding suburbs, not the district as a whole. The majority of councillors (7) are located in the city centre, so they can enforce that the city gets more attention than the outer district. That is why I'd like to see the wards gone.</p> <p>22 days ago</p> <p>This needs to be reflective in the boundaries</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>WHile not all Whangarei District residents are aware, this whenua is made up of rohe whenua and tribal estate which put simply was stolen through acts of the Crown in the early times of colonisation. This is especially true in the Whangarei Harbour and surrounding lands. The identity of each rohe is still very evident, and so are the hapū, who are reminded daily of their sacrifice. I would love to see the wards, and 'communities of interest' be a better reflection of these rohe to reinstate what was taken, and recognition of the people of the land.</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>No to race based ward</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>some Councillors you only see when elections due</p> <p>23 days ago</p> <p>Sorry, it's self-evident, as far as I'm concerned. These lines put neighbours into separate wards. Also communities of interest are no longer geographical.</p> <p>23 days ago</p>
Are you happy with the name of our current	<p>47.8%</p> <p>Yes</p>

wards? Bream Bay Whangarei Heads Hikurangi- Coastal Mangakahia- Maungatapere Okara Denby	<p>32Responses</p> <p>44.8%</p> <p>No</p> <p>30Responses</p> <p>7.5%</p> <p>I don't know</p> <p>5Responses</p>
Comment	<p>Not applicable under an elected at large system</p> <p>17 hours ago</p> <p>Okara - means Whangarei in general and Denby is Tikipunga-Kamo-Otangarei in general-</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>survey completed on behalf of the Whangarei Heads citizens Association Inc'</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>no comment</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>Should be more reflective of suburbs</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>I think Denby should become 'city' or 'central'</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>they seem to cover the areas well</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>Not applicable under elected at large and current wards</p> <p>a day ago</p> <p>My submission is scrap the wards.</p> <p>2 days ago</p> <p>Again, we are one Whangarei District</p> <p>3 days ago</p> <p>Dont change the names for the sake of change!!</p>

	<p>7 days ago</p> <p>I said to get rid of wards . So yes change it to just whangarei as they should be working for the whole of the town</p> <p>8 days ago</p> <p>Glenbervie is in the Hikurangi-Coastal ward, ridiculous</p> <p>8 days ago</p> <p>Okara and Denby don't really reflect the communities they represent</p> <p>8 days ago</p> <p>ok</p> <p>9 days ago</p> <p>Don't want wards</p> <p>9 days ago</p> <p>Bream Bay doesn't cover inland Mangapai-Maungakaramea. Whangarei Heads doesn't reflect that it includes Glenbervie. If going geographically, Whangarei Central might be a better name for Denby and/or Okara.</p> <p>9 days ago</p> <p>Refer to previous comments</p> <p>10 days ago</p> <p>Denby and Okara don't mean much. Why not East and West or something</p> <p>11 days ago</p> <p>Don't change names just for the "sake of doing it."</p> <p>11 days ago</p> <p>As the wards have changed over time and boundaries shift then here is a time to change. Have City South (all CBD, Onerahi, Morningside, Raumanga, Horahora, Maunu, Avenues, Mairtown, Regent, Kensington, Otangarei) City North (Kamo, Whau Valley, Tikipunga, glenbervie, springs flat, three mile bush (to Karanui Road)), Northern region (Kauri, Hikurangi around to Whananaki South), Western region (Out to Tangiteroria and including Ruatanagata down to Maunagtapere and Maunagakaramea to the south etc) Eastern region (Whangarei heads around to Matapouri, to Tamaterau) southern region (Bream Bay, Mangapai, Oakliegh, etc</p> <p>12 days ago</p>
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	<p>If we had fewer/no Wards these names would not apply 13 days ago</p> <p>Glenbervie is not Hikurangi or Coast. 13 days ago</p> <p>Why spend(waste) money on change for change's sake? I believe priorities exist which are far more important than Council branding, ward names, and yes even Council Accommodation. You lack commercial realism because you can simply impose rate hikes.You seem to forget that you should serve ratepayers... 14 days ago</p> <p>Hikurangi / Coastal a non-sensical combination. 14 days ago</p> <p>We need more so I suggest you dump all the names 14 days ago</p> <p>I'm not sure where those places are and where they start and end. Specifically Okara and Denby. 15 days ago</p> <p>ok 15 days ago</p> <p>Okara and Denby names don't really mean much as a geographical name, Whangarei city North and Whangarei city South makes more sense or just combine the wards as they are have similar interests 17 days ago</p> <p>The Denby ward name should relate more to its locality 17 days ago</p> <p>Whangarei Heads is good name the other don't seem practical 17 days ago</p> <p>But I suggest a new ward be formed to better represent the residents of Maunu and Onerahi, and as suggested separate representation for the central city. 21 days ago</p> <p>'Denby' doesn't sound relevant. People don't identify; I am from Denby. 21 days ago</p>
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	<p>Happy with them 22 days ago</p> <p>What is DENBY? A name should reflect the community. 22 days ago</p> <p>We don't need to Maori-ify everything, or change things just for the sake of it. 22 days ago</p> <p>I don't know what Denby means, as there is no such suburb, however, I'd like to see the wards gone anyway. 22 days ago</p> <p>They are working so why change. 22 days ago</p> <p>We live 5km from Maungatapere but aren't in the Mangakahia-Maungatapere ward. We don't feel any links to Bream Bay. 23 days ago</p> <p>I live in Hikurangi-coastal, and don't really relate to either of these titles. The coastal reference in my world relates to people living on the coast, an area where many of my people have been excluded by rates increases forcing land sales by rates arrears, and over valuation of land excluding many from living in the area, or returning to ancestral whenua. Where as Hikurangi is only a small area in the large ward. I would support this ward especially being broken up into two or more different wards. 23 days ago</p> <p>Shot and sweet 23 days ago</p> <p>people know the areas now why change 23 days ago</p> <p>Yes, because don't care what the name is. 23 days ago</p>
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Would you like to see a change to the current six ward structure?

69 out of 71 people answered this question

1	No changes	22 / 32%
2	Yes - No wards (this would be an election "at large" which means that the elected member is elected by anyone in the District rather than just from a particular ward)	19 / 28%
3	Yes - More wards	14 / 20%
4	Yes - A mix of wards and at large	7 / 10%
5	Yes - Less wards	5 / 7%
6	I don't know	2 / 3%

How many councillors do you think the Whangarei District Council should have?

70 out of 71 people answered this question

1	What we currently have (13 councillors and the Mayor)	27 / 39%
2	Less	23 / 33%
3	More	14 / 20%
4	I don't know	6 / 9%

Would you like to see the introduction of community boards?

70 out of 71 people answered this question

1	No	39 / 56%
2	Yes	24 / 34%
3	I don't know	7 / 10%

Do you think the current wards reflect Whangarei's communities of interest?

70 out of 71 people answered this question

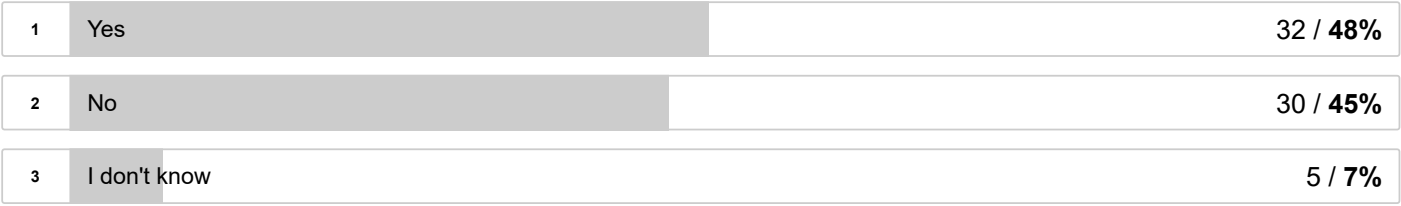
1	No	45 / 64%
2	Yes	21 / 30%
3	I don't know	4 / 6%

Are you happy with the name of our current wards?

Bream Bay

Whangarei Heads
Hikurangi-Coastal
Mangakahia-Maungatapere
Okara
Denby

67 out of 71 people answered this question



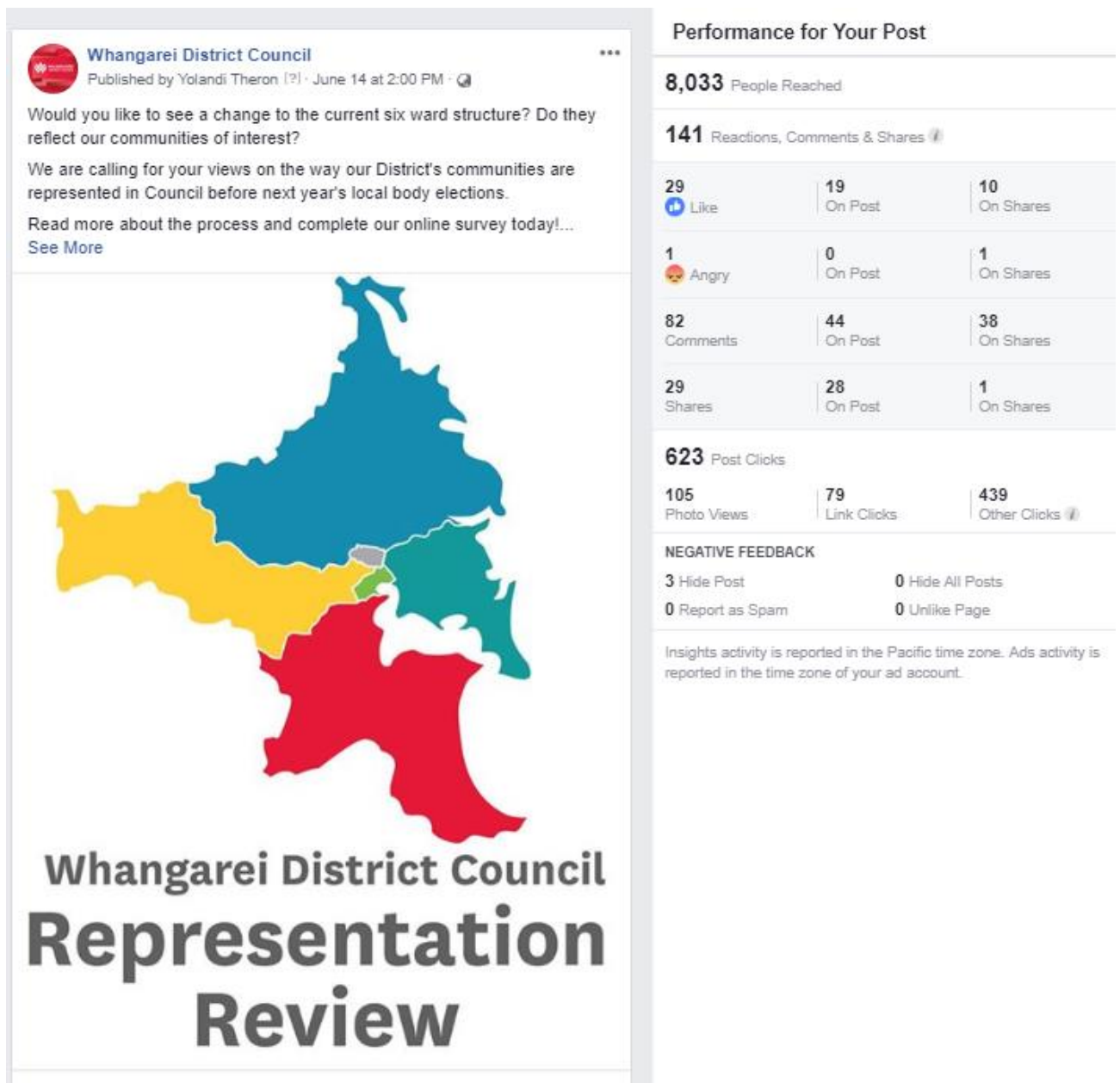
SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

ORGANIC POSTS x 3

Peopled Reached: 11,432

Engagement (People Like, Share or Comment on posts): 161



Whangarei District Council
Published by Yolandi Theron [?] · June 5 at 7:55 PM · 🌐

We are calling for your views on the way our District's communities are represented in Council before next year's local body elections.

Your feedback will guide Council with making its initial decision on representation arrangements.

[Read more about the process and complete our online survey!... See More](#)

Whangarei District Council Representation Review

	WARDS	COUNCILLOR/S
CITY WARDS	Denby	3
	Okara	4
RURAL WARDS	Mangakahia-Maungatapere	1
	Hikurangi-Coastal	2
	Bream Bay	2
	Whangārei Heads	1

Performance for Your Post

1,875 People Reached

14 Likes, Comments & Shares 🗨️

4 Likes **2** On Post **2** On Shares

4 Comments **4** On Post **0** On Shares

6 Shares **6** On Post **0** On Shares

73 Post Clicks

21 Photo Views **12** Link Clicks **40** Other Clicks 📊

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide Post **0** Hide All Posts

0 Report as Spam **0** Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Whangarei District Council
Published by Yolandi Theron (P) · Yesterday at 10:38 AM · 🌐

Have you filled in the online survey yet and let us know what you would like to see change in the current ward structure? Do they reflect our communities of interest?

The survey is closing tonight! We are calling for your views on the way our District's communities are represented in Council before next year's local body elections.

Read more about the process ► [bit.ly/2sHJGrY...](https://bit.ly/2sHJGrY) See More



	WARDS	COUNCILLOR/S
CITY WARDS	Denby	3
	Okara	4
	Mangakahia-Maungatapere	1
RURAL WARDS	Hikurangi-Coastal	2
	Bream Bay	2
	Whangarei Heads	1

Performance for Your Post

1,524 People Reached

6 Likes, Comments & Shares 🗳️

1 Likes **0** On Post **1** On Shares

3 Comments **0** On Post **3** On Shares

2 Shares **2** On Post **0** On Shares

64 Post Clicks

16 Photo Views **12** Link Clicks **36** Other Clicks 🗳️

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide Post **0** Hide All Posts

0 Report as Spam **0** Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

PAID ADVERTISING

Post = 1

Reach = 5,316

Impressions = 11,397

Spent = \$73.93

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTS:

we who live on sth side of whangarei DONT live anywhere near Ruakaka, so why vote 4 councillors from the ward who have NEVER knocked on our door in Smeaton Dr area.... its jst a joke.

Have the same problem at whatitiri one half of the road bream bay other side maungakahia its ridiculous

Why is Glenbervie under Whangarei Heads Ward....ridiculous...our "elected" councillor has no interest whatsoever in Glenbervie...just the Heads!!!

The names of the wards are an anachronism. I can never figure the Denby ward out.

Māori ward please

where would you put it and why do you need it?

it would cover the whole area and needed for Māori voice into council

Surely race based representation is another form of discrimination. This survey is more about equitable representation of everyone. Maori cultural views are now an intrinsic part of all New Zealanders and I feel well represented by council in every stage of its dealings.

I haven't heard any complaints about the current geographically-based representation being a form of discrimination. The wards allow geographic communities of interest to be more adequately represented. Māori are another important community of interest and it seems very important to honour the Treaty of Waitangi by facilitating partnership and participation. I can't see a down-side.

The last thing we need is wards or seats based on race.....it's called apartheid.

we don't want any seats or any representation based on race.

it's not called apartheid; it is called a treaty. Nz was settled by a treaty between two parties maori and the crown. And both of these parties have rights of governance despite what one of those parties claims. It is completely wrong to say representation is race based - it is treaty based.

I can see where this is going.....more wards, more councillors, higher rates.... predictable. Then they'll say it's what the people wanted.

More smoke & mirrors one ward less councillors limited time in office...solved !

More importantly how about restricting the number of terms a councillor runs just because the same 20% grey knitted cardigans who actually VOTE can't see past the same old farts !!! Fresh voices and indigenous voices are what are needed not more (jail)'wards'. What a stupid term anyway.

That's actually a great idea that. Each councillor can only be a councillor for a given period. Instead of living off the rate payer doing bugger all.

I've been told that individual council members aren't 'allowed ' to stand up for their individual wards anyway....they are told to make decisions based on whangarei-wide needs....which effectively makes each ward irrelevant anyway...so why not just one ward with adequate Maori, woman and youth representation based on population stats?

It has to change, we two minutes away from Maungatapere village , on Snooks Rd and we are in Breambay ward ! Why didn't they leave us Mangakahia ward!!

Bream bay is an awfully big ward.... with 2 councillors

I don't care about Breambay, that's 1/2 an hour from our place. We used to be Mangakahia before they changed it !!!!!

Change to what? If it's not broken then don't fix it.