

Election Services

Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland

PO Box 5135, Victoria Street West

Auckland 1142

Phone: 64 9 973 5212

Email: info@electionservices.co.nz

Report to the
Northland Regional Council
regarding the

2022 Triennial Elections

From the
Electoral Officer

24 March 2022



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Outline

The 2022 local government triennial elections occurred on Saturday 8 October 2022. The elections for the Northland Regional Council were conducted by the constituent territorial authorities of Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council and Whangārei District Council and were conducted satisfactorily and on time and met all legislative and practical requirements.

This report summaries the electoral process.

Background

Local government elections are required to be conducted every three years, with the 2022 elections occurring on Saturday 8 October 2022. The conduct of these elections is prescribed by legislation and regulation to ensure public confidence and electoral integrity are maintained.

The following preliminary actions/decisions were made:

- (i) in 2020, Council resolved to retain the FPP (first past the post) electoral system for the 2022 triennial elections;
- (ii) in 2020, Council resolved to establish one or more Māori constituencies for the 2022 and 2025 triennial elections;
- (iii) during 2021, Council undertook a representation arrangements review (a review of constituencies, boundaries, number of elected members etc). The final proposal comprised nine councillors elected from eight constituencies;
- (iv) postal voting to be used;
- (v) the alphabetical order of candidate names to be used;
- (vi) no election was required for the Northland District Health Board.

The electoral officer appointed by the Northland Regional Council is Dale Ofsoske of Election Services.

With the 2022 elections now complete, this report details the various electoral processes undertaken, together with election statistics for the information of Council.

Narrative

Elections Required

Elections were undertaken for:

Northland Regional Council (nine members)

- one member elected from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency
- one member elected from the Coastal Central General Constituency
- one member elected from the Coastal South General Constituency
- one member elected from the Far North General Constituency
- one member elected from the Kaipara General

Constituency

- one member elected from the Mid North General Constituency
- one member elected from the Whangārei Central General Constituency
- two members elected from the Te Raki Māori Constituency

Election Timetable

Key election functions and dates were:

Nomination period

15 July – 12 August 2022

Inspection of Preliminary Electoral Roll

15 July – 12 August 2022

Delivery of voting mailers

16-21 September 2022

Special voting/early processing

16 September – 8 October 2022

Election day

8 October 2022

Preliminary count

9 October 2022

Official count

9-14 October 2022

Return of Electoral Donations & Expenses Form

by 9 December 2022

Electoral Roll

For each constituent territorial authority, the electoral roll comprises two parts, the Residential Electoral Roll and the Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

The Residential Electoral Roll contains parliamentary electors, whose details are maintained and supplied by the Electoral Commission.

Each constituent territorial authority is responsible for compiling its own non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

To compile the Ratepayer Electoral Roll, three actions are required:

- (i) issuing an explanatory ratepayer roll flyer with all constituent territorial authority rates notices;
- (ii) a nationwide advertising campaign on the criteria of ratepayer elector qualifications and enrolment procedures; and
- (iii) the issuing of Ratepayer Confirmation Forms to all

eligible 2019 Ratepayer Electoral Roll electors, and if returned, these along with any new enrolments, form the basis of the 2022 Ratepayer Electoral Roll for each constituent territorial authority.

A national advertising campaign was undertaken by Taituarā during May 2022 advising readers in all major daily newspapers of the criteria and qualifications required to be eligible for the Ratepayer Electoral Roll. A 0800 free-phone service was again used as a national helpline for ratepayer roll enquiries.

In April 2022 a total of 722 Ratepayer Roll Confirmation Forms were issued to eligible 2019 Ratepayer Electoral Roll electors across the region. A total of 661 non-resident ratepayer electors appeared on the respective constituent territorial authority 2022 Ratepayer Electoral Rolls.

Preliminary and Final Electoral Rolls

The Preliminary Electoral Rolls were available for public inspection at each constituent territorial authority office/service centre and library during normal office hours between 15 July 2022 and 12 August 2022.

Statistics relating to the Final Electoral Rolls are as follows:

Territorial Authority	Final Roll		
	No. Residents	No. Ratepayers	Total
Far North District	47,101	143	47,244
Kaipara District	17,274	315	17,589
Whangārei District	66,691	203	66,894
TOTAL	131,066	661	131,727

The total number of electors in the region was 131,727, being 131,066 resident electors and 661 non-resident ratepayer electors. This is an increase of 11,179 electors to the 2019 Final Electoral Rolls of 120,548 electors (or +9.27%).

However, the total number of electors eligible to vote for the Northland Regional Council was 131,647 once 80 non-resident ratepayer electors were removed as not being eligible to vote for the Northland Regional Council more than once.

Nominations

The nomination period was 15 July to noon 12 August 2022.

Nomination material was available during this period by:

- (i) visiting a constituent territorial authority office/service centre;
- (ii) downloading the material from the Council's website;
- (iii) phoning the electoral office.

A detailed '2022 Candidate Information Handbook' was prepared and made available to all candidates, any interested party (e.g. media) and placed online. The handbook contained relevant information about the electoral process to potential candidates.

A total of 24 nominations were received for the nine Council vacancies, these detailed as follows:

Constituency	No. Nominations	No. Vacancies
Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General	4	1
Coastal Central General	3	1
Coastal South General	1	1
Far North General	4	1
Kaipara General	2	1
Mid North General	4	1
Te Raki Māori	4	2
Whangārei Central General	2	1
Total	24	9

For the Coastal South General Constituency, the number of nominations received equaled the number of vacancies, and the candidate was duly declared elected following the close of nominations. Refer Notice of Day of Election – **Appendix 2**.

The 24 nominations received was higher than the 19 received for the 2019 election (or +26.3%).

Voting Mailers

Voting mailers consisting of an outward envelope, return prepaid envelope, voting document and a candidate profile booklet (which included instructions in English and Māori) were posted to electors by the constituent territorial authorities from Friday 16 September 2022.

The voting mailers were produced by the NZ Post Group and were consistent in design layout to all other local authorities in the country.

Special Voting

Special votes were available from 16 September 2022 to noon 8 October 2022 by:

- (i) visiting one of the constituent territorial authority offices or libraries;
- (ii) phoning the electoral office.

Elector Turnout

In total, of the 131,647 electors on the constituent territorial authorities Final Electoral Rolls eligible to vote for the regional council, a total of 56,855 electors returned their vote. This represents a 43.2% return and compares to a 45.56% return in 2019.

By constituent territorial authority, voter returns were:

Far North District Council: 41.5%

Kaipara District Council: 47.6%

Whangārei District Council: 43.3%

A schedule of the number of daily returned voting documents over the voting period by constituency is attached (**Appendix 1**).

Of note, the 2022 average nationwide elector turnout is 45.58% compared to 41.7% for the 2019 election and 42% for the 2016 election.

Results

With the undertaking of the early processing of returned voting documents during the voting period, progress results were released on election day at around 1pm. Progress results reflected about 75% of votes cast and excluded votes received at constituent territorial authority offices during the last couple of days of the voting period and special votes received.

The preliminary results were released around 1pm on Sunday following the receipt and processing of a large number of votes received at the constituent territorial authority offices during the last couple of days of the voting period.

The preliminary results reflected about 98% of votes cast, and these statistics show about 23% of all votes cast were received at the constituent territorial authority offices on the

Friday and Saturday morning.

Both the progress and preliminary results were released to candidates and placed on Council's website.

The final results (Declaration of Results of Election – see **Appendix 3**) were made on Friday 14 October 2022 and placed on Council's website.

Election Costs

The 2022 estimated election cost set in August 2020 was \$206,600 + GST (or for an estimated 127,500 electors, \$1.62 + GST per elector), subject to actual costs incurred.

The 2022 final election cost has now been determined at \$268,602 + GST (or for 131,647 electors, \$2.04 + GST per elector).

The cost increase (\$62,002 + GST) is largely due to:

- (i) a higher than budgeted cost of postage (an additional \$29,761 + GST across the three constituent territorial authorities), due to a late change in pricing by NZ Post from a nationwide unit price to each council's zonal pricing (the rural zone being the highest rate); and
- (ii) a higher than budgeted cost of voting mailers (an additional \$29,830 + GST across the three constituent territorial authorities), due to more combinations of voting documents required following the introduction of Māori wards and constituencies.

The cost payable to each constituent territorial authority for the Council's share of election costs is:

- Far North District Council: \$84,027 + GST
- Kaipara District Council: \$46,382 + GST
- Whangarei District Council: \$112,795 + GST

Upcoming Issues

Inquiry into the 2022 elections

Parliament's Justice Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into the conduct of the 2022 local government elections. Submissions closed on 14 February 2023.

The committee is examining the law and administrative procedures, with particular reference to:

- low voter turnout
- the provision of election services by private organisations, with particular reference to:
 - special voting
 - provision of ballot papers
 - complaint processes
 - accountability for local elections
 - postal voting (including security of ballots and whether postal voting is an effective method of receiving votes)
- the age of eligible voters (with reference to lowering the age of eligible voters to 16 years).

Electoral System Review

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, a local authority may resolve, before 12 September 2023, to change the electoral system used at the last election, unless a poll on the matter was recently held. Should Council wish to consider changing its electoral system, it can do so by resolution no later than 12 September 2023.

However, a public notice must be given by 19 September 2023 providing the right of electors to demand a poll on the decision.

Māori Representation Review

As Council resolved in 2020 to establish one or more Māori constituencies for the 2022 and 2025 triennial elections, no further action on this is required.

Representation Arrangements Review

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires every local authority to undertake a representation arrangements review at least once every six-years. As Council last undertook a review in 2021, it is not required to conduct a full review until 2027. However, Council is able to undertake another review after three-years (2024) if required (for example to further review constituency boundaries and/or representation).

Local Government Electoral Legislation Bill

The electoral system, Māori representation and representation arrangements review processes are subject to the Local Government Electoral Legislation Bill currently before Parliament (2nd Reading), which if passed, will introduce changes to the legislative dates and requirements

outlined below:

Electoral system:

- If a successful demand for a poll of electors to change the electoral system is received by **11 December 2023** (currently 21 February 2024), or Council resolves to change the electoral system by **11 December 2023** (currently 21 February 2024), a poll **must** be held by **14 March 2024** (currently 21 May 2024) (sec 28 LEA).

Māori representation:

- If Māori representation is not already established, Council **must** consult with, and have regard for the views of Māori and other communities, concerning the establishment of Māori representation **by 20 December 2023** (sec 19GA LEA);
- If Māori representation is not already established, Council **must** resolve whether or not to establish Māori representation **by 20 December 2023** (sec 19GA LEA);
- If Council resolves to establish Māori representation, public notice **must** be given **by 3 January 2024** (sec 19GA LEA) and Māori representation must form part of the ensuing representation arrangements review.

Representation arrangements review:

- **From 20 December 2023** (currently 1 March 2024), a formal consultation/resolution period of initial representation arrangements review proposal commences, concluding **no later than 31 July 2024** (currently 31 August 2024) (sec 19K (1AA) LEA);
- Council **must** give public notice of resolution of initial proposal **by 8 August 2024** (currently by 8 September 2024), with submission period of at least one month (**by 8 September 2024** - currently by 8 October 2024) (sec 19M LEA);
- Submissions heard by Council, and resolution of final proposal **must** be made by **3 November 2024** (currently 19 November 2024) (sec 19N LEA);
- Council **must** give public notice of its resolution of final proposal **within eight weeks of the close of submissions (3 November 2024** - currently 19 November 2024), with an appeal/objection period of at least one month (sec 19N LEA);

- If an appeal/objection is received by **3 December 2024** (currently 20 December 2024), the final proposal is submitted to the Local Government Commission **by 20 December 2024** (currently 15 January 2025) (sec 19Q LEA).

Summary and Conclusions

The Northland Regional Council's 2022 triennial elections were conducted successfully and met all legislative and practical requirements. No issues or concerns of significance arose from these elections and all tasks were completed satisfactorily and on time.

There are however several electoral issues Council may wish to consider during 2023/24:

- (i) consider whether Council retains the first past the post electoral system or changes it the single transferable voting electoral system for the 2025 triennial elections – by 12 September 2023 but **must** place public notice of the electoral system to be used for the 2025 triennial election and the right of electors to demand a poll – by 19 September 2023;
- (ii) consider whether Council reviews any current representation arrangements in 2024 (**optional**) e.g. constituency boundaries/representation.



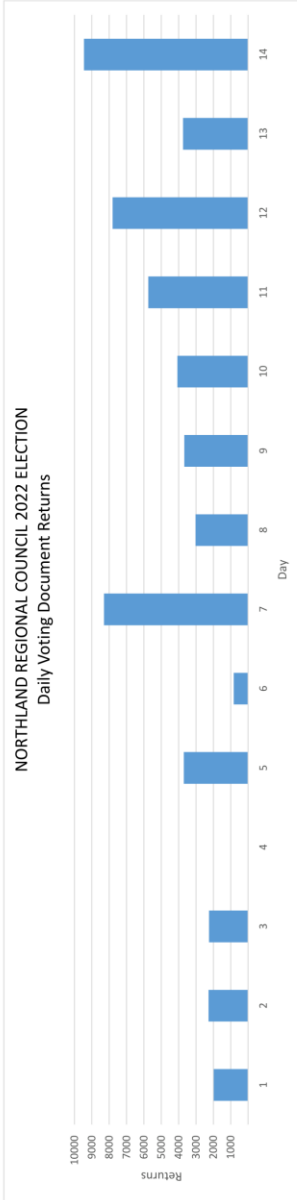
Dale Ofoske
Electoral Officer // Northland Regional Council
Election Services

APPENDIX 1



VOTING DOCUMENT RETURNS - 2022 ELECTIONS

WARD/ELECTORS	Election Day Including Special Votes													
	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct
COASTAL CENTRAL GENERAL CONSTITUENCY 15404	225 1.5%	225 2.9%	500 6.2%	950 6.2%	1575 9.9%	1575 10.2%	1175 17.9%	500 21.1%	525 24.5%	575 28.2%	950 34.4%	500 40.6%	525 44.0%	1117 51.2%
COASTAL SOUTH GENERAL CONSTITUENCY 15831	400 2.5%	375 4.9%	1200 7.6%	1200 7.6%	1625 10.3%	2025 12.8%	3050 19.3%	400 21.8%	475 24.5%	525 27.8%	650 31.9%	1300 40.1%	675 42.8%	899 48.5%
BAY OF ISLANDS-WHANGAROA GENERAL CONSTITUENCY 15860	200 1.3%	200 2.5%	500 2.8%	450 2.8%	1000 6.3%	1075 6.8%	2200 13.9%	350 16.1%	525 19.4%	4075 25.7%	4450 28.1%	5625 35.5%	5950 37.5%	7323 46.2%
FAR NORTH GENERAL CONSTITUENCY 15665	200 1.3%	325 3.4%	125 4.2%	650 4.2%	1125 7.2%	1175 7.5%	2275 14.6%	400 17.5%	3125 20.0%	3475 22.3%	4250 27.2%	5350 33.6%	5825 37.3%	7067 45.3%
KAIPARA GENERAL CONSTITUENCY 13991	275 2.0%	300 4.1%	825 5.9%	825 5.9%	1275 9.1%	1375 9.8%	2350 16.8%	375 19.5%	425 22.5%	575 23.8%	750 30.0%	1000 36.1%	5050 39.5%	6604 47.2%
MID NORTH GENERAL CONSTITUENCY 14236	200 1.4%	225 3.0%	300 5.1%	725 5.1%	1100 7.7%	1150 8.1%	2100 14.8%	2475 17.4%	375 20.0%	375 24.1%	4175 29.3%	5425 34.6%	6547 38.1%	8122 46.0%
TE RAKI MĀORI CONSTITUENCY 25174	225 0.9%	375 2.4%	250 3.4%	850 3.4%	1250 5.0%	1325 5.3%	2275 9.0%	250 10.0%	2525 11.7%	3400 13.5%	4050 16.1%	4975 19.8%	5550 22.0%	7211 28.6%
WHANGĀREI CENTRAL GENERAL CONSTITUENCY 15556	250 1.6%	250 3.7%	350 5.5%	850 5.5%	1300 8.4%	1325 8.5%	2325 14.9%	325 17.0%	3225 20.7%	3650 23.5%	4375 28.1%	5225 33.6%	5725 35.8%	6337 42.0%
TOTAL 131647	1975 1.5%	2275 3.2%	2500 4.9%	6500 4.9%	10200 7.7%	11025 8.4%	19325 14.7%	22350 17.0%	26025 19.8%	30100 22.9%	38850 27.2%	43650 33.2%	47400 36.0%	56855 43.2%
Daily %	1.5%	1.7%	1.7%	0.0%	2.8%	0.6%	6.3%	2.3%	2.8%	3.1%	4.4%	5.9%	2.8%	7.2%



APPENDIX 2



NOTICE OF DAY OF ELECTION FOR THE 2022 ELECTIONS OF NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Nominations received

Notice is given under section 65 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 that the following persons have been duly nominated as candidates for:

Far North General Constituency (*one vacancy*)

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
BLAIKIE	Justin	Independent
CARR	Joe	
SAMSON	Clyde	
YURETICH	Marty	

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency (*one vacancy*)

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
GENTRY	Phil	SOVEREIGN.nz
GILL	Peter	Independent
MCINNES	Tania	Independent
ROBINSON	Marty	Independent

Kaipara General Constituency (*one vacancy*)

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
BLACKWELL	John	
SMART	Penny	Independent

Mid North General Constituency (*one vacancy*)

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
ADCOCK	Lesley	Independent
CRAWFORD	Geoff	Independent
MCCAW	John	Independent
SULLIVAN	William	

Coastal Central General Constituency (*one vacancy*)

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
DIMERY	Paul Anthony	Independent
MACDONALD	Amy	
WOODS	Christine	Independent

Whangārei Central General Constituency (*one vacancy*)

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
CRAW	Jack	Independent
SAVAGE	Tony	

Te Raki Māori Constituency (*two vacancies*)

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
BRYERS	Lance	
GRIEVE	Robin	
JONES	Peter-Lucas	
SHORTLAND	Tui	

As there are (for each office) more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, an election will be held between the listed candidates on Saturday, 8 October 2022, under the first past the post electoral system by postal vote.

Elected unopposed

Coastal South General Constituency (*one vacancy*)

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
STOLWERK	Rick	

As the number of candidates does not exceed the number of vacancies, Rick STOLWERK is duly declared elected a member of the Northland Regional Council.

Order of candidate names

The Northland Regional Council has resolved under regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 to adopt the alphabetical order of candidate names to appear on the voting documents.

Issuing of voting documents

Voting documents will be posted to electors by each constituent territorial authority from Friday, 16 September 2022.

Return of voting documents

Voting documents must be returned not later than noon, Saturday, 8 October 2022 to the electoral officer of each constituent territorial authority.

Voting documents can be returned by post or hand delivered at the following council offices between Friday, 16 September 2022 and Friday, 7 October 2022 during normal office hours, and Saturday, 8 October 2022 between 9.00am – noon:

- Whangārei District Council offices (Whangārei and Ruakaka)
- Far North District Council offices (Kaikohe, Kaitaia, Kerikeri, Kāeo, Kawakawa and Rawene)
- Kaipara District Council offices (Dargaville and Mangawhai)

Special voting

Special voting in terms of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 may be exercised at the above council offices and times.

A person can apply to enrol as either a residential or ratepayer elector right up to and including Friday, 7 October 2022 –the day before the close of voting.

Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer

Northland Regional Council

36 Water Street Whangārei

17 August 2022

APPENDIX 3



DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

for the Northland Regional Council 2022 elections

I hereby declare the results of the elections held on 8 October 2022 for the following offices:

Far North General Constituency (<i>one vacancy</i>)	Votes Received
BLAIKIE, Justin (Independent)	1649
CARR, Joe	2585
SAMSON, Clyde	475
YURETICH, Marty	1662
Informal votes received: 336	
Blank votes received: 360	
I therefore declare Joe CARR to be elected.	

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency (<i>one vacancy</i>)	Votes Received
GENTRY, Phil (SOVEREIGN.nz)	1023
GILL, Peter (Independent)	869
MCINNES, Tania (Independent)	2322
ROBINSON, Marty (Independent)	2390
Informal votes received: 344	
Blank votes received: 375	
I therefore declare Marty ROBINSON to be elected.	

Kaipara General Constituency (<i>one vacancy</i>)	Votes Received
BLACKWELL, John	3198
SMART, Penny (Independent)	2969
Informal votes received: 53	
Blank votes received: 384	
I therefore declare John BLACKWELL to be elected.	

Mid North General Constituency (<i>one vacancy</i>)	Votes Received
ADCOCK, Lesley (Independent)	1180

CRAWFORD, Geoff (Independent)	3087
MCCAW, John (Independent)	766
SULLIVAN, William	881
Informal votes received: 53	
Blank votes received: 580	

I therefore declare Geoff CRAWFORD to be elected.

Coastal Central General Constituency (<i>one vacancy</i>)	Votes Received
DIMERY, Paul Anthony (Independent)	2352
MACDONALD, Amy	4384
WOODS, Christine (Independent)	662
Informal votes received: 15	
Blank votes received: 479	

I therefore declare Amy MACDONALD to be elected.

Whangārei Central General Constituency (<i>one vacancy</i>)	Votes Received
CRAW, Jack (Independent)	4062
SAVAGE, Tony	1661
Informal votes received: 6	
Blank votes received: 808	

I therefore declare Jack CRAW to be elected.

Te Raki Māori Constituency (<i>two vacancies</i>)	Votes Received
BRYERS, Lance	2029
GRIEVE, Robin	423
JONES, Peter-Lucas	3597
SHORTLAND, Tui	4922
Informal votes received: 127	
Blank votes received: 289	

I therefore declare Peter-Lucas JONES and Tui SHORTLAND to be elected.

Coastal South General Constituency (*one vacancy*)

Rick STOLWERK was elected unopposed when nominations closed.

Dated Whangārei, 14 October 2022

Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer

Northland Regional Council

36 Water Street Whangārei

Phone: 0800 922 822