A fresh look at local democracy

How can Council better represent you and your community?

We're reviewing our representation arrangements for the 2022 Council elections.

This is your opportunity to re-imagine your council and how it can work better for our district

Read our proposal for how our ratepayers and residents should be represented – have we got it right?

We'd like your views

Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua

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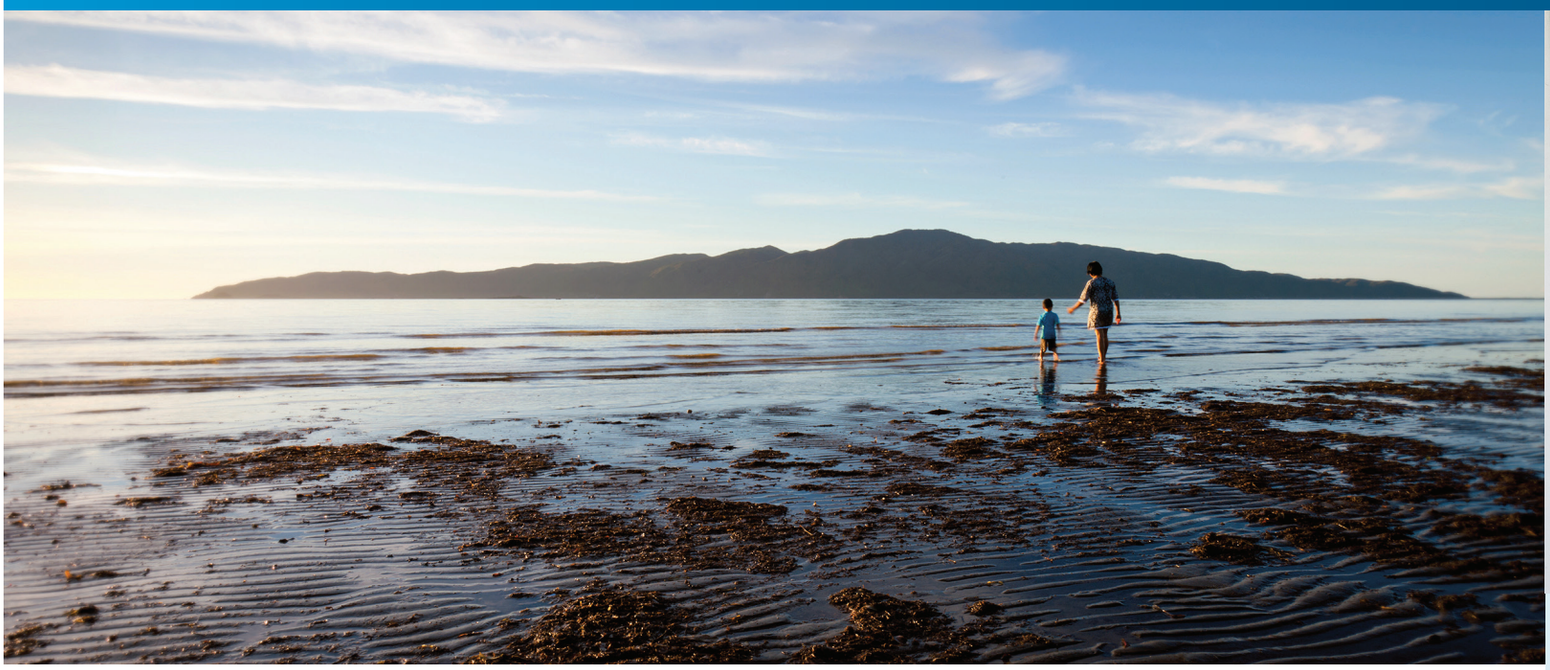


What's a representation review?

Council has a duty to ensure fair and effective representation of our communities through the way we're set up. We must review this arrangement every six years against principles of fair and effective representation and the arrangement's ability to meet our communities' needs and expectations. The decisions we make now will apply to the 2022 local body election.

This document details councillors' initial proposal.

The review covers:

- the number of voting areas (called 'wards'), if any, that is best for our district
- if we have wards, their boundaries and names
- how many councillors there should be
- whether councillors are elected from wards or 'at large' across the whole district, or by a mix of both
- whether there should be community boards in the district and, if so, the number of boards; their names and boundaries; and the number of members for each board.

The following are not included in the review because Council has already decided:

- based on iwi advice, not to establish a Māori ward for electoral purposes ahead of the 2022 local body elections, and
- to keep the Single Transferable Voting (STV) system (for more information on how this works go to **www.stv.govt.nz**).

Some useful terms

A 'community of interest' is a group of people who have a common geographical, economic, social, historical, or other bond – your community of interest is where you feel you belong; where you live, work, shop, and play.

'Fair representation' means each elected ward councillor should represent a similar number of people, within plus or minus 10 percent. This is called the +/- 10 percent rule. We can be outside this (if the Local Government Commission agrees) provided we can justify it with good reasons, such as the need to retain communities of interest.

'Effective representation' is about your access to elected members, and the size and configuration of wards. It considers how our local body voting boundaries reflect your sense of community. It's also about how you get access to councillors, and how they can hear from you.

How to have your say

Consultation is open from Wednesday 1 September until 5pm Monday 4 October 2021.

Have your say online – go to **kapiticoast.govt.nz/haveyoursay**. Alternatively, fill out pages 11–12 and drop your form at any Kāpiti Coast District Council library or service centre (COVID-19 alert levels allowing).

J1709 KCDC Representation Review FA.indd 2 1/09/2021 1:37:22 PM

The current environment

Our representation arrangements haven't changed much in 20 years but Kāpiti, our communities, and your needs and expectations have changed hugely. So has Council and the way we work.

This review is happening in the context of significant change in the local government sector. We need to be agile, to remove barriers, to better reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and to know and understand our communities better.

What we've done

Early in 2021 we undertook qualitative research and engagement with the public using an online survey, street interviews, market pop-ups, community workshops and longer interviews. This gave us in-depth information to help develop options for councillors to consider and refine.

You can find out more about these options and the process councillors followed to develop their initial proposal:
kapiticoast.govt.nz/representation-review

What you've told us

Our communities told us you want a democratic model that brings you closer to your elected representatives and decision-makers, while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest.

Read the Community Voice feedback on our website:
kapiticoast.govt.nz/representation-review

Timeline

March 2021
Inform the community and seek early input

April–May 2021
Analyse feedback and research, seek comment on the options for change or no change

May–August 2021
Councillors consider and refine options

26 August 2021
Council decision on proposal

1 September–4 October 2021
Consultation on proposal

19 October 2021
Submissions heard by Council (if required)

By 11 November 2021
Council decision on final proposal after considering submissions

13 November–13 December
Appeal/objection period

14 December 2021
Proposal becomes final

OR

By 11 April 2022
Local Government Commission makes final binding determination

J1709 KCDC Representation Review FA.indd 3 1/09/2021 1:37:23 PM

How you're represented now

Kāpiti Coast District Council has a mayor and 10 councillors. It's their job to make decisions about our district on behalf of the community. We also have four community boards – one for each ward, each with four members plus the ward councillor. Community boards work with ward councillors to represent your interests. They have 'delegated authority' for some things, like awarding local grants, but can't vote at Council. This is what our current arrangement looks like:

Figure 1. Current wards and boundaries

Ōtaki Ward
Ōtaki Community Board

Ward Councillors: 1
Population: 9,870
Average per Ward Councillor: 9,870
+ or – variance: -13.53%

Waikanae Ward
Waikanae Community Board

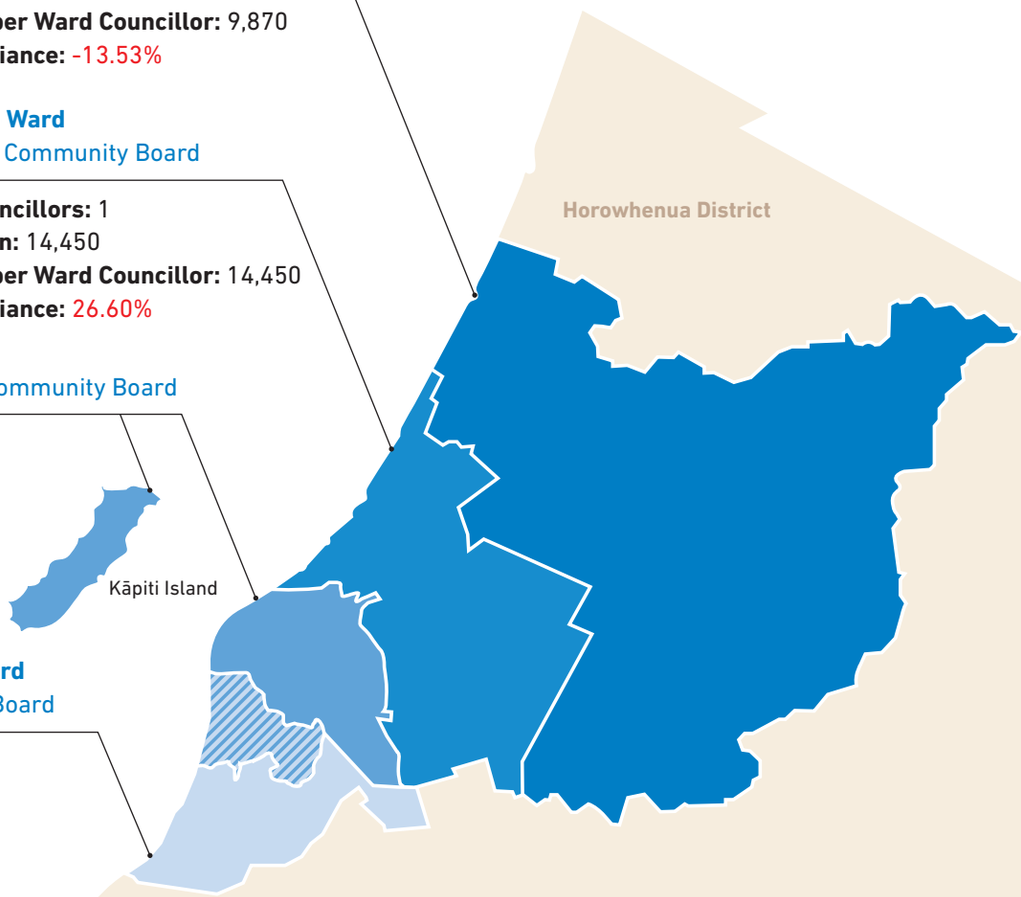
Ward Councillors: 1
Population: 14,450
Average per Ward Councillor: 14,450
+ or – variance: 26.60%

Paraparaumu Ward
Paraparaumu-Raumati Community Board

Ward Councillors: 2
Population: 21,800
Average per Ward Councillor: 10,900
+ or – variance: -4.50%

Paekākāriki-Raumati Ward
Paekākāriki Community Board

Ward Councillors: 1
Population: 10,950
Average per Ward Councillor: 10,950
+ or – variance: -4.07%



Key:

Red numbers show non-compliance with the +/- 10% rule

Source: Stats NZ
Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2020

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Our proposal for 2022

Key elements of the proposal are:

- three large wards
- five ward councillors and five district-wide councillors, plus the mayor.

Read about why councillors are proposing this model on page 10.

Figure 2. Proposed wards and boundaries

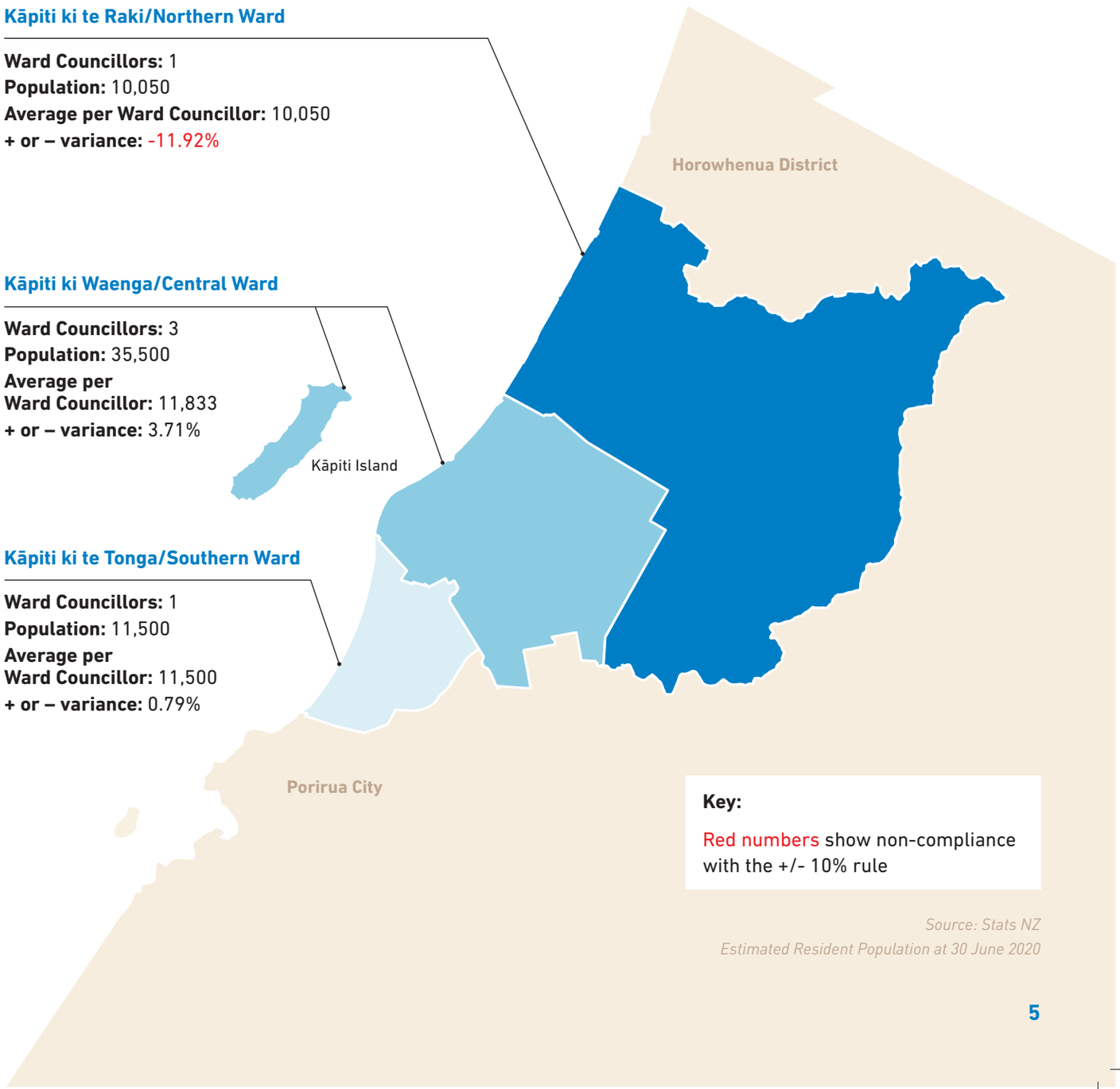

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Figure 3. Key boundary changes for proposed representation model

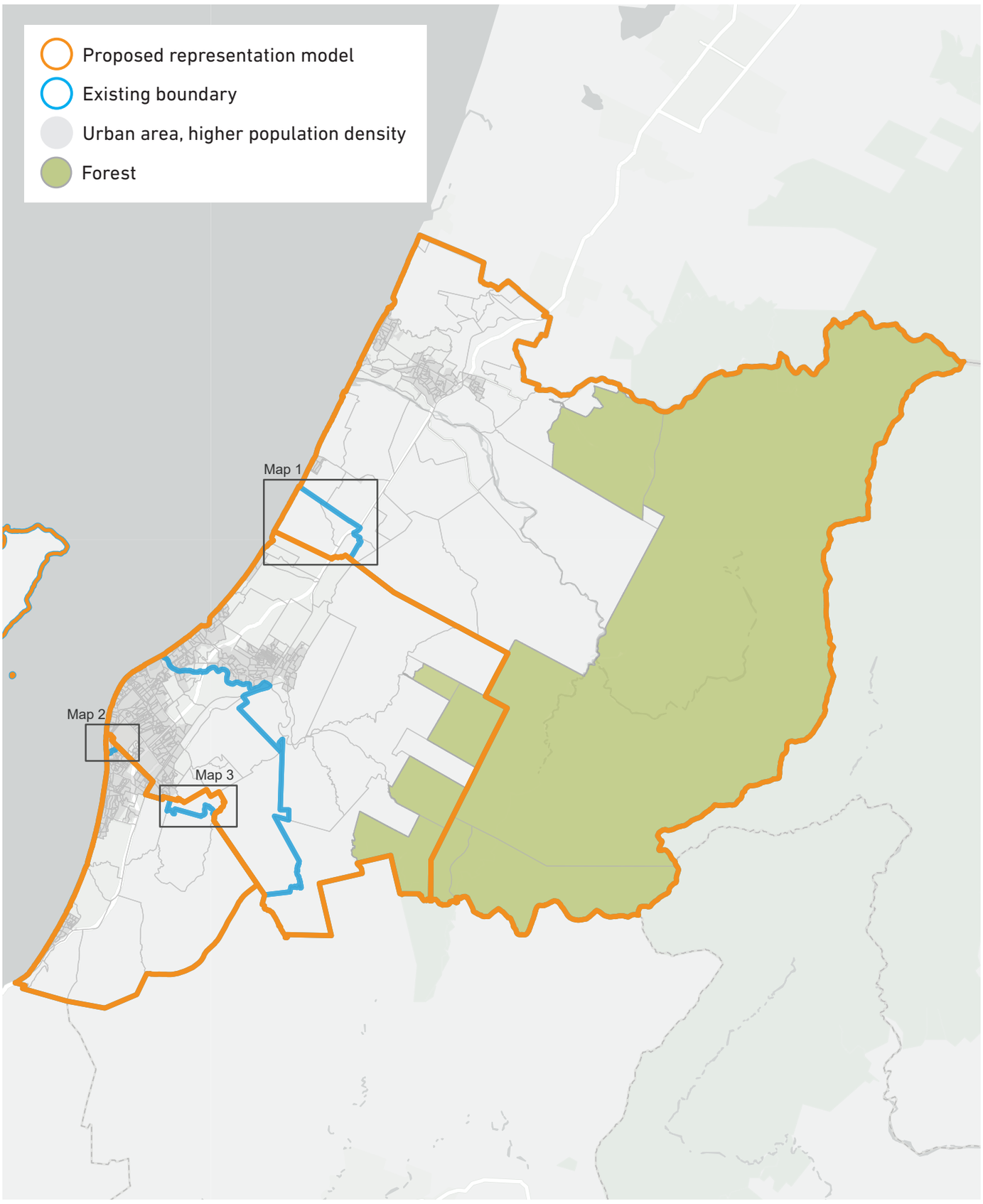

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Figure 4. Map 1

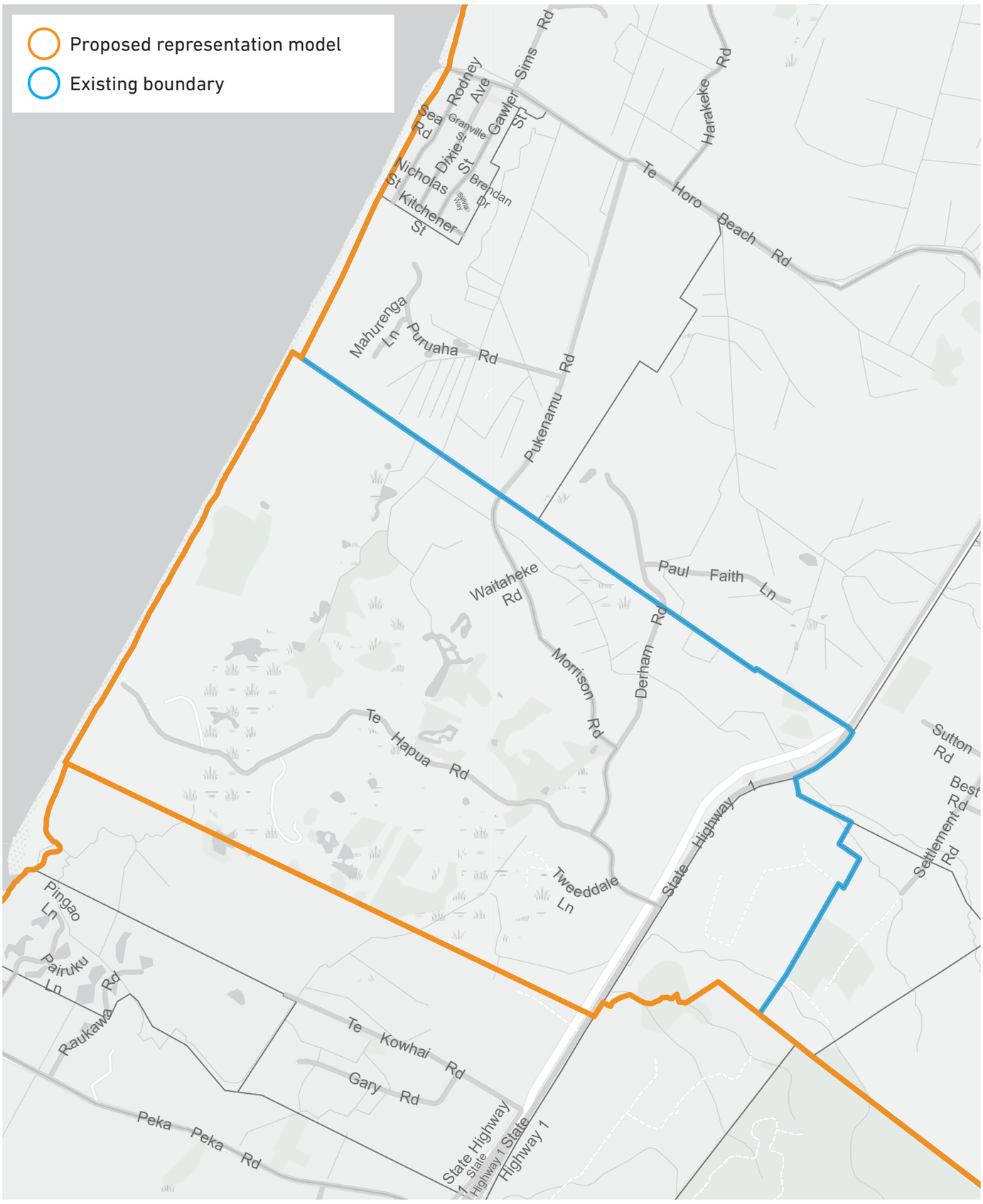

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Figure 5. Map 2

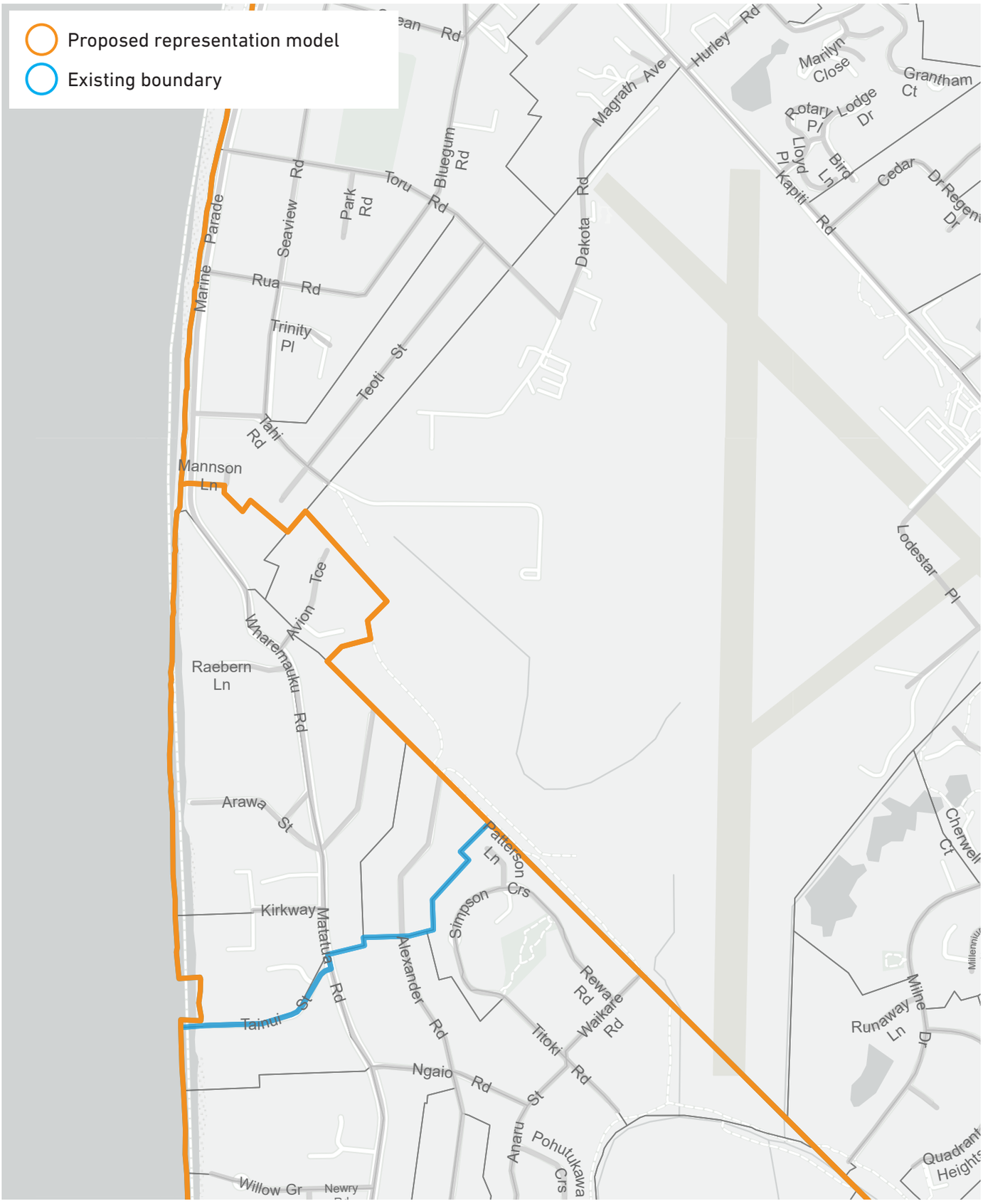

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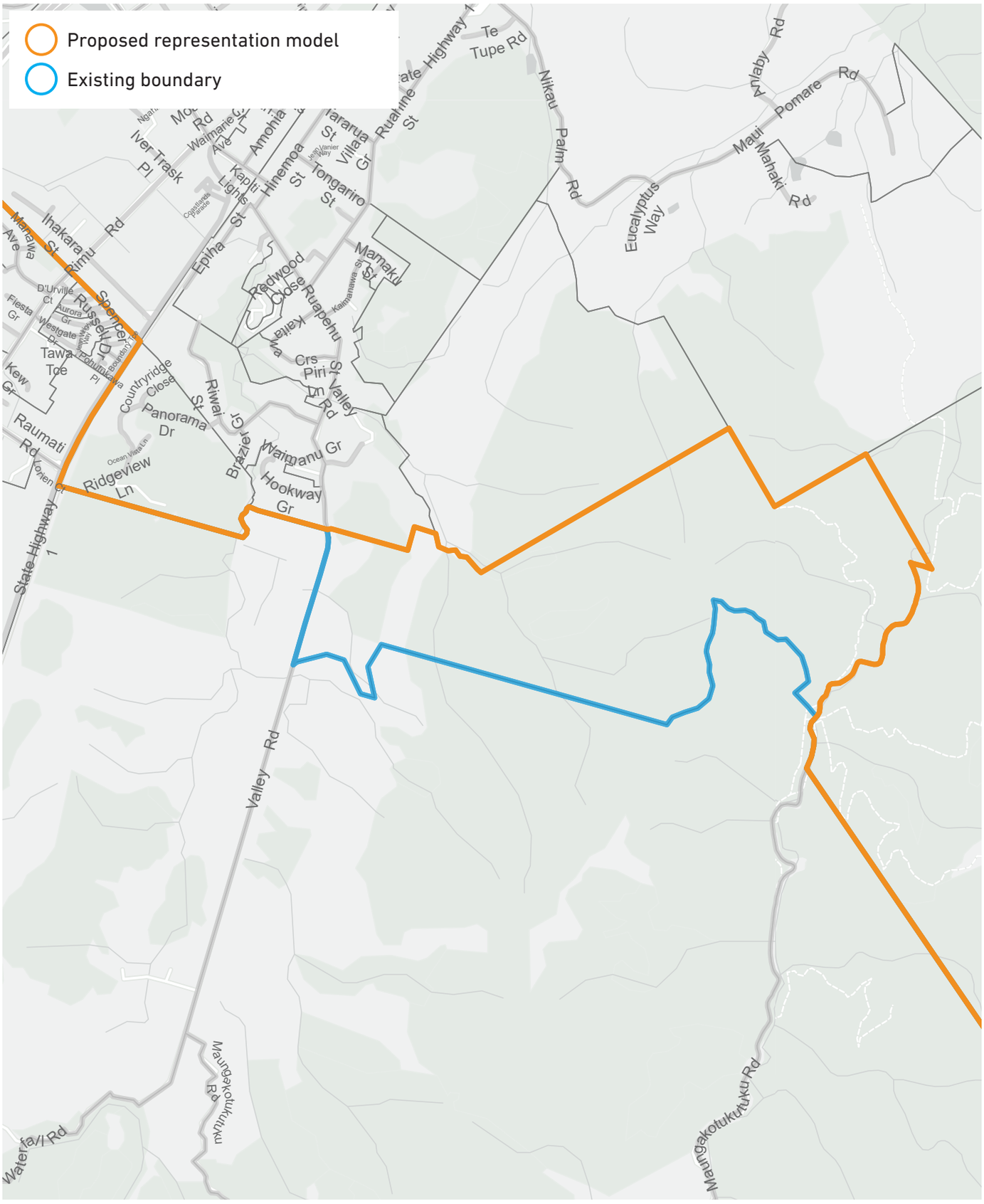
Figure 6. Map 3



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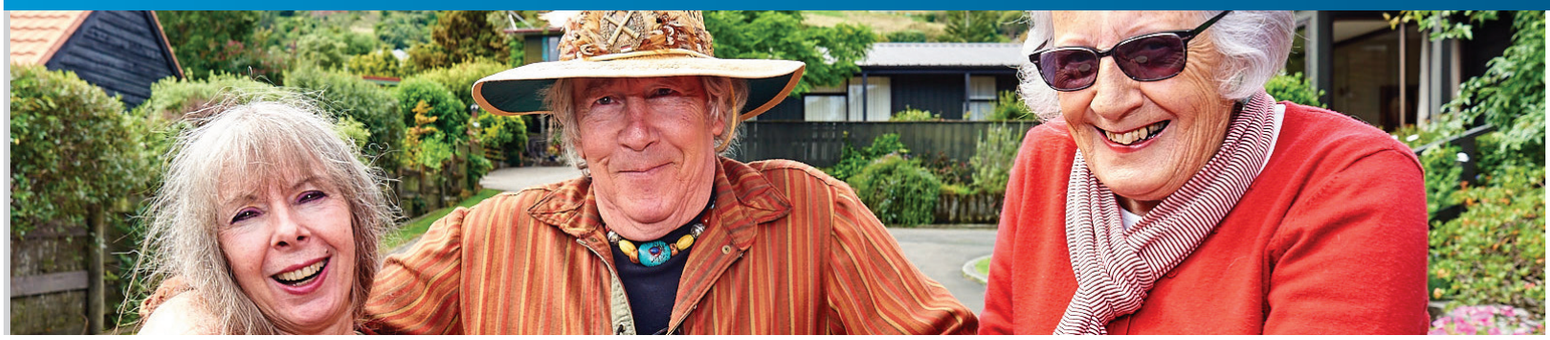

Reasons for the proposal

Wards

Councillors believe the proposal for three large wards with a mix of ward and district-wide councillors strikes a balance between representatives who are close to local issues and those who take a district-wide view. A new ward structure and boundaries reflects recognised communities of interest while maintaining a reasonably consistent ratio of councillors to population – which cannot be achieved by retaining our current ward structure. You can view the proposed wards and boundaries on the maps (Figures 2–6). Read more at: **kapiticoast.govt.nz/representation-review**

Based on the advice of iwi partners and our Iwi Partnerships team, councillors preferred simple bilingual names for the wards reflecting their geographical position on the map: Kāpiti ki te Raki/Northern Ward, Kāpiti ki Waenga/Central Ward and Kāpiti ki te Tonga/Southern Ward.

Councillors

Our research told us you want councillors to represent our diverse communities at a local level but to also act in the interests of Kāpiti as a whole. Councillors feel the mixed model of ward and district-wide councillors will help the Council as a whole to stay close to the local issues and see the big picture.

People wanted the size of Council to be big enough to ensure diversity of thought and representation, yet small enough to enable efficiency. Councillors feel that the current number of 10 councillors plus the mayor is about right.

Community boards

The research indicated community boards added a confusing layer of bureaucracy, particularly for our more in-need and currently disenfranchised and marginalised communities. The alternative view was that community boards can be a great tool for representation in bringing the voice of the community to Council, but they don't have the teeth they need.

This proposal does not include community boards and instead focuses on councillors and Council staff working together to foster community-led development, and on new, creative, and contemporary ways to help our communities engage more directly with Council. If this proposal is adopted Council will continue to work with our communities on how to best achieve this. About $250,000 a year saved from running community boards could be redirected towards supporting or enhancing other ways of engaging with our community. These could include:

- meeting space/neighbourhood clinics for councillors
- a secretariat to support councillors in the community
- strengthened customer case management
- neighbourhood forums or community panels
- improving or updating community grants mechanisms.

Read more at:
kapiticoast.govt.nz/representation-review

Next steps

If you want to give your feedback verbally at a public hearing on Tuesday 19 October 2021 (COVID-19 restrictions allowing), please mark the box on page 12 and provide your contact details.

Councillors will consider the submissions and adopt a final proposal at their meeting on Thursday 11 November 2021.

The public can appeal or object. The Local Government Commission hears any appeals or objections and decides Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements. If the final proposal does not comply with the legislation in any way (e.g., in terms of the +/-10 percent rule), it will automatically go to the Local Government Commission for a final decision.

J1709 KCDC Representation Review FA.indd 10 1/09/2021 1:37:26 PM

Your feedback

Please tell us what you think of the proposed model. You could answer all or some of the questions below or provide comments for councillors to consider. You can attach an additional page if you need more space.

1. Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)

1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

Please tell us why: _____

_____

2. Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)

1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

Please tell us why: _____

_____

3. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?
(see p10 for the reason this is proposed)

1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

Please tell us why: _____

_____

4. Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 for the reasons this is proposed)

1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

Please tell us why: _____

_____

5. Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 for the changes)

1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

Please tell us why: _____

_____

Continue over to page 12...

J1709 KCDC Representation Review FA.indd 11 1/09/2021 1:37:26 PM

Continued from page 11...

6. Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?

7. Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?

Yes No

Please remember to fill out your details below. We need these to check you are eligible to have a say on this issue and to be able to contact you if you would like to give an oral submission.

Your details

First name: Surname:

Preferred contact method: Please provide either an email address or postal address:

Email: Phone:

Postal address: Postcode:

What ward are you in now?

Ōtaki Waikanae Paraparaumu Paekākāriki-Raumati

Publishing feedback

Your name and feedback will be publicly available in Kāpiti Coast District Council reports held at our libraries and service centres and online, unless you ask for it to be withheld.

If you are providing feedback as an individual and do not wish to have your name published, please tick below:

I do not want my name published with my feedback.

If the feedback is from an organisation, the organisation's name will be published.

What happens to your feedback and personal details?

Councillors will consider your feedback as they make decisions on a final proposal.

Personal information will only be used for the purpose it was collected for, which includes to provide you with a response or notify you about decisions in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020.

For more information

Visit our website: **kapiticoast.govt.nz/representation-review**

Or, the Local Government Commission's website: **lgc.govt.nz/representation-reviews**

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