

FINAL PROPOSAL FOR REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2022 LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS

On 5 October 2021, Northland Regional Council considered the submissions received on its Representation Review 2021 – Initial Proposal regarding the representation arrangements for the council and its constituencies to apply for the local authority elections to be held on 08 October 2022.

The council received a total of 31 submissions and two (2) late submissions, which were subsequently accepted. The key themes identified were:

- A fair balance as proposed
- Expanding and/or dividing the Whangārei Central General constituency
- Alternative configurations to the proposed nine (9) councillors
- Alternative proposals to the Te Raki Māori constituency
- Council's decision to establish Māori constituencies
- Non-Māori candidates standing in Māori constituencies

Representation Review 2021 – Final Proposal

Having considered all submissions, council resolved at its meeting on 19 October 2021 to adopt its Initial Proposal as the council's Final Proposal with no amendments.

Therefore, it is proposed the council comprise a total of nine (9) councillors, being seven (7) general councillors elected from seven (7) general constituencies and two (2) Māori councillors elected from one (1) region-wide Māori constituency. The names and descriptions of the eight (8) constituencies are as follows:

i. Far North General

Extending from Cape Reinga and down the west coast to Waipoua. Includes the service centres of Kaitiāia and Kaikohe.

ii. Bay of Islands – Whangaroa General

Includes the Whangaroa Harbour, the Bay of Islands and the surrounding settlements (including Kerikeri, Waipapa, Russell and Paihia).

iii. Kaipara General

Very similar to the current constituency; extending from Waipoua down to the southern boundary of the Northland region. Includes the service centres of Dargaville and Kaiwaka.

iv. Mid North General

The inland region stretching from Pakaraka down to the northern and western suburbs of Whangārei. Includes the townships of Hikurangi, Towai, Kawakawa and Moerewa.

v. Coastal Central General

The coastal fringe to the north and east of Whangārei – extending from Taupiri Bay down to Bream Head.

vi. Whangārei Central General

Focussed on the Whangārei central business district.

vii. Coastal South General

Incorporates the coastal fringe south of Whangārei and includes the service centres of Waipū, Ruakaka and Mangawhai.

viii. Te Raki Māori

All of the region

The population that each councillor will represent is as follows:

Constituency	2020 General Electoral Population Estimate	2020 Māori Electoral Population Estimate	General Population Growth since 2018*	Annual General Population Growth Rate	Number of councillors	Fits +/- 10% rule?
Far North General	21,500		1,100	2.6%	1	Yes
Bay of Islands – Whangaroa General	21,100		1,150	2.7%	1	Yes
Kaipara General	19,900		600	1.5%	1	Yes
Mid North General	20,300		850	2.1%	1	Yes
Coastal Central General	20,800		900	2.2%	1	Yes
Whangārei Central General	22,300		600	1.3%	1	Yes
Coastal South General	21,000		2,200	5.2%	1	Yes
Te Raki Māori		47,610			2	N/A
Total	146,900	47,610				

* Based on the population estimates as of 30 June 2020

In accordance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the population that each general councillor represents must be within the population range 20,985 plus or minus 10% (18,886 – 23,083), which all general constituencies comply with.

Reasons for the decision to decline matters raised in submissions

The council, in its deliberations, declined matters raised in opposing submissions for the following reasons:

1. The Whangārei Central General constituency recognises that people living in Whangārei have easy access to the Northland Regional Council main office, its services and its councillors, whereas this is not typically the case in more remote areas of the region. Furthermore, a greater spread of councillors across the region provides the best net representation for the region.
2. The configuration of seven (7) general councillors and two (2) Māori councillors is the best balance of providing effective representation, balancing workload, encouraging diversity and effective decision making.
3. Determining the areas for two or more Māori constituencies is complex and can be reviewed in the term of the next council when council has a better understanding of how Māori representation is working in practice.
4. The dividing of the region into general constituencies with a single councillor from each general constituency (as compared to a single general constituency for the region) better represents communities of interest and better promotes effective and fair representation.
5. The decision to conduct the 2022 local body elections using the First Past the Post electoral system and to establish one or more Māori constituencies has already been made by council and cannot be revisited or reversed through the representation process.
6. The ability for those of non-Māori descent to stand in Māori constituencies is a matter of law and not in council's discretion to change.

Further information

Copies of the Representation Review 2021 – Final Proposal, resolution and maps setting out the areas of the constituencies may be viewed and obtained from any of the council's offices or on our website www.nrc.govt.nz/representationmatters

Appeal process

In accordance with section 190 of the Local Electoral Act 2001, any person who made a submission on the council's Initial Proposal may lodge an appeal against the council's Final Proposal. An appeal must identify the matters to which it relates and may only raise matters that were raised in the original submission.

Appeals must be made in writing (or on hardcopy forms available at all council offices) and should be forwarded to:

- Mail: FreePost 139690, Representation Review, Northland Regional Council, Private Bag 9021, Whangārei Mail Centre, Whangārei
- Email: submissions@nrc.govt.nz
- Hand delivered to all regional council offices

If you have any questions, please call us on 0800 002 004.

Appeals must reach the council by 4pm Friday, 26 November 2021.

