

HE ARA TĀMATA  
CREATING GREAT PLACES  
Supporting our people

Far North  
District Council  
Te Kauhīhera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki

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Ensuring your community  
is represented fairly  
and effectively

REPRESENTATION  
REVIEW 2021

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Online:  
www.fndc.govt.nz/preview  
for more information and to  
submit online.

Email:  
submissions@fndc.govt.nz

In person:  
You can deliver your  
submission to any Far North  
Service Centre or Library.

By post:  
Far North District Council,  
Private Bag 752,  
Kaikohe 0440.

Submissions to be received by 1 October

We want you to have your say on this initial proposal. You can submit feedback on all proposed changes or just those that affect you. You will have the opportunity to present your submission in person if you choose. If no submissions are received, the initial proposal becomes the final proposal and the process is complete.

YOUR FEEDBACK

The Local Government Commission is required to make its final determination on this review by 10 April 2022. The next local government election is 8 October 2022.

TIMELINE FOR THE  
REPRESENTATION REVIEW

GENERAL  
WARD  
BOUNDARIES

What is a community of interest?

A community of interest is defined as a group of people who are connected in some way. It may be 'functionally', for example through shared schools, shopping or service centres. It might be more 'perceptual' — a sense of belonging to a place through historic use or cultural practice. It could be a political affinity that unites a group of people, or a topographic connection, such as a river catchment or mountain. It is likely that a community of interest includes elements of more than one of these factors.

The Council has considered the district's growth since the last review. It believes the existing structure — three general wards, and three community boards — is still effective and fair. Some adjustments to ward subdivisions are necessary to cater for communities of interest.

What is different or new?

1. Minor adjustments to align communities of interest:

Awanui

Ōkaihau

Pākaraka

Ngāpipito

Waimate North

Taumārere

South Whangaroa

Maromākū and Waiomio

2. Creation of a new Waipapa subdivision, recognising this area as a community of interest.

3. Rename the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa ward to Te Pēwhairangi — Whangaroa (being the Māori name for Bay of Islands-Whangaroa)

COMMUNITY  
BOARD  
BOUNDARIES

What is effective representation?

To be effective, communities of interest should not be split. The size and geography of an area should allow representatives and constituents to have reasonable access to each other, so that public and face-to-face meetings are possible. To be effective elected representatives need to be able to represent the variety of views within their area.

Community boards will stay as they are now, but with some minor tweaks to bring communities of interest together and ensure population changes don't adversely affect fair representation.

A NEW MĀORI WARD: NGĀ TAI O TOKERAU

Council voted to establish Māori wards in May 2021. It is a practical demonstration of our commitment to tangata whenua, and it better reflects the needs and aspirations of the Far North community, half of which identifies as Māori.

Candidates standing for election in a Māori ward do not need to be of Māori descent, but must be nominated by two electors from the Māori electoral roll within that Māori ward.

Those on the Māori electoral roll can vote for someone standing in their Māori ward. Those on the general electoral roll can vote for someone standing in their general ward.

Councillors elected to represent Māori wards sign the same oath as other councillors. When making decisions as a councillor, they represent all the people of the Far North, just as general councillors do.

PROPOSED  
SUBDIVISION  
STRUCTURE

Subdivision changes

North Cape Subdivision

Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision

Doubtless Bay Subdivision

Kaitia Subdivision

North Hokianga Subdivision

South Hokianga Subdivision

Kaikohe Subdivision

Whangaroa Subdivision

Waipapa Subdivision

Kerikeri Subdivision

Paihia Subdivision

Russell-Opua Subdivision

Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision

TE HIKU  
WARD

KAIKOHE-  
HOKIANGA  
WARD

TE PĒWHAIRANGI —  
WHANGAROA  
WARD

# REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2021

*The Representation Review 2021 is your chance to think about how many Councillors and Community Board members there should be at the Far North District Council, and if there are enough to effectively represent your community.*

Every six years<sup>1</sup> we are required by law to review representation arrangements in the Far North and to check whether the structure of the Council accurately reflects our communities.

The Representation Review considers the following:

- Total number of Councillors
- Total number of Community Boards
- Number, boundaries and names of the electoral areas (wards)
- Number, boundaries and name of subdivisions within each ward
- Number of Councillors needed to effectively represent each ward
- Number of Community Board members needed to effectively represent each subdivision.

1. Local Electoral Act (LEA) 2001

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STRUCTURE

### TE HIKU WARD

2 councillors



6 Community Board members  
4 subdivisions:



### KAIKOHE-HOKIANGA WARD

1 councillor



6 Community Board members  
3 subdivisions:



## CURRENT STRUCTURE

### What the law says

The Local Electoral Act sets out the minimum and maximum size for a council. The minimum size is six councillors; the maximum possible is 29.

*Far North District Council currently has three wards and three Community Boards. Members of Community Boards represent subdivisions within each ward. This structure has been in place since 2010.*

The Council has **nine Councillors** and **19 Community Board members**.

Far North residents elect Councillors to make decisions on their behalf. With their mandate from electors, Councillors must make decisions based on what is the best for the district as a whole. Councillors should be transparent, accountable and must work together to make decisions.

Community Boards are closely connected to their respective communities. Members are elected according to subdivisions and their role is to represent and advocate for the interests of their community.

### Mayor

Elected 'at large' (district wide)



9 councillors

Elected from general wards



19 Community Board members

Elected from subdivisions



### NEW MĀORI WARD: NGĀ TAI O TOKERAU

4 new councillors

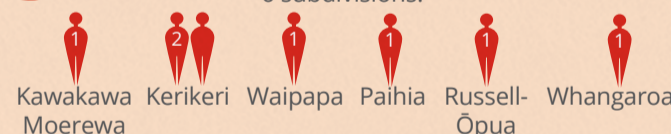


### TE PĒWHAIRANGI-WHANGAROA WARD

3 councillors



7 Community Board members  
6 subdivisions:



## PROPOSED STRUCTURE



We propose increasing the number of councillors to 10 to reflect the increase in population since the last review in 2015.



The Community Boards and general wards remain the same and there will be the same number of Community Board members.



We know that some communities have been split by subdivision and/or ward boundaries. We have fixed this, resulting in minor border swaps between Community Boards.



We are introducing a Māori ward to cover the entire district, and there will be four councillors elected at large for this ward. The remaining six general councillors will be elected to the general wards in which they stand.



Finally, we propose to introduce a new subdivision for Waipapa, based on feedback from our elected members and the public.

## BIG ENOUGH YET SMALL ENOUGH

### Balance in all things

The ratio of general and Māori wards is set by legislation. The total number of councillors to be elected is based on the district's Māori electoral population (MEP) and the general electoral population (GEP). The proposal to move to 10 councillors equates to four councillors elected to the Māori ward and six general ward councillors.

*Under the existing structure, Far North District Council has nine councillors. This number works well, but there will be benefits if we add an additional councillor.*

Ten councillors (plus the Mayor) could:

1. More easily spread the workload
2. Continue to easily reach clear majority decisions
3. Reflect our district's diversity of voices, but still small enough to work collaboratively and make decisions quickly when required
4. Continue tight-knit working relationships
5. Share of total remuneration package still sufficient to make this a viable career option for younger people from all backgrounds.

### What is fair representation?

Fair representation means each elected member represents roughly the same number of people. There is a "plus or minus 10% rule" to help us avoid unnatural divisions between wards. In 2020, the Far North had an estimated resident population of 71,050 with 25,000 on the Māori electoral roll and 46,050 on the general roll. That means:

- Each general ward councillor represents between 6907 and 8442 people
- Each Māori ward councillor represent between 5625 and 6875 people.