

Review of representation arrangements for the 2025 elections – further advice on initial proposal

10 September 2024



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Introduction

Purpose of this document

This document provides staff advice to the Joint Governance Working Party (JGWP) on Auckland Council's 2024 representation review. The review, required by the Local Electoral Act 2001, aims to ensure fair and effective representation across Auckland.

This advice will assist the JGWP in considering feedback from public submissions and submissions from local boards, guiding the recommendations that will be made to the Governing Body. It aims to support the JGWP in making well-informed recommendations to the Governing Body that align with legal requirements and reflect the consultation outcomes. These recommendations will ultimately shape the council's final proposal, which will be publicly notified.

This document summarizes the key themes from the feedback rather than detailing every individual submission. The JGWP has been tasked with hearing these submissions, deliberating on the feedback, and making recommendations for a final proposal. This process includes public hearings, thorough consideration of both written and oral submissions, and local board submissions.

It is recommended that this document is utilised for the purposes of deliberation on agenda items seven to 12 which set out each of the proposed changes in the initial proposal of the JGWP 2 September 2024 agenda.

Initial proposal overview

The initial proposal is provided in Attachment A under Item 5 of the JGWP agenda for 2 September 2024. Each of the proposed changes are outlined in the relevant sections within this document.

Please note, the percentages in the support and opposition tables come from the insights analysis report. These figures show the percentage of submissions coded under each theme from the comments provided by submitters.

At a high level, the representation review initial proposal included:

- Changes to the Central Auckland ward boundaries so they match local board boundaries while still following the fairness of representation rule
- Expanding North Shore Ward so it better follows the fairness of representation rule
- Adding two subdivisions to Rodney Local Board to better reflect the shared interests of rural communities
- Splitting the Botany subdivision of Howick Local Board to provide better representation for the Flat Bush community
- Not complying with the fairness of representation rule for certain local boards to avoid splitting established communities
- Minor changes to some local board boundaries to better match community areas with their reserves and align boundaries with roads.

Introduction

Consultation approach for the Representation Review

Consultation activity included a region wide consultation for a period of one month, and included three online information webinars, ten drop-in sessions with a targeted approach, and a marketing campaign across radio and social media, which included interviews. In addition, targeted community engagement aimed to increase awareness and opportunities to provide feedback with typically underrepresented communities, including online workshops for Māori (mana whenua and mataawaka groups), Pasifika, Asian communities and youth.

In line with the LEA requirements, the scale of proposed changes to representation, and the drive for civic education through this opportunity, the public consultation plan included the following:

Type of activity	Included in the consultation plan	What was delivered
Council-initiated activity	Online region wide events with targeted sessions in affected areas via zoom	• 9th July: Regional information webinar • 17th July: Rodney and North Auckland • 18th July: Howick and Auckland Central information webinar
	In person region wide events with targeted sessions in affected areas	Pop Up information sessions in Auckland Central, Howick, Rodney and West Auckland to focus on Representation Review changes. • East ○ 13th July: Howick Village Market ○ 25th July: Botany Library ○ 3rd August: Howick Library • North/West ○ 14th July: Smales Farm Market ○ 14th July: Takapuna Market ○ 21st July: Helensville Market ○ 24th July: Glenfield Library ○ 27th July: Matakana Village Market • Central ○ 13th July: Parnell Market
	Digital engagement via the 'AK Have Your Say' webpage and	• AK Have Your Say website ○ information awareness about the consultation topic ○ online feedback, downloadable forms ○ details about HYS events and opportunities
	Targeted engagement stream with Māori	• 2 x mana whenua sessions (4th and 8th July) • 2 x mataawaka sessions (8th and 9th July) • Ara Kōtui presentation (9th July) • Targeted online session with Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara (31st July)
	Marketing campaign to aid civic education and	Communications

Introduction

	encourage participation in consultation	- Raising awareness of the consultation through AKHYS Engagement newsletter. This went out prior to the consultation (coming soon) and during the consultation period to a database of 20,000 plus subscribers. - OurAuckland articles and media release on 27 June (coming soon), 9 July (opening) and 1 Aug (closing soon). Media coverage included Radio New Zealand, Mahurangi Matters, the Times Online, Local Matter, the Greater Auckland blog plus ethnic media. - Stuff local newspaper inserts –Western Leader, Rodney Times, North Shore Times, Central Leader, East & Bays Courier, Manukau and Papakura Courier - Articles in local board e-newsletters - Local board social media posts at start, middle and end of the consultation period - People Panel article – 10,000 members region wide plus a follow-up more targeted email to 57,000 members
	Other events	2nd August: Rural Advisory Panel 5th August: Warkworth community groups targeted workshop
	Libraries, local board offices and service centres	Consultation information including summaries available in all languages (English, Te Reo Māori, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Hindi, Samoan, Tongan, Easy Read). Large scale maps in affected areas.
Community-initiated activity	Engaging with community partners where possible for diverse communities	Raising awareness of the consultation and collecting submissions on behalf of Council amongst diverse groups through community partner networking. A range of activities took place to target youth, Pasifika and ethnic communities plus an online workshop took place with disability representatives.

Inclusive and accessible engagement

Translations

Translation of key information was made available in the following languages:

- Chinese – traditional and simplified
- Korean
- Hindi
- Tongan
- Samoan
- New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL)
- Easy Read

Early engagement took place during February and March 2024 to inform the development of the initial proposal.

Initial proposal for Central Auckland ward changes

Central Auckland wards: Waitematā and Gulf, Ōrākei, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, and Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa

Before the 2019 elections, the representation in the Waitematā and Gulf Ward exceeded the average population per councillor by 43.74 per cent. The population of the Waitematā and Gulf Ward was reduced by moving the boundary between the Waitematā and Gulf Ward and the Ōrākei Ward. This change had a flow-on effect on the boundaries between the Ōrākei and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki wards, and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki and Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa wards, causing their boundaries to no longer align with local board areas.

Current population estimates now allow for adjustments to these ward boundaries in central Auckland so that ward and local board boundaries can align again, while still ensuring fair representation within the 10 per cent variation rule.

These changes will mean:

- Pukekawa / Auckland Domain and the communities in Parnell, Newmarket and Grafton, currently in the Ōrākei Ward and Waitematā Local Board area, will return to the Waitematā and Gulf Ward and remain in the Waitematā Local Board area
- parts of Ellerslie and St Johns communities, currently in the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward, return to being part of the Ōrākei Ward
- part of a community close to Royal Oak and Onehunga, currently in the Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa Ward, returns to the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward.

However, the community in Eden Terrace, south of the motorway, which is in the Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa Ward and the Waitematā Local Board area does not change. This avoids central Auckland wards not complying with the fairness of representation rule.

Analysis of submissions

1007 responses were received on question 2A ‘What is your opinion of the proposed changes to the Central Auckland wards (maps 1.1 and 1.4)?’. Analysis of the feedback received is provided through Attachment A to Item 7 of the JGWP agenda for the 2 September 2024 meeting.

Support for the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 572 individuals (68 per cent) who supported the proposal, 80 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP's requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Central Auckland wards

Support theme	Detail
Improves representation (38%)	• fair representation rule • equal/balanced representation
Support the specific proposed boundary change(s) (26%)	• minimises confusion for residents through realignment of ward and local board boundaries • communities of interest (Newmarket and Parnell aligned with Waitemata and Gulf Ward) • groups communities appropriately
Generally support the proposal (no clear reason) (23%)	• reasonable proposal / makes sense

Opposition to the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 66 individuals (eight per cent) who did not support the proposal, 26 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP's requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Opposition theme	Detail
Opposition to the specific proposed boundary change(s) (38%)	• communities of interest ○ Parnell and Newmarket businesses feel their customer base is more aligned with Ōrākei ○ Parnell and Newmarket are within the Epsom electorate and not the Central Auckland electorate ○ perceived sense of community of interest with current ward councillors
Negatively impact feeling of community (26%) Insufficient representation (19%)	• does not group communities appropriately. • fewer elected members representing their communities or won't adequately align with community needs ○ water management (Hobson Bay area) should not be divided by ward boundaries in the interests of maintaining ward councillor oversight of water infrastructure update and maintenance).

We received 153 submissions from a combined pro forma/templated feedback campaign led by the Newmarket and Parnell Business Associations, via a combination of online forms on each business association's website and forms printed out to replicate the online forms.

These templated submissions indicated the submitters worked for, if not owned, local businesses but did not indicate whether they lived in the local area.

These forms asked people to provide the personal information in support of the following statement:

"I SUPPORT Newmarket and Parnell remaining in the Ōrākei Ward on the basis that the resident demographic is a shared community of interest".

Central Auckland wards

Other feedback

The below table provides the JGWP with comments provided through feedback that do not necessarily fall under the support / oppose themes to the initial proposal but may include out of scope feedback or alternative arrangements for consideration through the next representation review.

Other theme	Detail
Alternative arrangements	include Newton and Eden Terrance in the Waitematā and Gulf Ward and remove Waiheke, Aotea Great Barrier and the Gulf Islands to either North Shore, Howick, Albany, Rodney or Franklin Wards for reasons of communities of interest. (one submission)
	Ellerslie should remain part of Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward, instead move Point England to Ōrākei Ward (one submission)

Local board submissions

Affected areas of the proposed Central Auckland ward changes include Puketāpapa, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Ōrākei and Waitematā Local Boards.

Full submissions made by local boards have been provided to the JGWP under Item 5 of the 2 September 2024 agenda. The below summarises the key points made on the proposed ward changes in each of the affected local board submissions.

Puketāpapa Local Board

The Puketāpapa Local Board did not provide any specific feedback on the proposed Central Auckland ward changes.

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

The Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board support changes match the ward boundaries with the Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board boundaries to keep things simple for community understanding and engagement and to not divide communities of interest.

Ōrākei Local Board

The Ōrākei Local Board supports the alignment of local board and ward boundaries generally. Specifically, the local board supports the proposal to move Ellerslie and St Johns from the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward to the Ōrākei Ward given that they are communities of interest.

The board does not support the proposal to move Parnell and Newmarket from the Ōrākei Ward to the Waitematā and Gulf Ward as they believe there is a greater community of interest with the Ōrākei Ward. At the hearing the board chair indicated there was less of a community of interest with Grafton and that there were reasons why this might better align with Waitemata if this was supported by population data.

Central Auckland wards

Waitematā Local Board

The Waitematā Local Board notes that there is general support for the proposed representation changes. The board acknowledges the feedback received from the Newmarket and Parnell Business Associations, Auckland Museum, and Hapua Thrive, all of whom expressed a preference to remain in the Ōrākei Ward. The board highlights that those in support believe the changes will improve representation, while those opposed are concerned about dividing communities of interest.

The board supports the proposed alignment of ward and local board boundaries to ensure fair representation, as required by the 10% variation rule. Specifically, the board agrees with the proposal to return Pukekawa/Auckland Domain, Parnell, Newmarket, and Grafton to the Waitematā and Gulf Ward, while keeping Eden Terrace south of the motorway within the Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa Ward.

The board also notes that feedback from residents in the Waitematā Local Board area was mixed, with 59% supporting the boundary changes, while 153 proforma submissions from the Newmarket and Parnell Business Associations opposed the move. The board recognizes the importance of ongoing water infrastructure investment in Newmarket and Parnell and acknowledges the significant workload faced by the Waitematā Ward given its high volume of visitors, workers, and students.

Further advice requested by the JGWP

Area	Detail
Eden Terrace	Impact on numbers (especially for Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa Ward) if Eden Terrace moves to Waitematā and Gulf Ward, retain Ellerslie and St Johns in Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward.
	Advice on where Eden Terrace is best aligned.
Grafton	Impact on numbers if area West of Auckland Domain moves to Waitematā and Gulf Ward to retain Newmarket and Parnell in Ōrākei Ward.
Parnell	Advice on number of meshblocks in Parnell, whether alternative line can be drawn.
Grafton / Newmarket / Parnell	Advice on whether there are any potential areas for a minor local board boundary change (<2000 pop.) that aligns with communities of interest. Request for meshblock data to inform this advice.
Parnell	Advice on whether there is a micro catchment in lower Parnell (St Georges Bay Road area) that might provide an alternative boundary for shift from Ōrākei to Waitematā and Gulf Ward.

Staff comments

The legislative requirements are to:

- (i) provide for effective representation of communities of interest and in doing so align ward and local board boundaries as far as is practicable
- (ii) provide fair representation by complying with the 10 percent rule; the council can decide to not comply with this rule if compliance would split communities of interest or join unlike communities. A decision to not comply has to be confirmed by the Local Government Commission.

The predominant concern is recognising communities of interest.

Central Auckland wards

If the JGWP is convinced that communities of interest considerations warrant it, then it may recommend ward boundaries that do not align with local board boundaries or do not comply with the fair representation rule.

Staff will assist the JGWP with its considerations of appropriate communities of interest.

Further maps as requested by the JGWP will be provided on the 13 September.

Initial proposal for North Shore and Albany wards

The council proposes to enlarge the North Shore Ward to include an area around Bayview, reducing non-compliance with the fairness of representation rule. The North-Western boundary will also move to run along Sunset Road. These changes align the North Shore and Albany ward boundary with boundary changes to Upper Harbour and Kaipātiki local boards.

The North Shore Ward currently does not meet the fairness of representation rule, with a -13.82 per cent variance. This proposal slightly reduces the variance to -13.70 per cent.

To comply with the fairness rule, the ward would need to include a selection of areas currently in the Albany Ward (for example, south Greenhithe, Unsworth Heights and areas north of Centennial Park). However, the council considers all areas apart from Bayview have a community of interest with the Albany ward and should not be split. In deciding to not comply with the fairness rule, the council notes that the Sunset Road ridge forms a strong community boundary.

Analysis of submissions

796 responses were received on question 2B ‘What is your opinion of the proposed changes to the North Shore and Albany wards (map 1.5)?’. Analysis of the feedback received is provided through Attachment A to Item 7 of the JGWP agenda for the 2 September 2024 meeting.

Support for the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 578 individuals (73 per cent) who supported the proposal, 100 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP’s requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Support theme	Detail
Improves representation (71%)	• minimises confusion for residents (through realignment of local board and ward boundaries) • change is in response to population increase and recent property developments (70 comments along this line as provided below)
Generally support the proposal (no clear reason) (13%)	• reasonable proposal / makes sense
Minimal impact (8%)	• an easy change • will not cause big change for residents

We received 70 submissions from a pro forma/templated feedback campaign submitted by individuals who identified themselves as belonging to the Kaipātiki Local Board area and local Chinese community that provided one of the two following comments in their feedback on question 2B.

North Shore and Albany wards

“Albany has recently seen many successful real estate developments. With the increase in apartment buildings, the number of residents has also multiplied. Therefore, it is necessary to adjust the representation of the electoral districts accordingly.”

“In recent years, Albany has had several successful new real estate developments, increasing the number of residents. The aforementioned changes in constituencies have become particularly important.”

Opposition to the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 57 individuals (seven per cent) who did not support the proposal, 20 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP’s requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Opposition theme	Detail
Insufficient representation (25%)	- initial proposal will result in a removal of democracy - existing arrangements have too many elected members
Not necessary (20%)	- concerns regarding cost of change - proposed changes will not impact anything - concerns that proposal will negatively impact rates

Other feedback

The below table provides the JGWP with comments provides through feedback that do not necessarily fall under the support / oppose themes to the initial proposal but may include out of scope feedback or alternative arrangements for consideration through the next representation review.

Other theme	Detail
Alternative arrangements	there is no community of interest for Albany ward – amalgamate North Shore and Albany wards with four councillor ward. (one submission)
	move Unsworth Heights to North Shore ward (one submission)
	add the Gulf islands to the North Shore ward (two submissions)

Local board submissions

Affected areas of the proposed North Shore and Albany ward changes include Devonport-Takapuna, Kaipātiki, Hibiscus and Bays, and Upper Harbour Local Boards.

Full submissions made by local boards have been provided to the JGWP under Item 5 of the 2 September 2024 agenda. The below summarises the key points made on the proposed ward changes in each of the affected local board submissions.

North Shore and Albany wards

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

The board does not support the breach of the +/-10% rule in the population of the North Shore Ward and recommend that the inclusion of coastal suburbs immediately north of Milford be shifted from the Albany Ward to the North Shore ward to reach compliance with the representation rule for both Wards.

Kaipātiki Local Board

The board supports realigning the Bayview boundary to unify the community within the Kaipātiki Local Board. While the board acknowledges support for the proposed Sunset Road alignment, it prefers a further shift north to eventually transfer Unsworth Heights to Kaipātiki, aligning it with its shared community of interest with Totara Vale and Sunnynook.

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

The board supports the minor boundary changes to the Albany Ward following supportive community consultation results and notes that the East Coast Bays subdivision is currently not compliant with the rule for fairness of representation and that there is currently no practical way to resolve that within our current local board boundaries.

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board expressed concerns that their proposals to adjust local board and ward boundaries—specifically incorporating Ara Hills into the Hibiscus Coast subdivision and aligning Rangitoto College with the East Coast Bays subdivision—were not included in the consultation process. They noted that Ara Hills residents primarily access Hibiscus Coast services and that many Rangitoto College students come from East Coast Bays. The board requested that the next representation review be conducted by a local government commission, allowing for comprehensive discussions on boundary changes, future development, and population growth, with early community consultation and appropriate resourcing.

Upper Harbour Local Board

The board supports aligning Bayview entirely with the Kaipātiki Local Board, as supported by 81% of submitters.

Further advice requested by the JGWP

Area	Detail
East Coast Bays	Advice on whether there is a community of interest argument for Murrays Bay, Mairangi Bay and Campbells Bay to be moved from the Albany Ward to North Shore Ward. Request for meshblock data for East Coast Bays.
Unsworth Heights	Advice on Kaipātiki Local Boards preference for moving Unsworth Heights from the Albany Ward to the North Shore Ward, including arguments for and against this move.

Staff comments

The legislative requirements are to:

- (i) provide for effective representation of communities of interest and in doing so align ward and local board boundaries as far as is practicable
- (ii) provide fair representation by complying with the 10 percent rule; the council can decide to not comply with this rule if compliance would split communities of interest or join unlike

North Shore and Albany wards

communities. A decision to not comply has to be confirmed by the Local Government Commission.

The predominant concern is recognising communities of interest.

Staff note that Unsworth Heights was originally included in the draft initial proposal to move from Albany to the North Shore Ward. It was removed from the proposal through an amendment from the Albany Ward councillors at the Governing Body meeting on 30 May 2024.

With regard to the comments made through submissions supporting either the amalgamation of the North Shore and Albany Wards or the removal of the Gulf Islands from the Waitemātā and Gulf Ward to the North Shore ward, these matters have not been considered in the development of the initial proposal nor have they been consulted on.

These matters would be best considered through a future representation review. However, some feedback was received through the early engagement that people in general supported island boards remaining as discrete communities of interest as their needs would likely be overshadowed by larger urban populations.

Initial proposal for changes to the Rodney Local Board subdivisions

The Wellsford Subdivision currently has a variance of -22.63 per cent which needs to be corrected.

The council proposes a different arrangement of subdivisions to better reflect the shared interests of rural communities (Map 2.1 and 2.2). Members of a rural community identify as belonging to a rural community, share similar council services and have similar issues that require representation.

The Warkworth and Kumeū subdivisions have been reduced in size to match urban and future development zones around these centres. The Dairy Flat Subdivision remains as is.

The rest of the Rodney Local Board area will have two new rural subdivisions – North Rural (encompassing the existing Wellsford Subdivision) and South Rural. The total number of elected members for the Rodney Local Board remains at nine.

Analysis of submissions

1011 responses were received on question 3A ‘What is your opinion of the proposed changes to the Rodney Local Board subdivisions (maps 2.1 and 2.2)?’. Analysis of the feedback received is provided through Attachment A to Item 8 of the JGWP agenda for the 2 September 2024 meeting.

Support for the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 487 individuals (50 per cent) who supported the proposal, 53 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP’s requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Support theme	Detail
Improves representation (36%)	• fairness of representation rule • more elected members representing their communities • better aligns with the needs of their community (linked to rural representation sub-theme)
It is fair or more fair than the current boundaries (21%)	• current areas too large
Rural representation (16%)	• communities of interest • rural areas require representation
Generally support the proposal (no clear reason) (15%)	• reasonable proposal / makes sense

Opposition to the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 224 individuals (23 per cent) who did not support the proposal, 164 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP's requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Opposition theme	Detail
Insufficient representation (66%)	- concerns about perceived loss of urban representation - Warkworth and Wellsford would be negatively impacted by proposed change through perceived loss of representation
Opposition to the specific proposed boundary change(s)	- will impact access to services (18%) - impact on feeling of community (16%) - it divides communities (16%) - Kaukapakapa should not be divided by the subdivision boundary - Emergency networks should not be divided by subdivision boundaries - concerns regarding the boundary between North Rural and South Rural
Not necessary (13%)	do not support because there is no need for change
Rural representation (7%)	- communities of interest - rural areas do not require representation

Other feedback

The below table provides the JGWP with comments provides through feedback that do not necessarily fall under the support / oppose themes to the initial proposal but may include out of scope feedback or alternative arrangements for consideration through the next representation review.

Other theme	Detail
Subdivision names	South Rural
Process	- NAG involvement in development of initial proposal - concerns regarding population data used
Engagement	Māori engagement

Local board submission

Full submissions made by local boards have been provided to the JGWP under Item 5 of the 2 September 2024 agenda. The below summarises the key points made on the proposed subdivision changes from the Rodney Local Board.

Rodney Local Board subdivisions

In preparation for the Rodney Local Board business meeting to resolve the board submission, staff provided further advice as found in Appendix one. The further advice provided four additional amendment options based off feedback received through submissions.

Rodney Local Board

The Rodney Local Board supports Amendment Two from the agenda report and requests in-person consultation with all marae representatives to ensure iwi fully understand the representation changes affecting their collective marae. The board also expresses concern about the limited participation in the consultation process and requests broader demographic engagement in future representation reviews.

Further advice requested by the JGWP

Area	Detail
Waitoki / Wainui	Advice on a possible alternative option to move Waitoki and Wainui into the Dairy Flat subdivision. Request for meshblock data on these areas.
Subdivision names	Advice on whether the final proposal can include subdivision names that have not been included in public consultation.

Staff comments

The legislative requirements are to:

- (i) provide for effective representation of communities of interest and in doing so align ward and local board boundaries as far as is practicable
- (ii) provide fair representation by complying with the 10 percent rule; the council can decide to not comply with this rule if compliance would split communities of interest or join unlike communities. A decision to not comply has to be confirmed by the Local Government Commission.

The predominant concern is recognising communities of interest.

The local board proposed dividing the rural area into two subdivisions, North Rural and South Rural, to ensure equitable representation given the uneven population distribution.

Some submitters also questioned the process, noting that staff reported a proposal from the Northern Action Group (NAG) without seeking input from other community groups. Staff did not proactively seek the view of NAG but responded to their requests for information. NAG presented a proposal to the council in 2020 which addressed the non-compliance of the Wellsford subdivision. Staff conveyed this to the local board as an option for consideration during the current representation review. NAG had earlier sought to make a presentation to the JGWP but were declined on the basis that it would be inappropriate until all community groups were consulted and given the same opportunity.

Further concerns were raised about the use of outdated population data from the 2018 census, as detailed 2023 census data is not yet available. Although some suggested using projected population data, this is prohibited by legislation, though options that consider future growth are preferable.

Additionally, some submitters opposed the current subdivision names, proposing "South Kaipara" as an alternative to "South Rural." No specific alternatives were suggested for the "North Rural" subdivision in terms of the subdivision arrangements in the initial proposal. One submitter proposed name changes in terms of the current arrangement of subdivisions:

Rodney Local Board subdivisions

- Northern Rodney (for Wellsford)
- Mahurangi (for Warkworth)
- South Kaipara (for Kumeu)
- Dairy Flat (as is)

In terms of the name “South Kaipara” staff note there are community groups which use “South Kaipara” in their name: South Kaipara Good Food, South Kaipara Landcare, South Kaipara Mens Trust, South Kaipara Co-operating Parish. However, while Helensville can be described as south of the Kaipara Harbour, the South Rural subdivision extends across to the Dairy Flat subdivision. The peninsula was known as the South Kaipara Peninsula and more recently as South Head or Te-Korowai-o-Te-Tonga Peninsula. It seems that “South Kaipara” is more associated with the area south of the Kaipara Harbour.

Further maps as requested by the JGWP will be provided on the 13 September.

Initial proposal for changes to the Howick Local Board subdivisions

The Botany Subdivision has a variance of 34.20 per cent which needs to be corrected to ensure fair representation. The subdivision will be split into a smaller Botany Subdivision with two members and a new Flat Bush Subdivision with three members.

This recognises the population growth in the southern part of the local board and provides better representation for the Flat Bush community. The total number of members on the Howick Local Board will increase from nine to 11, which is consistent with the number of members on local authorities with similar populations (Map 3).

Analysis of submissions

1484 responses were received on question 3B ‘What is your opinion of the proposed changes to the Howick Local Board subdivisions (map 3)?’. Analysis of the feedback received is provided through Attachment A to Item 9 of the JGWP agenda for the 2 September 2024 meeting.

Support for the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 1167 individuals (79 per cent) who supported the proposal, 146 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP’s requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Support theme	Detail
Improves representation (71%)	• changes will deliver fair or fairer representation • changes respond to population growth and recent developments • subdivision proposal will better enable diverse representation
Generally support the proposal (no clear reason) (12%)	• reasonable proposal / makes sense
Support the specific proposed boundary change(s) (6%)	• Botany and Flat Bush are distinct communities of interest • population growth in Flat Bush warrants the establishment of the Flat Bush subdivision

Opposition to the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 69 individuals (five per cent) who did not support the proposal, 24 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP’s requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Howick Local Board subdivisions

Opposition theme	Detail
Not necessary (33%)	- concerns regarding cost of change - proposed changes will not impact anything - concerns that proposal will negatively impact rates
Oppose additional elected members (17%)	concerns that adding members will be expensive and create inefficiencies for the local board where funds could be better allocated to address other issues, such as transport
Insufficient representation (17%)	existing representation is sufficient

Other feedback

The below table provides the JGWP with comments provides through feedback that do not necessarily fall under the support / oppose themes to the initial proposal but may include out of scope feedback or alternative arrangements for consideration through the next representation review.

Other theme	Detail
Alternative arrangements	The Howick Local Board boundaries should follow the Botany Downs Secondary College zoning. (two submissions)
	Agree with Flat Bush subdivision, but not additional members. Reduce to seven members for the Howick Local Board: two for Pakuranga, two for Howick, two for Flat Bush and one for Botany. (four submissions)
	Add more members to the Botany subdivision instead of introducing Flat Bush subdivision. (one submission)
	Support Flat Bush subdivision. 12 seats total for Howick Local Board to be spread evenly across the four subdivisions (3 seats on each subdivision). (one submission)

Local board submission

Full submissions made by local boards have been provided to the JGWP under Item 5 of the 2 September 2024 agenda. The below summarises the key points made on the proposed changes from the Howick Local Board.

Howick Local Board

The board acknowledges strong regional (65%) and local (83%) support for the general proposal, as well as significant backing (79% regionally, 86% locally) for changes to the Howick Local Board, reflecting earlier community engagement. It notes that Flat Bush's rapid growth necessitates altering the Botany subdivision to comply with the Local Electoral Act, ensuring fair representation.

Howick Local Board subdivisions

The board also supports increasing elected members to address population growth, noting that Howick's current ratio of residents per member is the highest in Auckland. Increasing to 11 members will improve representation while maintaining compliance with the +/- 10% rule.

Staff comments

The JGWP has not requested any further advice from staff on the proposed changes to the Howick Local Board. However, staff have provided some comments below on particular matters raised.

The legislative requirements are to:

- (i) provide for effective representation of communities of interest and in doing so align ward and local board boundaries as far as is practicable
- (ii) provide fair representation by complying with the 10 percent rule; the council can decide to not comply with this rule if compliance would split communities of interest or join unlike communities. A decision to not comply has to be confirmed by the Local Government Commission.

The Botany Downs School Zone matter has been raised in recognition of a community of interest. The area in question is currently across the Howick and Franklin Wards. This change has not been considered in the development of the initial proposal nor have they been consulted on. These matters would be best considered through a future representation review and potentially a local board reorganisation plan.

Four (6%) of submissions that provided comment did not support additional members, instead proposing seven board members in total. Seven total Howick Local Board members across the four (including Flat Bush) subdivisions would not comply with the fairness of representation rule.

Initial proposal for non-complying subdivisions

The council proposes that the representation arrangements for the following local boards should not comply with the rule for fairness of representation.

- **Hibiscus and Bays Local Board**

The non-compliance is very minor. To achieve compliance, the East Coast Bays Subdivision needs to gain population and the Hibiscus Coast Subdivision needs to lose population.

However, the boundary between them is in a rural area and a large geographical shift is needed to transfer the required number of people. This would take the boundary close to the Whangaparāoa Peninsula, splitting communities of interest that should remain in the Hibiscus Coast Subdivision.

- **Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board**

The non-compliance is very minor. To achieve compliance the Maungakiekie Subdivision needs to gain population.

It is bounded by the Southern Motorway except to its south where there are industrial and residential areas.

The council considers the residential area has a community of interest with the Tāmaki subdivision and including it in the Maungakiekie subdivision would split this community of interest.

- **Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board**

To achieve compliance, the Ōtara Subdivision needs to gain population.

The boundary between the Ōtara and Papatoetoe Subdivisions is a very strong one in the form of the Southern Motorway. The Ōtara Subdivision would need to extend from Ōtara over the motorway into Papatoetoe.

The council considers that this would split communities of interest within the Papatoetoe Subdivision and result in joining unrelated communities.

- **Franklin Local Board**

To achieve compliance, the Waiuku Subdivision needs to gain population. The adjacent Pukekohe subdivision needs to lose population.

The Waiuku Subdivision is largely rural and achieving a transfer of the required number of people would need a large geographical change to the boundary.

Options for extending the Waiuku Subdivision boundary include moving its boundary close to Pukekohe to include communities that associate with Pukekohe or moving the Waiau Pa community into the Waiuku Subdivision. Waiau Pa's physical connections are primarily to Pukekohe, Drury and the motorway.

The council considers that either option would split communities of interest.

Analysis of submissions

336 responses were received on question 4 ‘Do you have any feedback on the proposal to maintain some subdivision arrangements that are currently not compliant with the rule for fairness of representation?’. Analysis of the feedback received is provided through Attachment A to Item 10 of the JGWP agenda for the 2 September 2024 meeting.

Support for the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, Of the 326 individuals that provided a comment on this proposal, the most common theme was that around half (169) generally supported the proposal without providing a clear reason.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP’s requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Support theme	Detail
Generally support the proposal (no clear reason) (50%)	reasonable to maintain minor non-compliance for reasons stated in the initial proposal

Opposition to the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 69 individuals (five per cent) who did not support the proposal, 24 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP’s requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Opposition theme	Detail
Unacceptable to maintain non-compliance. (12%)	council must follow the rules

Local board submissions

Areas affected by this proposal are the Hibiscus and Bays, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Ōtāra-Papatoetoe and Franklin Local Boards.

Full submissions made by local boards have been provided to the JGWP under Item 5 of the 2 September 2024 agenda. The below summarises the key points made on the proposed subdivision changes from the affected local boards.

Non-complying subdivisions

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board notes that the East Coast Bays subdivision is currently not compliant with the rule for fairness of representation and that there is currently no practical way to resolve that within the current local board boundaries.

The board also expressed disappointment that its proposed boundary changes, including incorporating the Ara Hills subdivision into the Hibiscus Coast subdivision and aligning Rangitoto College with the East Coast Bays subdivision, were not included in the consultation. The board highlighted that Ara Hills residents primarily access Hibiscus Coast facilities and services, while many Rangitoto College students come from East Coast Bays, making these boundary adjustments logical.

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

The Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board supports deferring compliance with the 10 percent rule for the Maungakiekie Subdivision until the next representation review. The board highlights concern with the proposed changes south of Sylvia Park Road, emphasizing that these adjustments would negatively impact the effective representation of communities of interest.

They board notes that the Riverside/Panama Road community would be divided, disrupting the aligned interests that currently span both sides of the motorway. Additionally, they note that the small residential area proposed for inclusion in Maungakiekie is separated by several kilometres from other residential zones and is adjacent to the industrial area of Penrose, which further complicates effective representation.

Deferring the decision allows for future consideration of census data and growth from ongoing housing developments across the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki area, ensuring a more accurate reflection of population changes in the next review.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board opposes the proposal to amend subdivision boundaries to meet the 10 percent rule. The board emphasizes that Papatoetoe also has strong communities of interest with deep cultural, familial, and local ties, which would be disrupted by the proposed changes.

The board suggests that future reviews consider extending Ōtara's boundaries to include parts of Howick, particularly areas in Flat Bush. These areas have traditionally been part of Ōtara before the Super City amalgamation and such a change could alleviate Howick's high population numbers while reuniting communities of interest within Ōtara for better representation.

Franklin Local Board

The Franklin Local Board endorses the recommendation not to comply with the fairness of representation rule, noting that there is general support for this stance. The board highlights that achieving compliance would require significant boundary changes, such as expanding the Waiuku Subdivision to include areas closer to Pukekohe or moving the Waiau Pa community into Waiuku. However, these options risk splitting communities of interest, and the board believes such changes are unnecessary at this time.

The board also acknowledges that the Pukekohe and Wairoa subdivisions are experiencing rapid growth, driven by the Auckland Unitary Plan, Special Housing Areas (SHAs), and ongoing private plan changes. They anticipate that boundary adjustments, possibly including local board boundaries with Papakura, will be required in future representation reviews.

Staff comments

The JGWP have not requested any further advice on the proposed non-compliance. Staff do not have any further comments.

Initial proposal for minor local board boundary changes

When doing a representation review, the council can include minor changes to local board boundaries in the proposal to address minor issues.¹ There are limits to the number of people² who would be affected through a local board minor boundary change.

The initial proposal includes the following minor changes to local board boundaries.

1. The boundary between the Upper Harbour and Devonport-Takapuna local boards is changed so that all of Saunders Reserve is in the Upper Harbour Local Board area (Map 4.1).
2. The boundary between Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour local boards will run along Sunset Road (Map 4.1).
3. The boundary between Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour local boards near Kereru Reserve is changed so that Lot 3 DP 142477 (R 14 Kereru Grove) becomes part of the Upper Harbour Local Board area (Map 4.1).
4. The boundary between Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour local boards is changed to include the residential area of Bayview north of Glendhu Road in Kaipātiki, noting that meshblocks will need to be adjusted to avoid affecting any reserve area in the Upper Harbour Local Board area (Map 4.1).
5. The boundary between the Puketāpapa and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki local boards is changed such that all of Taumanu Reserve lies within the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board (Map 4.2).

Analysis of submissions

Feedback form question	Responses (total)	Support (%)	Do not support (%)
5A. We are proposing that Saunders Reserve, currently split across Devonport-Takapuna and Upper Harbour Local Boards, will be fully in the Upper Harbour Local Board (Map 4.1). What is your opinion of this proposal?	718	72%	5%
5B. We are proposing to move part of Kereru Reserve, currently split across Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour Local Boards, to the Upper Harbour Local Board (Map 4.1). What is your opinion of this proposal?	701	71%	6%
5C. We are proposing to shift the section of the Upper Harbour / Kaipātiki boundary that lies between Caribbean Drive and Albany Highway southwards, so it follows a road boundary (Map 4.1). What is your opinion of this proposal?	701	74%	4%

¹ [Section 19JAA of the Local Electoral Act 2001](#) and [clause 141 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001](#) 2001

² Under the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 (clause 141), a minor local board boundary change is limited to either 2.5 per cent of the population of the local board area that has smaller population or 2000 residents (depending on which is the lower number).

Minor local board boundary changes

5D. We are proposing to align Bayview, currently split across Upper Harbour and Kaipātiki Local Boards, to the Kaipātiki Local Board (Map 4.1). What is your opinion of this proposal?	712	73%	4%
5E. We are proposing to align Taumanu Reserve (Onehunga), currently split across Puketāpapa and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Boards, to the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board (Map 4.2). What is your opinion of this proposal?	715	59%	7%

Analysis of the feedback received is provided through Attachment A to Item 11 of the JGWP agenda for the 2 September 2024 meeting.

Support for the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 326 individuals that provided a comment, around half (169) generally supported the proposal without providing a clear reason.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP's requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Support theme	Detail
Generally support the proposal (no clear reason)	- reasonable proposal / makes sense - minor changes that will improve reserve management
Support the specific proposed boundary change(s)	- Bayview shares a community of interest with Kaipātiki - Taumanu Reserve shares a community of interest with Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Opposition to the initial proposal

As outlined in the analysis report, of the 69 individuals (five per cent) who did not support the proposal, 24 provided comments. The most common themes from comments provided are in the table below.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP's requests for more information are provided at the end of each section.

Opposition theme	Detail
Not necessary (20%)	no change is required
Oppose the specific proposed boundary change(s) (8%)	- changes will make the Upper Harbour Local Board too large - Saunders Reserve maintenance would require too much of the Upper Harbour Local Board funding - Taumanu Reserve to move to Puketāpapa instead.

Minor local board boundary changes

Other feedback

The below table provides the JGWP with comments provides through feedback that do not necessarily fall under the support / oppose themes to the initial proposal but may include out of scope feedback or alternative arrangements for consideration through the next representation review.

Other theme	Detail
Alternative arrangements	Suggestion for a section south of Royal Oak and potentially bound by Hillsborough Road and the South Western Motorway should be considered for inclusion in Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward being a community more aligned with Onehunga / Royal Oak. (one submission)

Local board submissions

Areas affected by this proposal are the Devonport-Takapuna, Upper Harbour, Kaipātiki, Puketāpapa, and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Boards.

Full submissions made by local boards have been provided to the JGWP under Item 5 of the 2 September 2024 agenda. The below summarises the key points made on the proposed minor local board boundary changes from the affected local boards.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board supports the minor boundary change for the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board that places the whole of Saunders Reserve in the Upper Harbour Local Board boundary.

Kaipātiki Local Board

The Kaipātiki Local Board supports several proposals to simplify and clarify local board boundaries:

Saunders Reserve: The board supports the proposal to include all of Saunders Reserve within the Upper Harbour Local Board to avoid the reserve being split between two boards. This aligns with 82% of submitters from the Kaipātiki Local Board area.

Kereru Reserve: The board supports moving part of Kereru Reserve from the Kaipātiki Local Board to the Upper Harbour Local Board, again ensuring the reserve is not divided between two boards. This is in line with 80% of submitters from the Kaipātiki Local Board.

Boundary adjustment between Caribbean Drive and Albany Highway: The board acknowledges the long-standing need to adjust the boundary in this area, as the current boundary is irregular and splits Tenbless Reserve. While 85% of Kaipātiki Local Board submitters support realigning the boundary along Sunset Road, the board prefers a more significant adjustment. They advocate for moving the boundary further north, possibly along Goldfinch Rise, or adjusting it to match a future ward boundary change that transfers Unsworth Heights to the North Shore ward. The board highlights that Unsworth Heights shares a stronger community of interest with Totara Vale and is more naturally aligned with the Kaipātiki Local Board.

Bayview: The board supports the proposal to move the Bayview boundary to include properties on the northern side of Glendhu Road, ensuring the Bayview community is not split between two local boards. This proposal has the support of 83% of Kaipātiki Local Board submitters.

Minor local board boundary changes

Taumanu Reserve (Onehunga): The board does not provide an opinion on the proposal to align Taumanu Reserve within the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area, noting that 91% of Kaipātiki Local Board submitters were unsure how to respond to this proposal.

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

The Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board supports the proposal for a change to the boundary with Puketāpapa Local Board so that all of Taumanu Reserve lies within the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area.

Puketāpapa Local Board

The Puketāpapa Local Board endorses the proposed minor changes to local board boundaries between the Puketāpapa and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board areas and notes at a high level, feedback is generally in support of the proposed changes, with the majority of feedback indicating that the changes are minor and logical.

Upper Harbour Local Board

The Upper Harbour Local Board supports several proposals that affect its boundaries and those of neighbouring local boards:

Saunders Reserve: The board supports the minor boundary change to include all of Saunders Reserve within the Upper Harbour Local Board, restating their earlier resolution (UH/2024/25 clause d). The board notes that 86% of submitters from both the Upper Harbour and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board areas are in favour of this change.

Kereru Reserve: The board supports the minor adjustment to the Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour Local Board boundary through Kereru Reserve, ensuring the entire reserve is within the Upper Harbour Local Board area. This support aligns with 81% of submitters from the Upper Harbour and Kaipātiki Local Board areas. This restates their earlier resolution (UH/2024/25 clause e).

Boundary adjustment between Caribbean Drive and Albany Highway: The board supports shifting the boundary southwards so that it follows a road. This adjustment creates a more logical split between local board areas and reflects the communities of interest on either side of the main road on the ridge. This proposal is supported by 81% of submitters from the Upper Harbour and Kaipātiki Local Board areas.

Bayview: The board supports the proposal to align Bayview fully within the Kaipātiki Local Board area. This creates a more logical boundary between the local boards and is supported by 81% of submitters from the Upper Harbour and Kaipātiki Local Board areas.

Staff comments

The JGWP has not requested any further advice from staff on the proposed minor local board boundary changes. However, staff have provided a comment below on one particular matter raised.

With regard to the south Royal Oak section shift, this will be met in part through the proposed changes to the Central Auckland Ward changes.

Overall initial proposal and other matters

Submitters were asked to provide feedback in an open comment space to the following question ‘Do you have any other feedback about how you and your community can be better represented through local boards and the governing body?’.

Analysis of submissions

Analysis of the feedback received is provided through Attachment A to Item 12 of the JGWP agenda for the 2 September 2024 meeting.

Each theme includes more details on the comments made. Staff responses to the main issues raised or JGWP’s requests for more information are provided at the end of each section. It is important to note that the alternative arrangements proposed in the below tables have been provided under ‘other matters’ as they are not related to any changes in the initial proposal itself. There are separate tables for regional matters, ward matters and local board matters.

Regional matters

Theme	Detail	Comment
Alternative arrangements	- Electoral boundaries aligned with ecological boundaries - nature is its own constituency (representation arrangements should align with natural features). (one submission) - Six local councils - split the region into six areas to effectively create six local councils within Auckland Council region where ward councillors and local board members work very closely. (four submissions) - Single candidacy per constituency - distribute elected members across smaller areas – where two representatives for one area, split this into two separate areas and one representative for each. (four submissions)	Any boundary changes that would fall outside of the minor boundary changes allowed under the Local Electoral Act 2001 (section 19JAA) would require a local board reorganisation plan. While these alternative arrangement proposals are out of scope for this representation review due to the scale of boundary changes that would likely be required, it may be considered through a future representation review.

Overall initial proposal and other matters

	the changes proposed do not go far enough and wider change is needed. (five submissions)	
Prefer pre-amalgamation arrangements	- Auckland Council is too large, structure is not servicing region well. Revert arrangements to pre-amalgamation arrangements. (15 submissions) - re-establish the Auckland Regional Council alongside the Auckland Council (which would no longer be a unitary council). (two submissions)	Reverting to the pre-amalgamation arrangements would require significant amendments to the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009. Auckland Council is bound by the shared decision-making arrangements established in legislation when undertaking a representation review.
Population based representation	Land area should also be included in the calculation along with population, so areas are better represented. (one submission)	Auckland Council is bound by the fairness of representation requirements in the Local Electoral Act 2001 (section 19V) which does not include land area.

Ward matters

Theme	Detail	Comment
Two member wards	Every ward should be represented by two members. (one submission)	Based on Auckland Council's current ward arrangements, this would require amalgamating the current single member wards.
At-large councillor seats	Half of the ward councillors should be elected at-large, with the candidate that receives the most at-large votes being elected as the mayor. Ward sized increase for ward councillor seats. Increase number of councillors seats to allow for this. (one submission)	No at-large councillor seats have been considered through this representation review, nor has additional governing body seats been considered. However, the Peoples Panel survey results during early engagement found that 58% were opposed to having councillors at large compared to 15% who supported it. A maximum number of 29 ward councillors is allowed under the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 (section 8)
Alternative arrangements	- Albany Ward - East Coast Bays and Hibiscus Coast need to be their own wards. (one submission) - Rodney Ward	These proposals have not been a consideration through this representation review as the areas do not contain sufficient population based off each councillor representing about 85,000 people.

Overall initial proposal and other matters

	Needs two councillors due to size. (one submission)	
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Local board matters

Theme	Detail	Comment
Role of local board members	Full time roles with more responsibility. (two submissions)	Out of scope for a representation review. For possible consideration through a future local board reorganisation plan
Alternative arrangements	- Waitematā Local Board - split into two subdivisions (Ponsonby/ Grey Lynn/Westmere and Central City with SH1 as the boundary between the two). (one submission) - Upper Harbour Local Board - split into two subdivisions (West and East) with the Upper Harbour Bridge as the natural boundary between the two. (two submissions) - Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board - rearrange the subdivision boundaries to deliver equal number of seats per subdivision. (one submission) - Henderson-Massey Local Board - split Henderson-Massey into three subdivisions (Massey / Henderson / Te Atatu) due to size and to increase voter turnout. (one submission)	Within scope of a representation review but has not been consulted on through the initial proposal. For possible consideration through a future representation review.
Increase local boards	The Maungakiekie and Tāmaki subdivisions should have separate governance as they are two separate communities of interest. (one submission)	Subdivisions are electoral arrangements in order to elect members to local boards, whose purpose is to make local decisions on behalf of the local board area as a whole. Creating separate Maungakiekie and Tāmaki Local Boards is outside of the scope of a representation review and

Overall initial proposal and other matters

		would require a local board reorganisation plan.
Alternative arrangement	- no local boards or current local boards amalgamated. (11 submissions) - replace local board members with more ward councillors. (two submissions)	Out of scope for a representation review. For possible consideration through a future local board reorganisation plan
Alternative arrangement	six local boards. Islands (Aotea / Great Barrier, Waiheke), Rural (Rodney, Franklin), North (everything north of the bridge), East (everything on the east of SH1), West (everything on the west of SH1), and South (everything beyond Mount Wellington overbridge). (one submission)	Out of scope for a representation review. For possible consideration through a future local board reorganisation plan

Other theme	Detail	Comment
Māori representation	- support for Māori representation for Auckland Council. (six submissions) - oppose Māori representation for Auckland Council. (three submissions)	Out of scope for this representation review as Māori wards have not been established for the 2025 local elections. A future governing body may resolve to establish Māori wards, which would then require a representation review.
Elected member numbers	- reduce the overall number of elected members. (four submissions) - increase the overall number of elected members. (two submissions)	The initial proposal includes two additional seats for the Howick Local Board. No further changes to the total elected member numbers have been proposed. The Governing Body may consist of between five and 29 members and each local board may have between five and 12 members. For possible consideration through a future representation review.
Length of terms	- increase to four years. (one submission) - decrease to two years. (one submission)	Out of the scope for this representation review. The Local Electoral Act 2001 (s10) requires all local councils to hold an election every three years.
Candidacy	candidates should only be able to stand in one local board or ward	Currently candidates may stand for more than one local board but if elected to more than one must choose one only.

Overall initial proposal and other matters

	area (preferably where they are a resident). (one submission)	The suggestion would require legislative change.
Elected member conduct during representation review	Elected members should be given clear guidelines for their expected conduct during a representation review process to mitigate misrepresentations of the proposal. (one submission)	Staff will include this recommendation in the evaluation report. A guide may be developed for the next representation review.
Electronic voting	Auckland Council should lead the way by moving to electronic voting via Smart Identity card that can be used at major retailer's self-serve kiosks. (one submission)	Out of the scope of a representation review. Auckland Council is bound by the voting methods available to it under the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 (part 9) of either booth voting, postal voting or a combination of the two.
Council group	restructure the CCO model. (three submissions)	Out of the scope of a representation review. Any decision to make amendments to the CCO structure would require legislative change. Staff note the current proposed Members Bill to disestablish Auckland Transport.
Voting systems	support for STV. (three submissions)	A decision in favour of retaining FPP was made by the governing body in August 2023 for the 2025 local elections. A future governing body may wish to consider STV for future elections.
Elected member relationships with community and each other	elected members across both local boards and governing body need to improve relationships with their communities and across the two decision-making arms.	Accepted as feedback.
Representation of and engagement with specific communities	disabled people do not feel represented by current arrangements and more targeted engagement is needed. (two submissions)	Accepted as feedback.
Representation of and engagement with specific communities	ethnic communities do not feel represented by current arrangements and more targeted engagement is needed. (four submissions)	Accepted as feedback.

Overall initial proposal and other matters

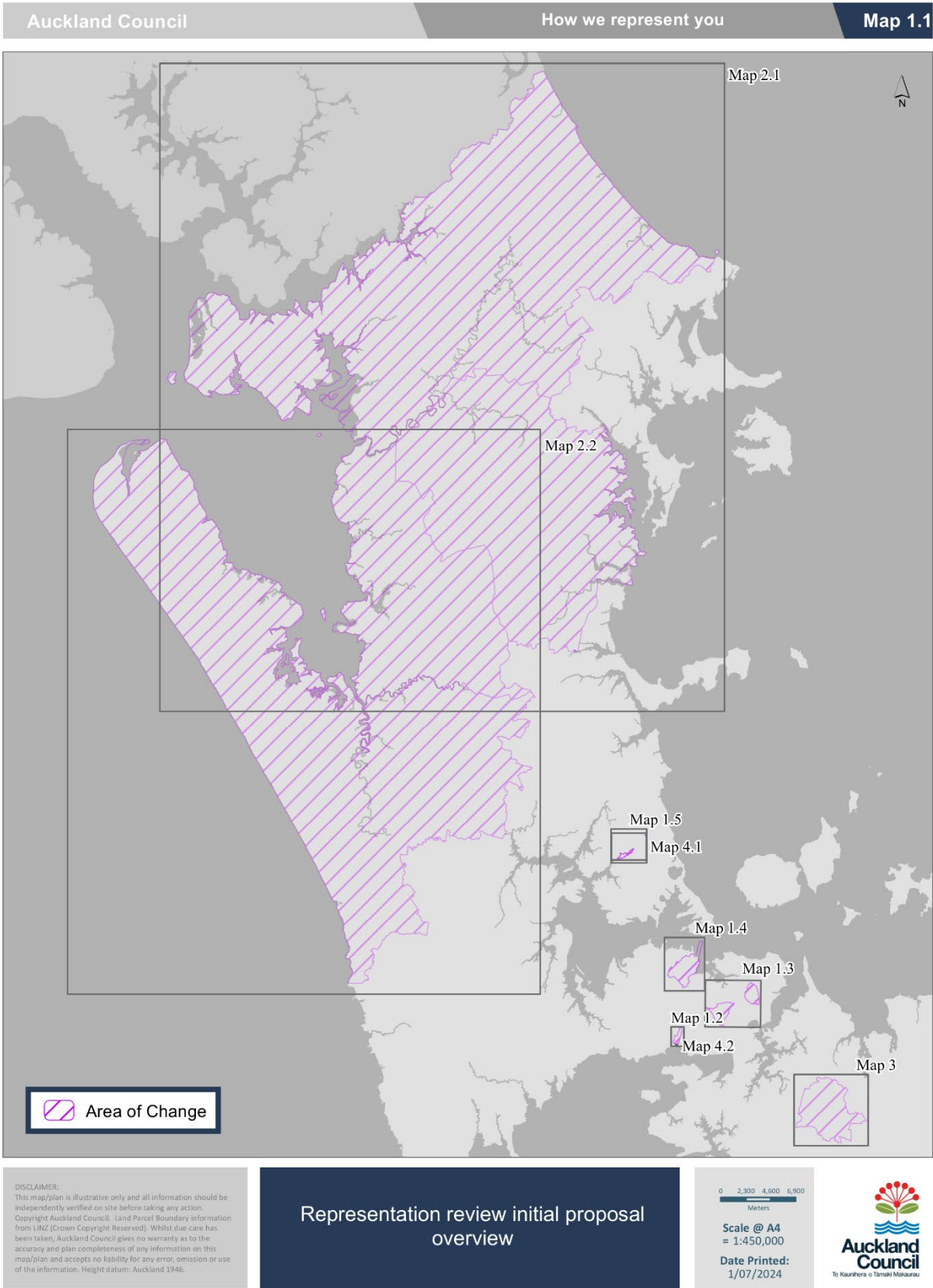
Engagement with specific communities	• more engagement with local Chinese communities and Chinese Association. (84 submissions)	Accepted as feedback.
Engagement with specific communities	• more engagement with youth and more opportunities for youth to participate in decision-making. (10 submissions)	Accepted as feedback.

Appendix A: Representation review initial proposal maps

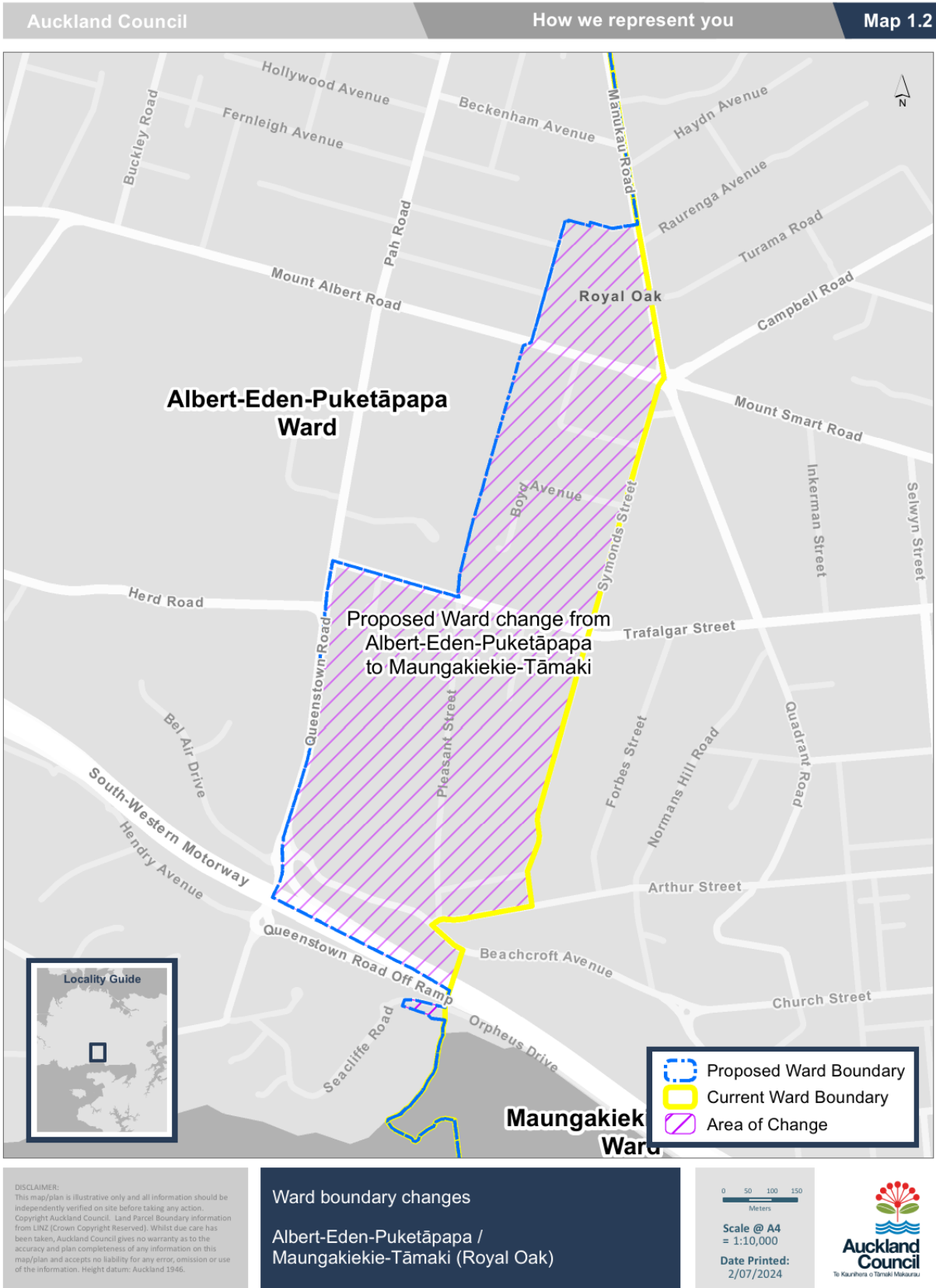
The maps related to the representation review initial proposal are as below. An interactive map viewer of the proposed changes is available at [akhaveyoursay.nz/represent](https://www.akhaveyoursay.nz/represent).

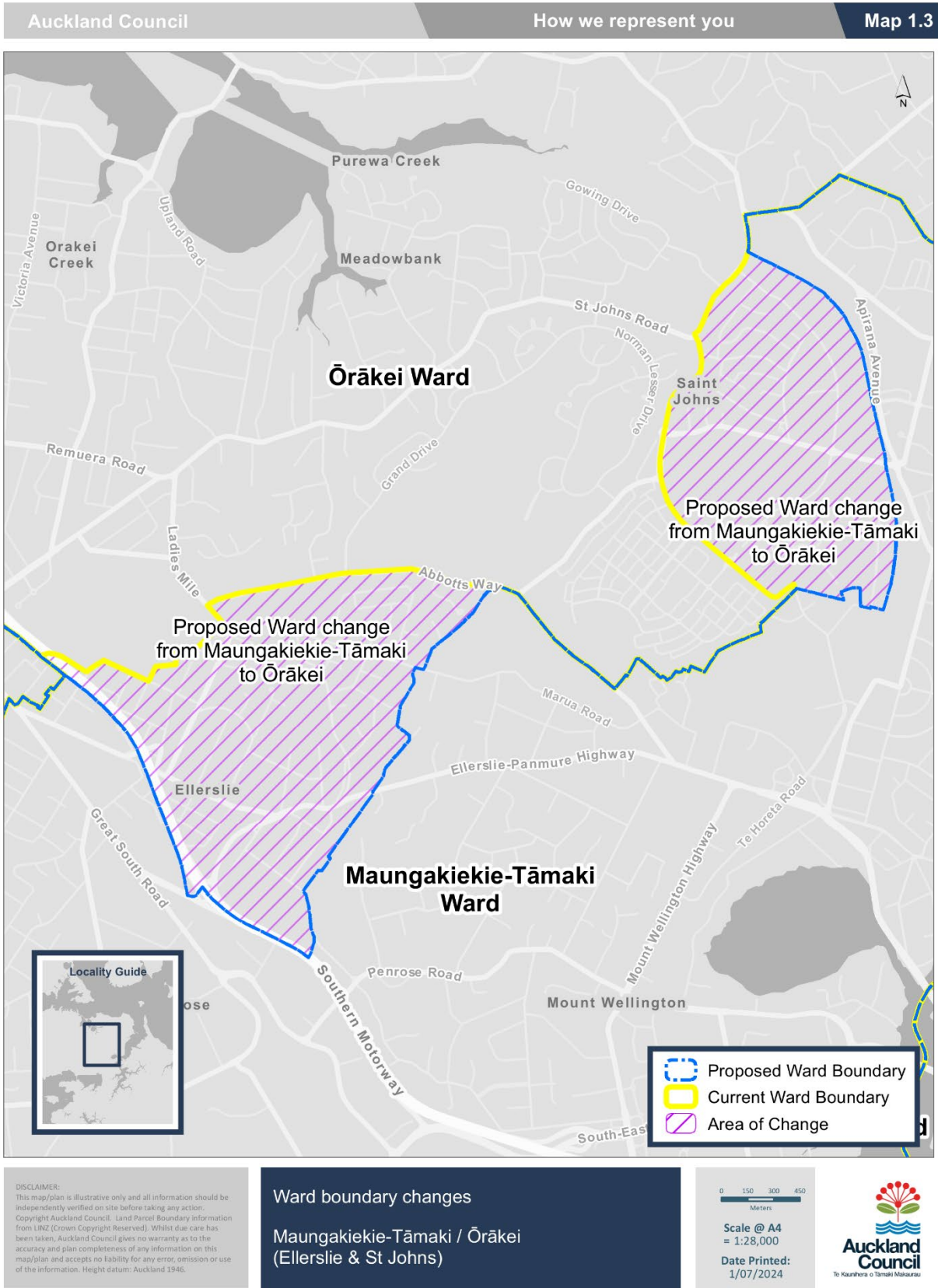
Proposed changes	Map ID	Map title
Ward and local board boundary changes	1.1	Representation review initial proposal – overview
Central Auckland wards	1.2	Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa / Maungakiekie -Tāmaki (Royal Oak)
	1.3	Maungakiekie -Tāmaki / Ōrākei (St Johns & Ellerslie)
	1.4	Ōrākei / Waitemata and Gulf (Parnell, Grafton, Newmarket)
North Shore wards	1.5	Albany / North Shore (Bayview)
Rodney Local Board	2.1	North Rural / Wellsford / Warkworth / Kumeu
	2.2	South Rural / Kumeu
Howick Local Board	3	Botany / Flat Bush
Minor local board boundary changes (North)	4.1	Kaipātiki / Upper Harbour (Kereru Reserve & Sunset Rd)
		Devonport-Takapuna / Upper Harbour (Saunders Reserve)
		Upper Harbour / Kaipātiki (Bayview)
Minor local board boundary changes (South)	4.2	Taumanu Reserve

Appendix A: Representation review initial proposal maps

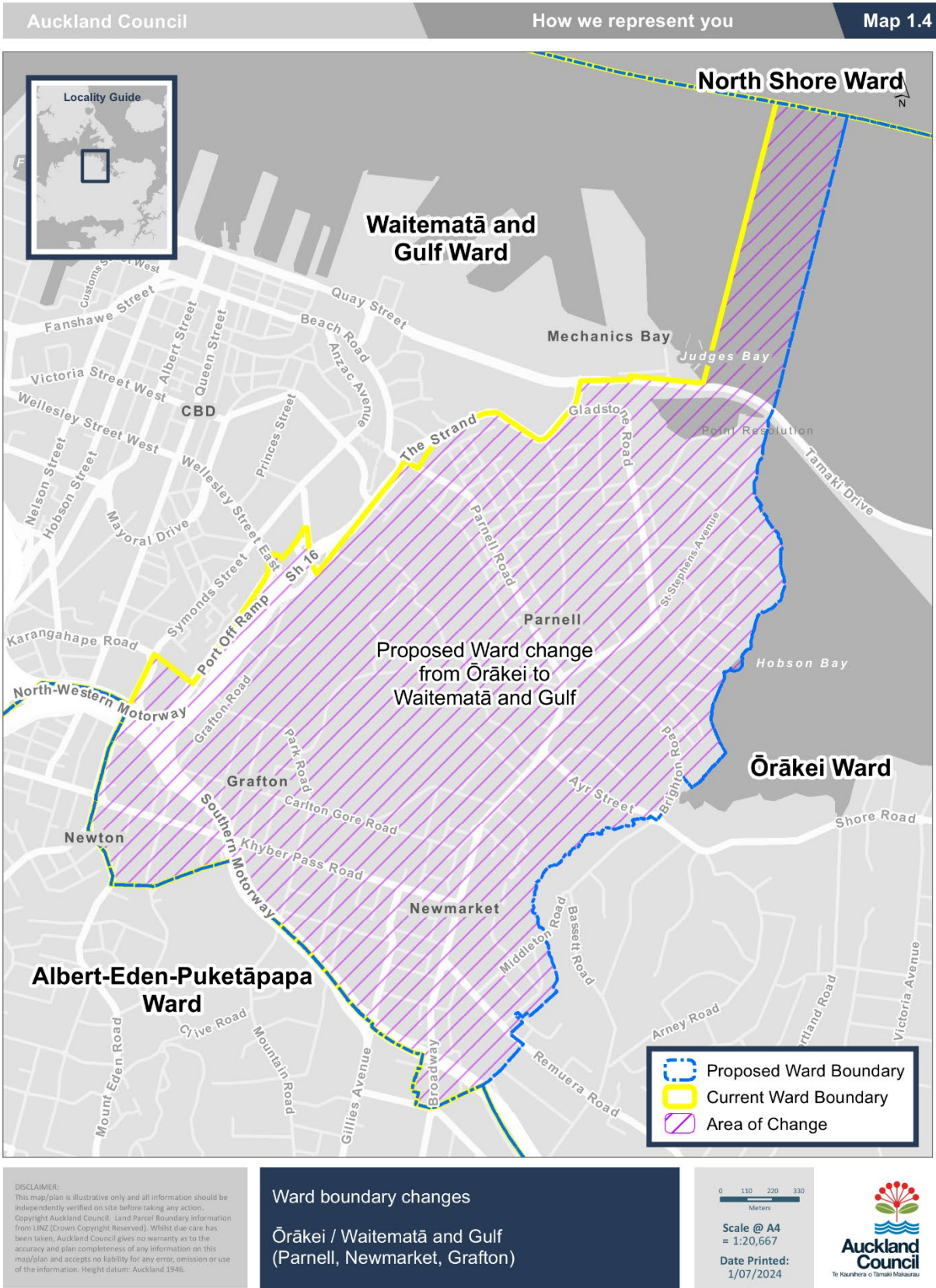


Appendix A: Representation review initial proposal maps

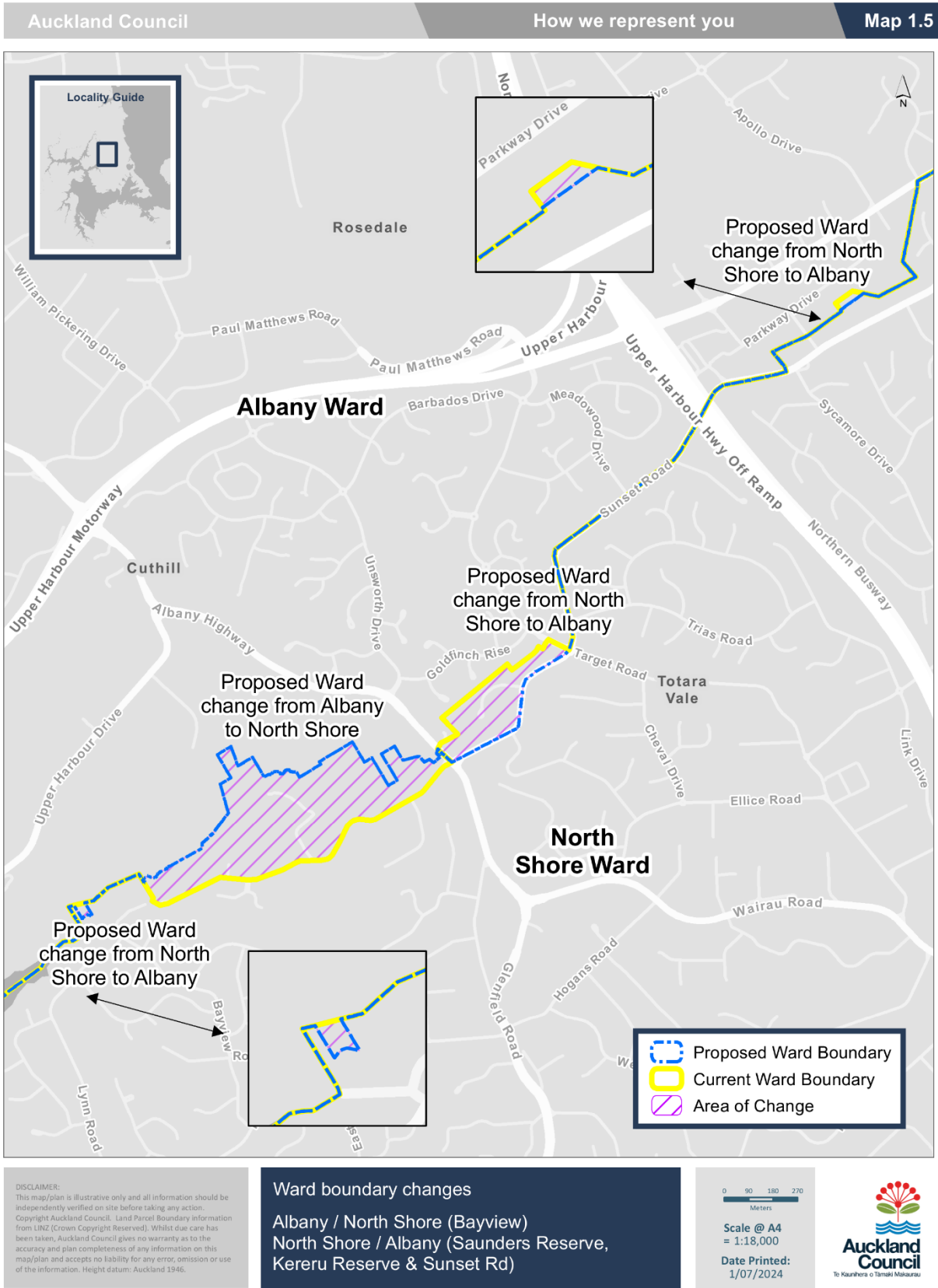




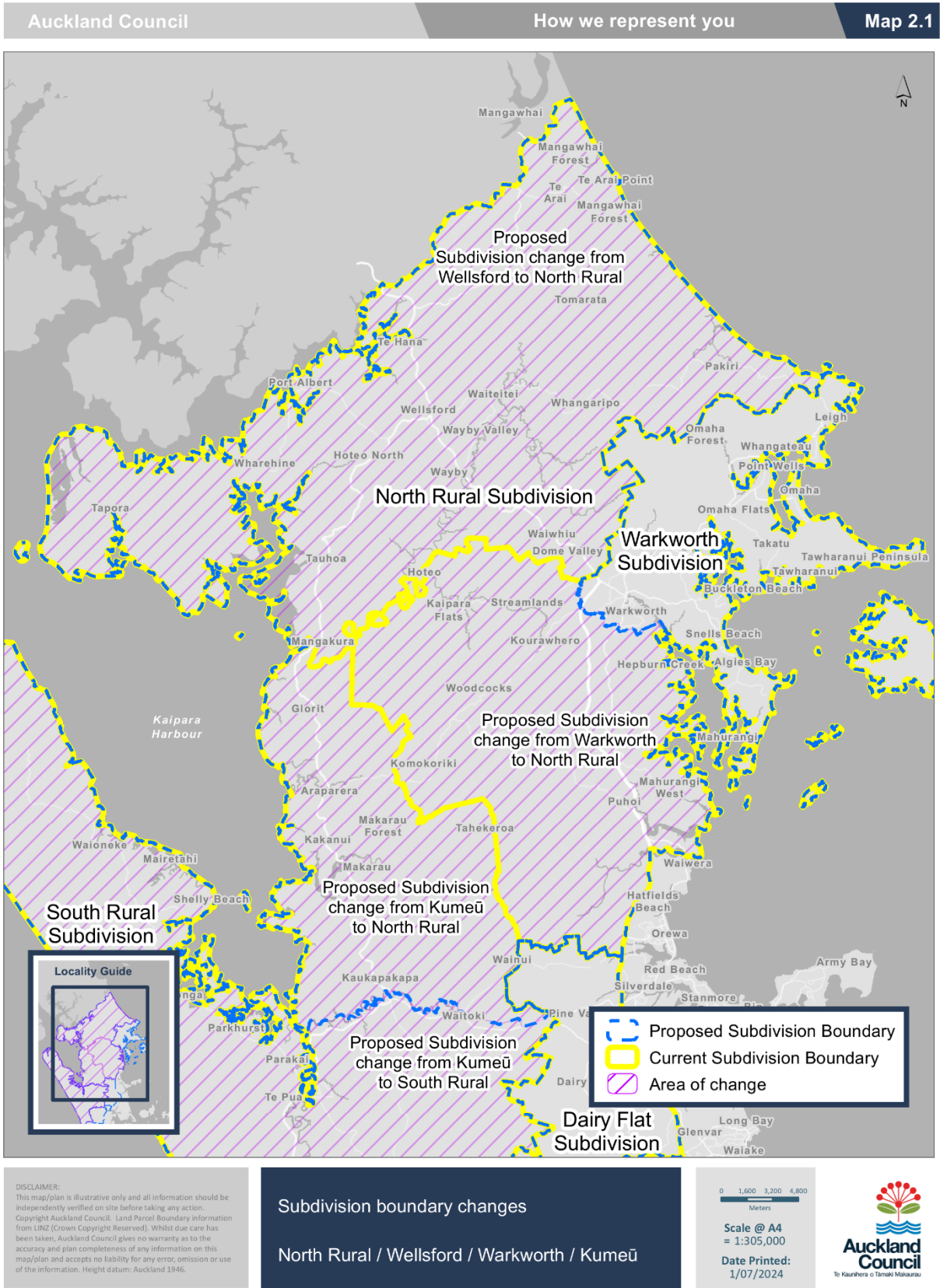
Appendix A: Representation review initial proposal maps



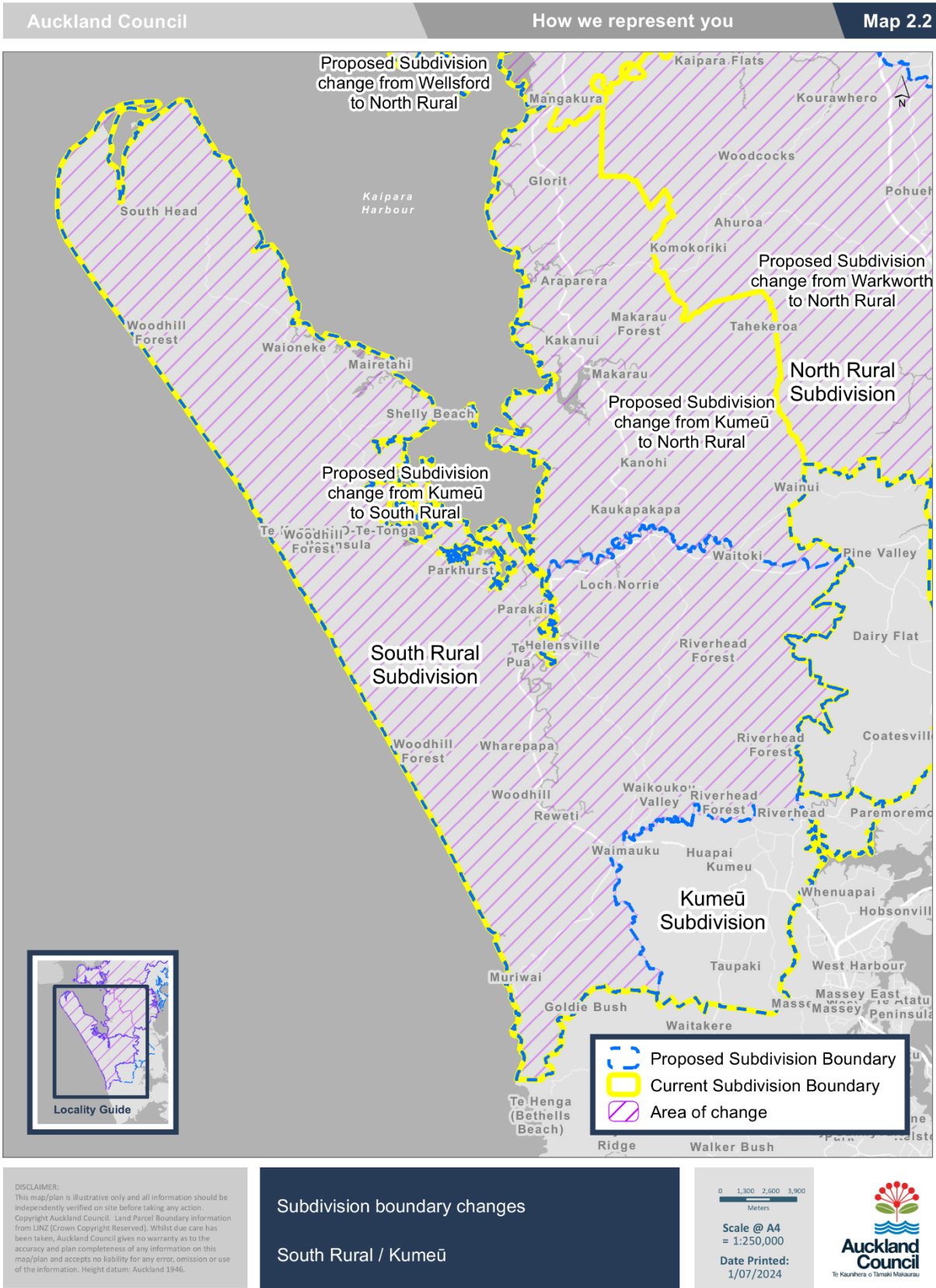
Appendix A: Representation review initial proposal maps

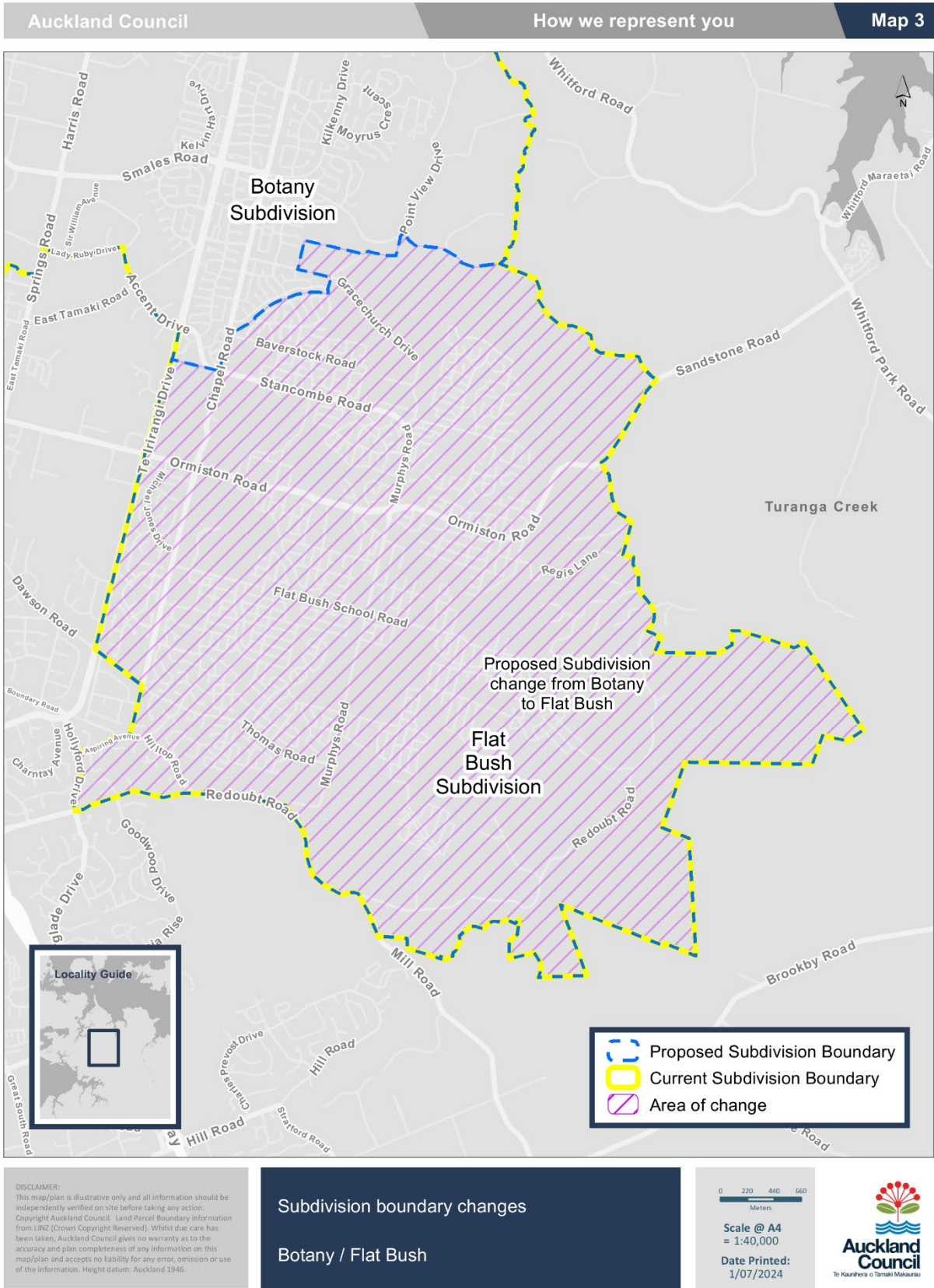


Appendix A: Representation review initial proposal maps

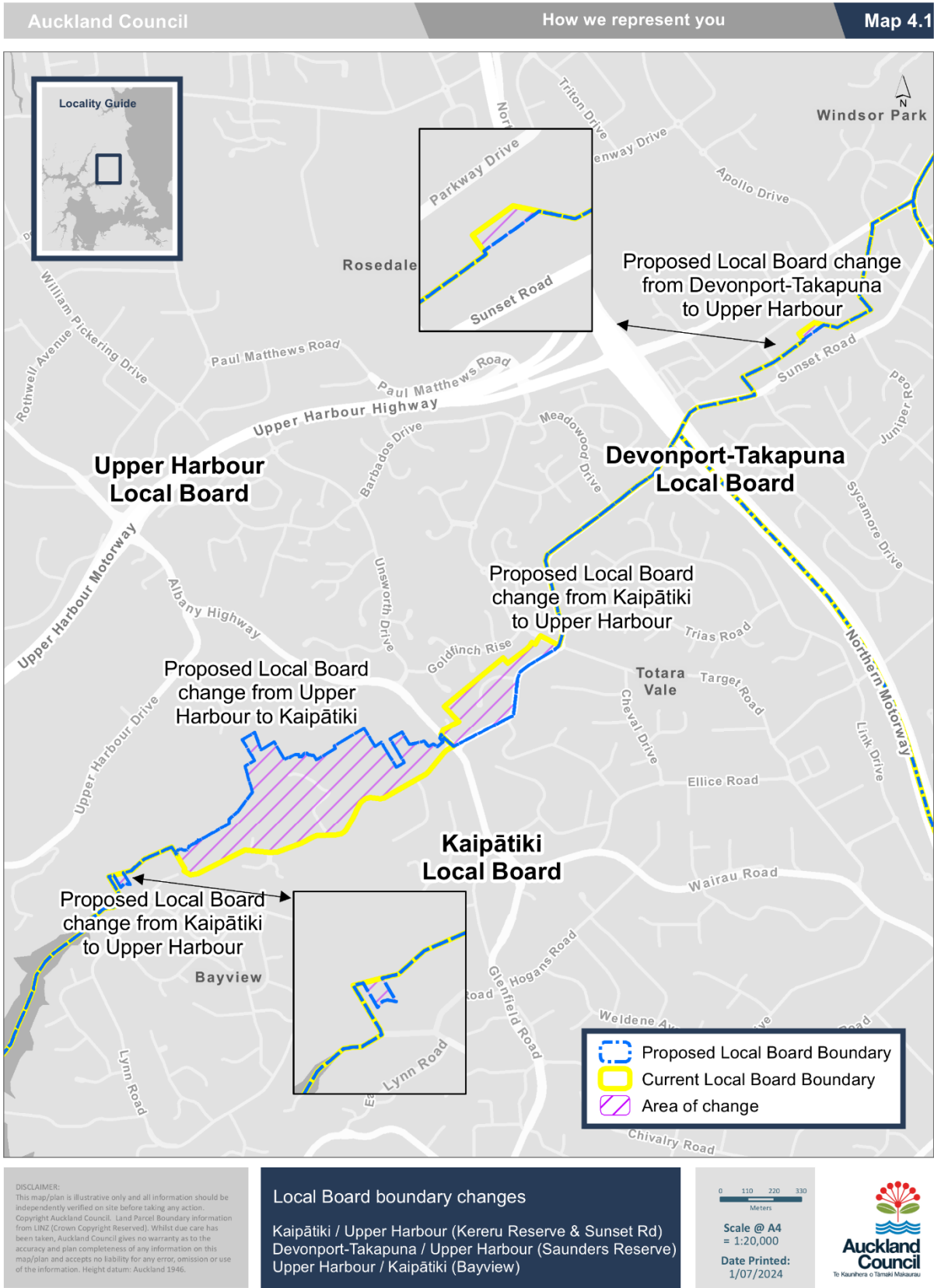


Appendix A: Representation review initial proposal maps





Appendix A: Representation review initial proposal maps



Appendix B: further advice to the Rodney Local Board

Introduction

Context

The council has publicly notified its initial proposal and submissions have been received. The legislation provides that the council **must** consider all submissions and **may** make amendments to its initial proposal as it thinks fit. It must then give public notice of its final proposals. The public notice must give the reasons for any amendments and the reasons for rejecting submissions. Reasons for accepting or rejecting any submission must therefore be identified.

The Governing Body has delegated to the Joint Governance Working Party the responsibility of hearing oral submissions, considering all submissions and making recommendations to the Governing Body for its final proposal.

The local board now has the opportunity to provide feedback to the Joint Governance Working Party in light of the submissions that have been received. Its feedback might include:

- (i) Support for continuing with the initial proposal without amendment
- (ii) Support for specific amendments to the initial proposal
- (iii) Noting issues it requests the JGWP to address, but without proposing a specific amendment
- (iv) Any combination of these.

This analysis highlights the main issues raised by submitters and in some cases notes possible amendments to address these issues.

Initial proposal for Rodney Local Board subdivisions

The Rodney Local Board considered six options for addressing the population imbalance in the Wellsford subdivision. Although divided on its preferred option it resolved to support an option based on recognising communities of interest defined by rural and non-rural characteristics. This option also spreads representation more evenly. The current arrangement of subdivisions provides one member elected from the Wellsford and Dairy Flat subdivisions, three from the Warkworth subdivision and four from the Kumeū subdivision. The initial proposal provides an arrangement of subdivisions where there are two members elected from each of the North Rural, South Rural, Warkworth, Kumeū subdivisions and one member from the Dairy Flat subdivision.

The Joint Governance Working Party will now consider whether any amendments need to be made to the initial proposal in the light of submissions.

Analysis of submissions

Caveat

At the time this analysis was undertaken not all submissions were available. It is assumed that any further submissions will promote similar themes to those already received. This analysis considers the matters raised in submissions rather than the quantity of submissions.

Only Rodney submitters

For the online feedback process each submitter had the opportunity to respond to the same questions. This analysis considers only those submissions made by people living in the Rodney area, since these are the people directly affected by the proposal for Rodney Local Board subdivisions.

Support for the proposal

Support tends to come from people in rural areas. Comments of support from online feedback as at 6 August 2024 are listed without further commentary:

Respondent's suburb	Comment
Ahuroa	More localised representation for Ahuroa and rural residents instead of urban Warkworth which seems to take the lions share. Because it is far fairer to amalgamate the rural people and give them a say on the Rodney Local Board. As rural people we feel marginalised on the Rodney Local Board due to insufficient representation, the proposed changes would provide fairer representation.
Kaukapakapa	Kaukapakapa is more connected with the North. Makarau, Waitoki, Wainui, Glorit and beyond. Those who commute and shop generally go via Silverdale as this is a faster route to Auckland city. Kaukapakapa school has more to do with Waitoki and Wanui. As farmers our connections are North. I feel we are lost in the Southern area. There are more towns south with Helensville, Parakai, Kumeu, Huapai and Wiamauku. Kaukapakapa is lost. We farm at Glorit and Wellsford is our service town. This represents what connections there are in the communities better.
Kumeū	I would like to see Kumeu, Riverhead, Waimauku and Muriwai as a subdivision but appreciate the numbers may not fall where they need to for this to happen. The current division for Kumeu extends to Glorit and the west of Warkworth which is Northern Rodney. This is a disconnection with the Kumeu area. The needs of the rural community are quite different to the urban area. These suggested changes give a focus on rural character of Rodney as well its rural service towns. The urban spaces within the rural area are catered for in this model. Council buildings and parks within the rural areas and urban satellites will be managed as they are now. Having board members

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	that are familiar with the large rural areas is more likely with the moth south split.
Mahurangi East	Rodney is a contrast of urban and rural lifestyles with different needs. The rural wards will provide more balance in decision making that will ensure that the needs of both urban and rural areas are met. What we have seen in the past 14 years in Rodney was worse than during the period at Rodney District Council when the Hibiscus Coast and Rural Committees were dissolved and led to the chaos.
Makaurau	Fairer and a more even distribution over the Ward
Matakana	The new subdivisions will now give the rural community the opportunity for a distinct and clear voice to be heard by the greater Auckland populace.
Muriwai	Any support for increased representation in such a vast and disparate area is supported...how one non local board (sic) can have any idea of what is going on is beyond me, so go for it. Because of the increase in population in South Rodney means there is a lot more for elected board members to do which enables the community to have a voice
Point Wells	It makes for a much fairer representation. seems to provide a more logical split in terms of providing separate rural and urban communities of interest
Puhoi	I live in Puhoi and feel better represented by being part of a rural subdivision as proposed by changes, rather than being part of a subdivision area based on a town centre. Better representation for rural areas in the Rodney Ward.
Taupaki	Makes a fairer representation
Waimauku	Makes sense based on information provided
Warkworth	it seems fair
Wellsford	Rural deserves much fairer representation than has had recently. The distance expected to be covered by wellsford's elected official should be shared. This proposal is a much better idea A much fairer representation of a larger area that currently has a minority representation at best in local boards.
Whangateau	The representation seems fair to reflect the population numbers in each area.

Opposition to the proposal

Submissions in opposition to the council's initial proposal are considered in terms of the issues raised by the submissions.

Boundary between North Rural and South Rural

One of the options considered by the local board did not have separate North Rural and South Rural subdivisions but one large rural subdivision. A different option, where this one large rural area was divided into two subdivisions (North Rural and South Rural), was preferred by the board because of the uneven distribution of population between the north and south areas, to ensure the north area has representation. The boundary between north and south was drawn in order to provide good compliance with the 10% rule and was somewhat arbitrary. This has been the subject of submissions from people in the Kaukapakapa area and its surrounds. Staff have communicated with the Kaukapakapa Area Residents and Ratepayers Association (KARRA) to explore more suitable options for the boundary.

The view of KARRA is that Kaukapakapa, Helensville, Waitoki, Makarau share a community of interest. This includes shared arrangements for emergency response and management of the catchment. KARRA prefers the original option 3 to the initial proposal as it recognises these communities.

Staff have looked at options for amending the initial proposal so that it provides a similar recognition of the communities of interest identified by KARRA.

Amendment 1: Move the boundary between North Rural and South Rural northwards such that Kaukapakapa, Makarau, Waitoki and Wainui are all included in South Rural. This results in North Rural losing population, leading to a variance of -21.09% for North Rural.

Amendment 2: Move the boundary between North Rural and South Rural northwards such that South Rural includes Kaukapakapa but the areas around Waitoki and Wainui are in North Rural. This results in both subdivisions complying.

Amendment 3: As for Amendment 1 but compensate for the loss of population in North Rural by transferring rural parts of the Warkworth subdivision to North Rural. If areas north-west of Matakana and Point Wells (but not including these areas) and an area that includes Leigh are transferred to North Rural this leads to a variance in both North Rural and Warkworth of -10.75% each. This change was not signalled in the proposal that was consulted on and neither were there any submissions suggesting this change. Staff suggest just noting this.

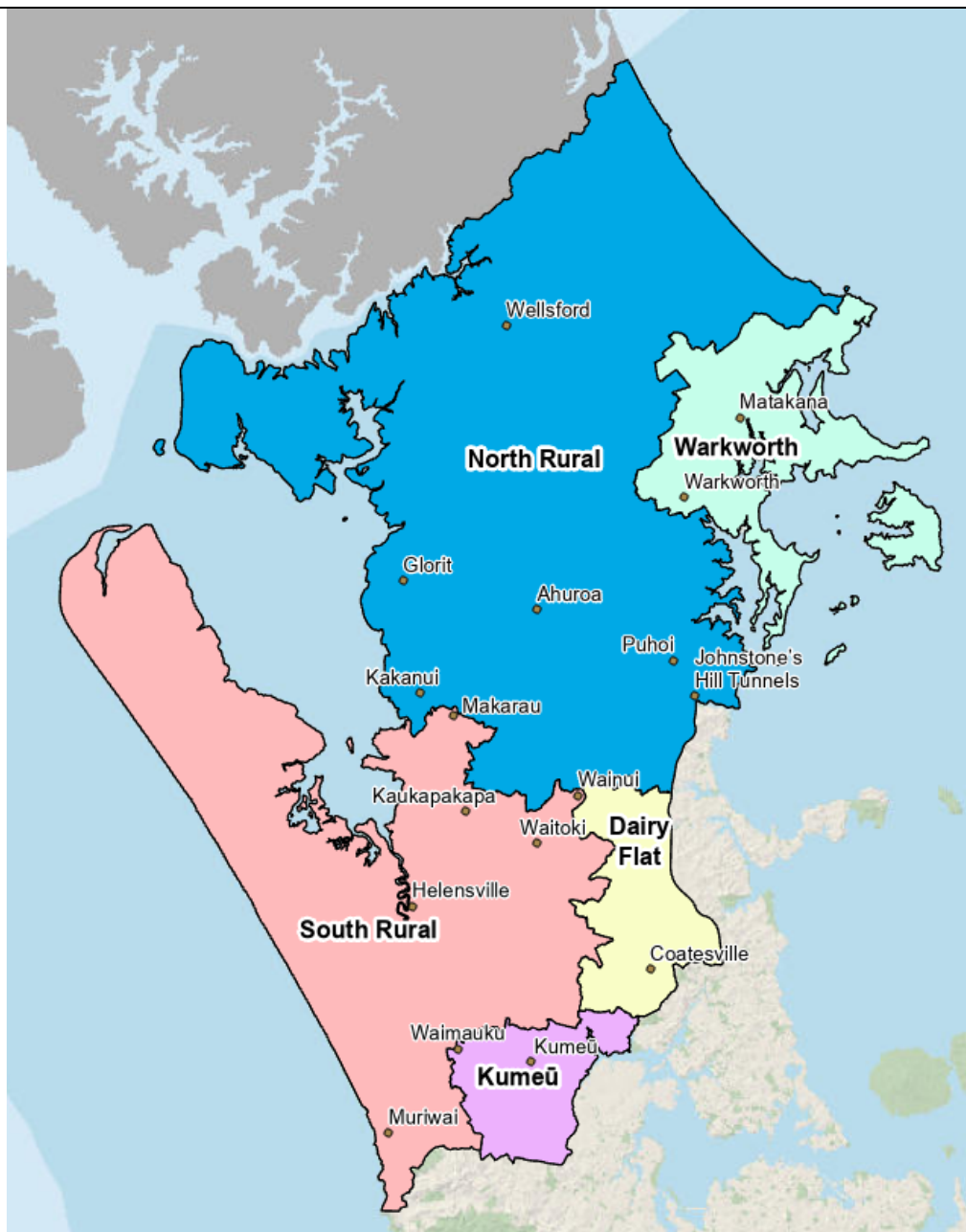
Amendment 4: Amalgamate the North Rural and South Rural subdivisions into one large subdivision with 4 members. This was one of the original options considered by the board but, as for Amendment 3, has not been consulted on. The submission from the Northern Action Group / Rodney Community Voices / Landowners and Contractors Assn states it would support this but no other submissions have commented on it.

A council may decide to not comply with the 10 percent rule if compliance would lead to splitting communities of interest or joining communities with little in common. There are no guidelines as to what size of non-compliance is permissible, this is at the discretion of the Local Government Commission. Given the strong case for community of interest considerations put forward by KARRA staff consider that the Commission would likely understand the reasoning if council preferred to not comply. Staff are inclined to prefer Amendment 2 because of its compliance with the 10 percent rule.

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Amendment 1:

South Rural expands to include Kaukapakapa, Makarau, Waitoki and Wainui

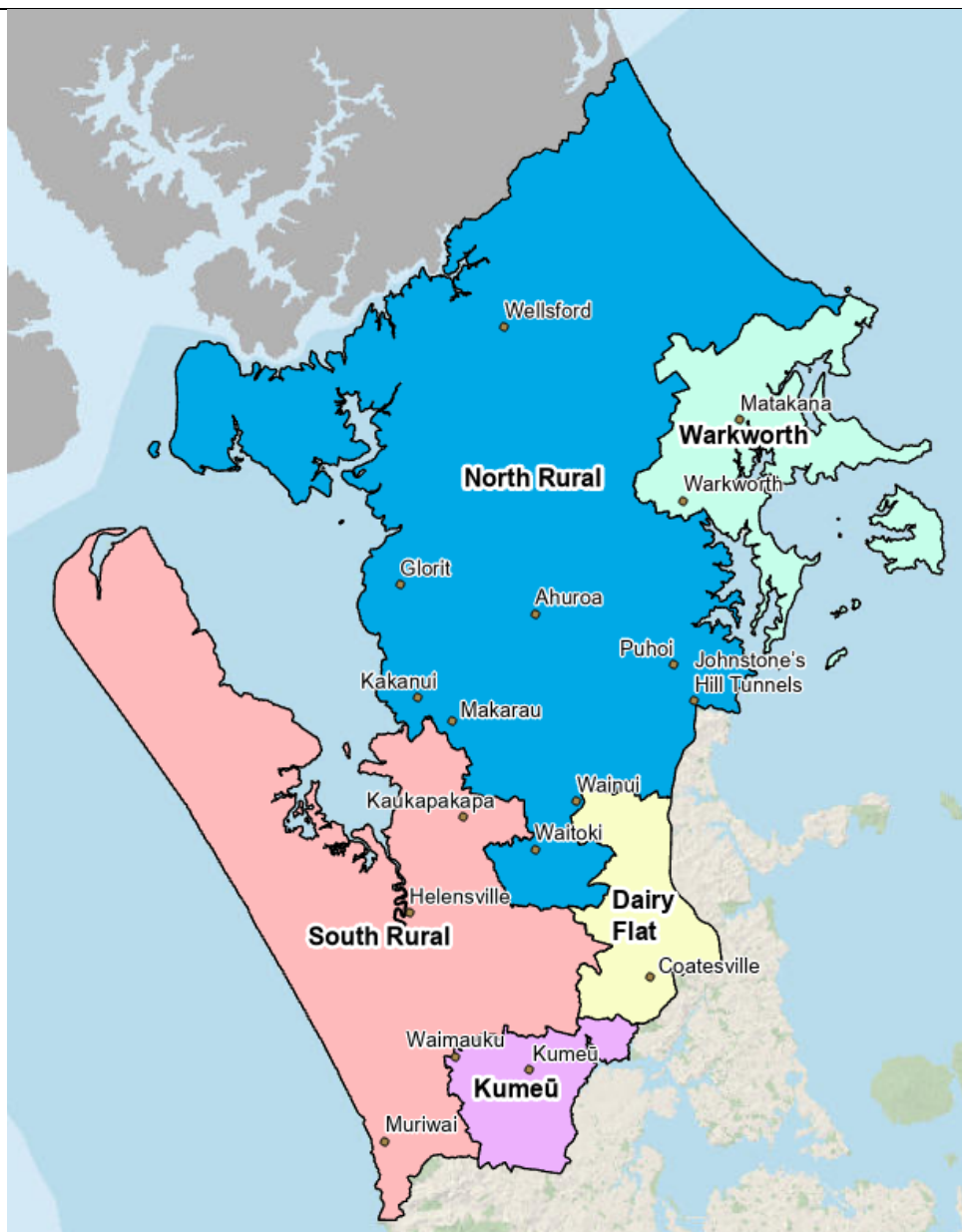


	Pop Est (2023)	Members	Pop per member	Diff from average	% diff from average
North Rural Subdivision	14,190	2	7,095	-1,896	-21.09%
South Rural Subdivision	19,550	2	9,775	784	8.72%
Warkworth Subdivision	17,910	2	8,955	-36	-0.40%
Kumeū Subdivision	19,750	2	9,875	884	9.83%
Dairy Flat Subdivision	9,520	1	9,520	529	5.88%
Total	80,920	9	8,991		

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Amendment 2:

South Rural expands to include Kaukapakapa, Makarau, but not as much of the area around Waitoki as in Amendment 1.



	Pop Est (2023)	Members	Pop per member	Diff from average	% diff from average
North Rural Subdivision	16290	2	8,145	-846	-9.41%
South Rural Subdivision	17450	2	8,725	-266	-2.96%
Warkworth Subdivision	17910	2	8,955	-36	-0.40%
Kumeū Subdivision	19750	2	9,875	884	9.83%
Dairy Flat Subdivision	9520	1	9,520	529	5.88%
Total	80920	9	8,991	0	0.00%

Rural – urban characteristics

Some submitters have questioned defining communities of interest in terms of rural and urban characteristics.

The Auckland region is large. It has recognised rural areas in the north (Rodney) and in the south (Franklin). However both these areas have, within them, urban areas which can be identified by means of the Rural Urban Boundary (RUB) in the Unitary Plan and the council's Future Development Strategy. If non-rural subdivisions (Warkworth, Kumeū, Dairy Flat) were to match the urban areas in the RUB and the Future Development Strategy they would be smaller than what is currently proposed and there would be issues meeting the 10% rule. There have been suggestions that the areas of Matakana, Omaha and Point Wells are rural. The option of these areas moving from the Warkworth subdivision to the North Rural subdivision has been looked at but is not possible with population considerations (results in Warkworth not complying with the 10% rule).

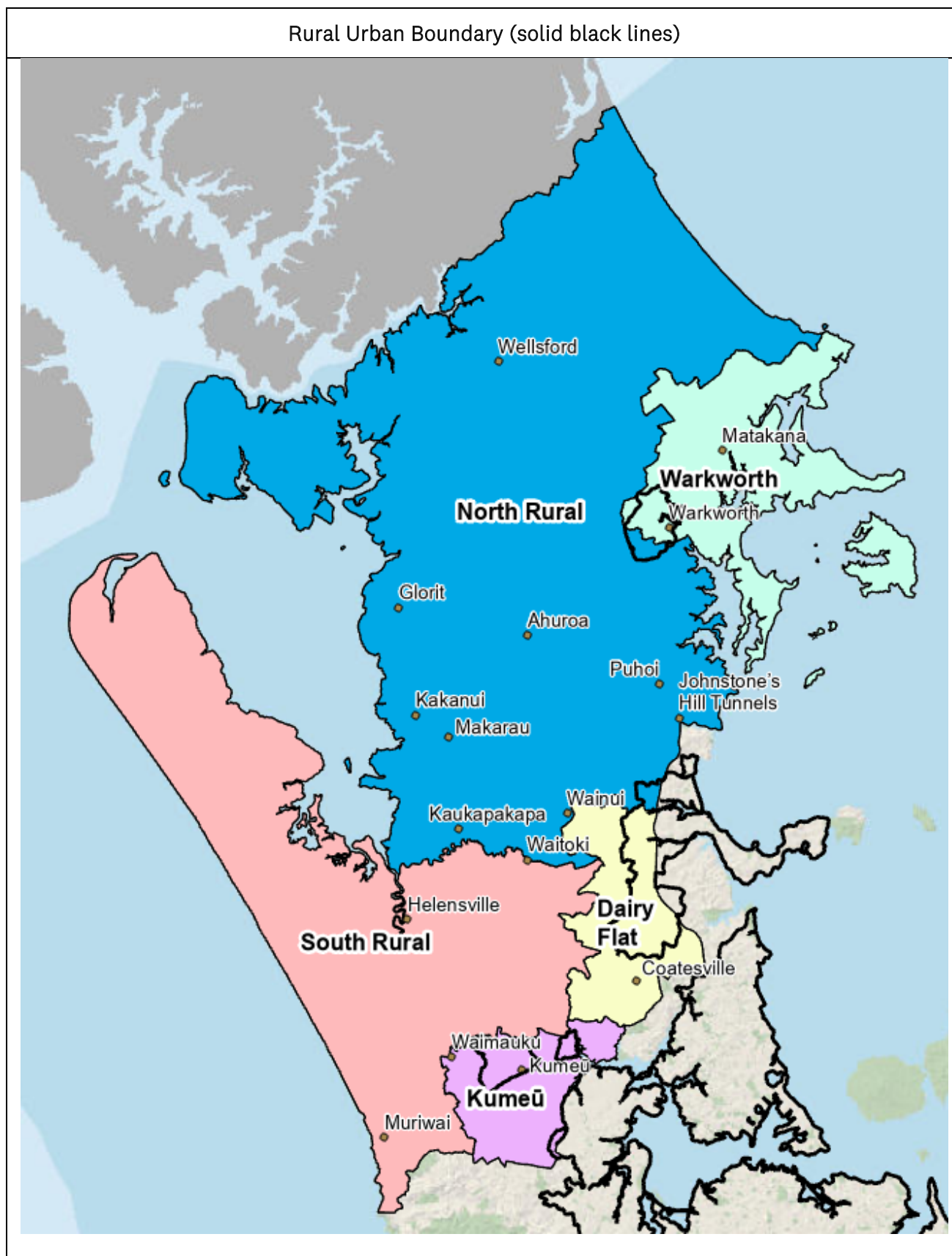
It needs to be acknowledged that population growth is not limited to urban areas. Rural zoning allows for lifestyle blocks in some areas but population density is greater in urban boundaries.

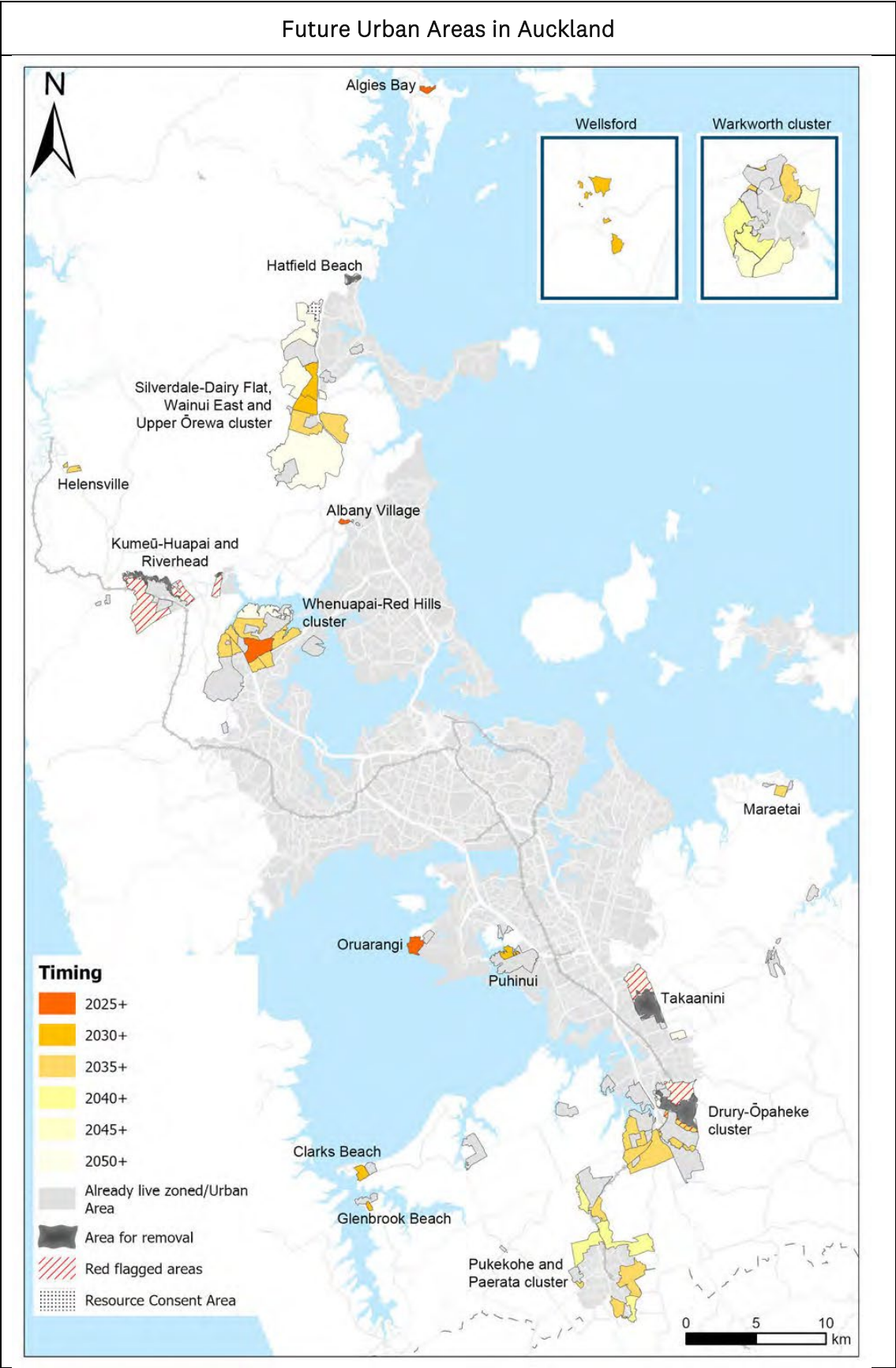
The areas within the defined RUB are contained in the Kumeū, Dairy Flat and Warkworth subdivisions except for a portion to the south and south-west of Warkworth and a portion to the north of Dairy Flat. The portion of the urban area that is not in the Warkworth subdivision is not due for development until 2040. The portion relating to Dairy Flat includes the upper Ōrewa resource consents area. The northern Dairy Flat boundary could be expanded to match the Rural Urban Boundary.

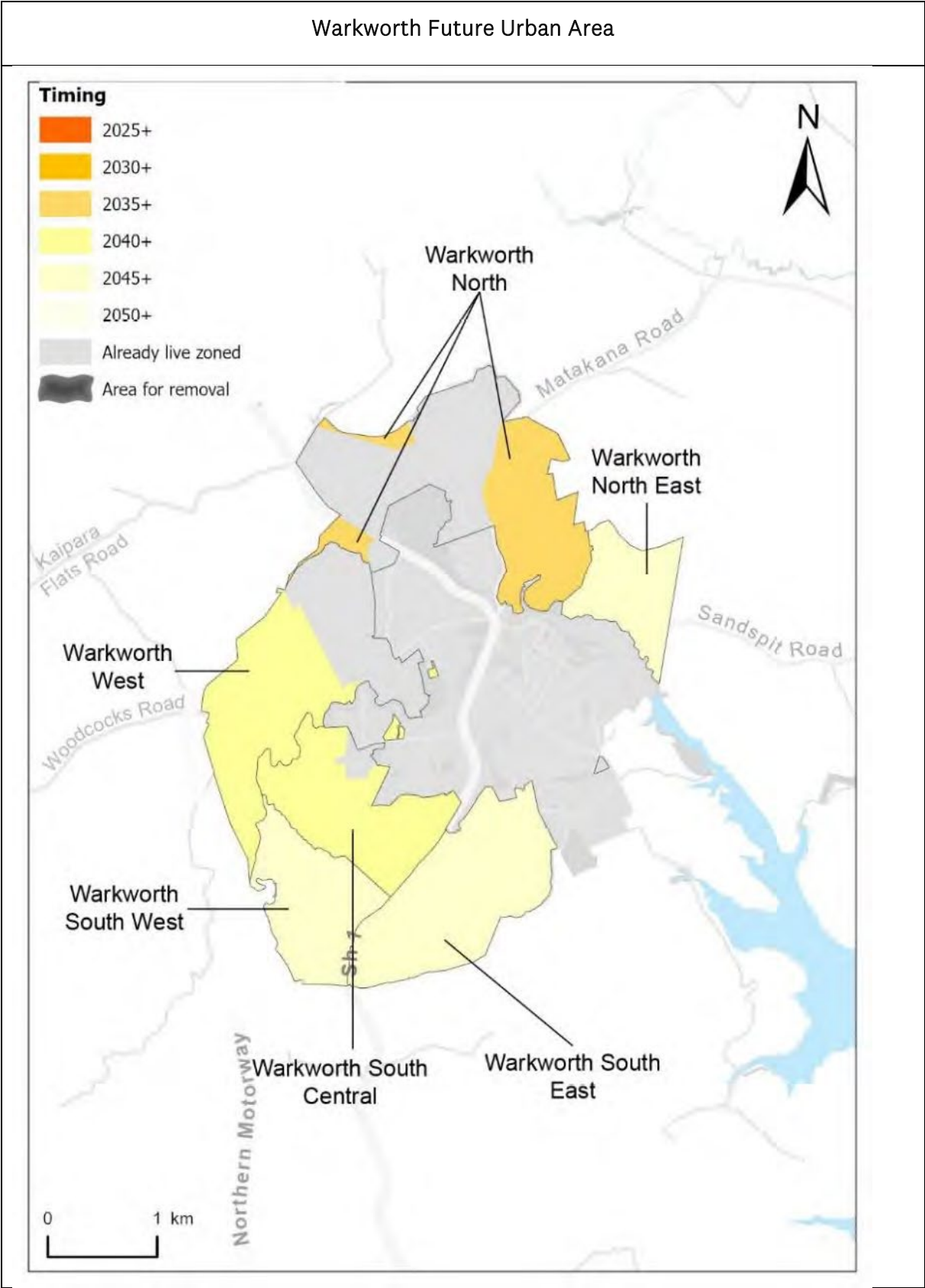
Amendment 5: Expand the northern boundary of Dairy Flat to align with the RUB. This increases the non-compliance of North Rural by about 0.7 percentage points. Dairy Flat is still compliant.

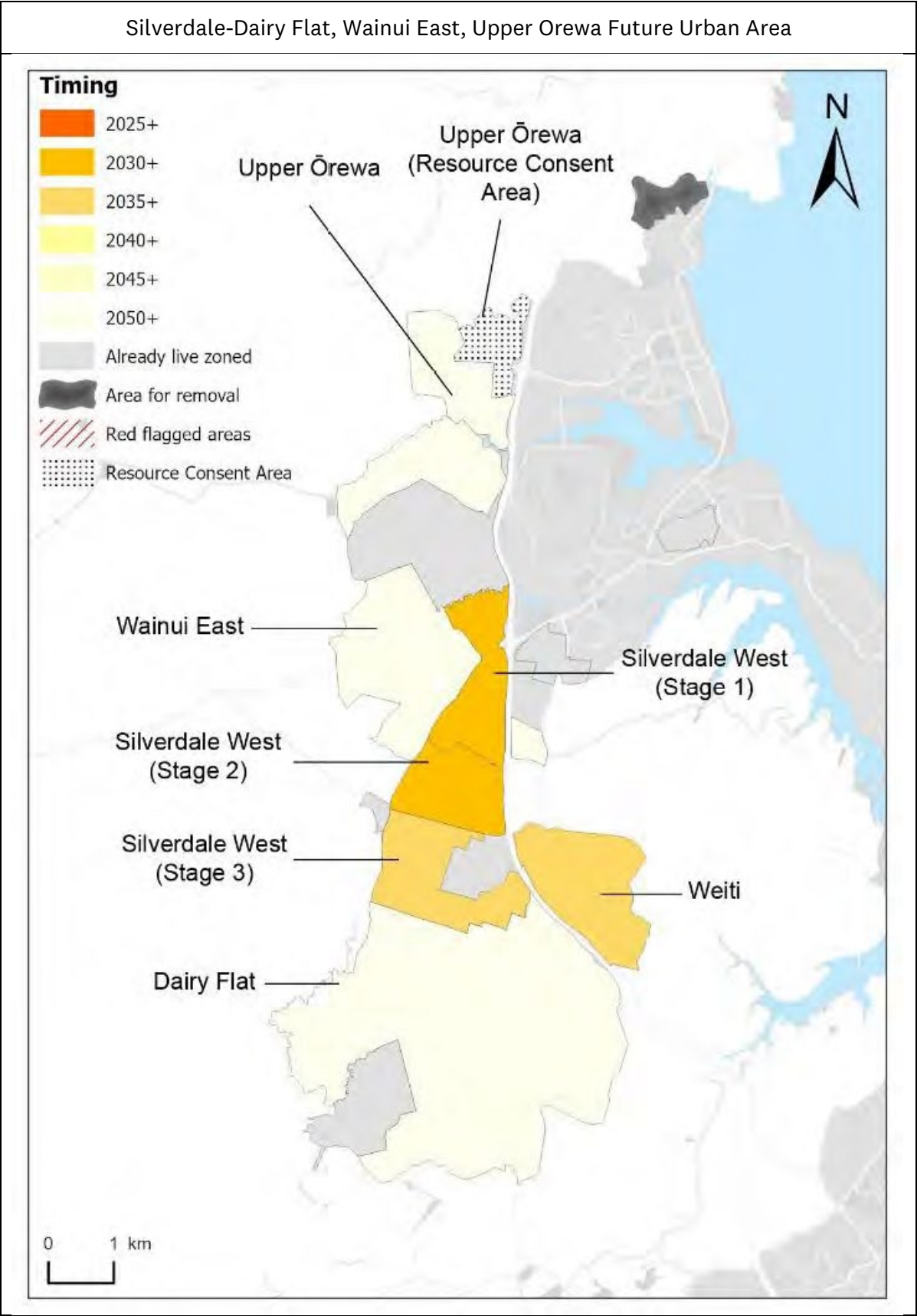
Staff support amending the Dairy Flat boundary to align with the RUB.

The following maps show the Rural Urban Boundary in relation to subdivision boundaries in the initial proposal then Future Urban Areas as described in the council's Future Development Strategy:









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Subdivision names

At least five submissions suggest changing the name of the South Rural subdivision to South Kaipara. One submission suggests the following names (based on Option 3 rather than the initial proposal):

- Northern Rodney (currently Wellsford)
- Mahurangi (currently Warkworth)
- South Kaipara (currently Kumeu)
- Dairy Flat

Staff do not have a view on subdivision names.

No need to change

There are submissions that state there is no need to change because everything is working fine as it is. The reason the local board considered different options for subdivisions is because the Wellsford subdivision does not meet population criteria (having variation of -22.63%). It is possible for a council to decide to not comply if compliance would lead to a community of interest being split or unlike communities being combined. However if there are options available to the council which comply and do not have negative impacts on communities of interest then it follows that the council cannot decide to not comply because it cannot defend an argument that complying would impact communities of interest.

Preference for other subdivision options

The consultation material on the council's HaveYourSay website includes downloadable copies of reports to local boards that set out alternative options. For the proposal relating to the Rodney Local Board subdivisions, some submitters have expressed opposition to the council's initial proposal and a preference for one of the other options for subdivision arrangements, particularly Option 3. This is the option that has little effect on the current Kumeū subdivision.

Reduced representation

Some submitters are concerned about the number of representatives in a subdivision, relative to other subdivisions – ie the concern is that if a subdivision has more representatives it is more likely to benefit from local board decision-making. For example, some submitters from the Warkworth subdivision are concerned that because the representation for the Warkworth subdivision will be reduced then that will affect the attention Warkworth receives from the local board.

The reason members are elected by an electoral area (ward in the case of councillors and subdivision in the case of local board members) is to spread representation fairly. The downside of creating electorates (as compared to election at-large) is that it can lead to competition between members representing different electorates at the decision-making table. This is not desirable - once local board members are elected they each make a statutory declaration to act in the best interests of the whole of the Rodney Local Board area. The local board's priorities as a whole should be set out in its local board plan, which has full community consultation.

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One way to address a perception that the more representatives a subdivision has then the more likely it is to benefit from local board decision-making is to spread representation evenly. The council's initial proposal provides a more even distribution of representation than is the current case. In the proposal each subdivision has two members, except for Dairy Flat.

Currently the subdivisions in those local boards which have subdivisions have either equal numbers of members in each subdivision or differ by one member, except for the rural local boards. Franklin Local Board has three subdivisions with 2, 3 or 4 members in each. Rodney Local Board has four subdivisions with two having 1 member and the other two having 3 or 4 members.

There is, of course, the ability to review the total number of members on the local board. There is no legislative requirement that binds the number of members to the size of population in a local board area. The local boards in Auckland range in terms of total number of members to a maximum of 9 members. Both rural local boards and the Howick Local Board each have a total of 9 members. All other local boards have fewer members. (The council's initial proposal includes an increase for the Howick Local Board to 11 members.) In this context it is difficult to make a case for increasing the total number of members on the Rodney Local Board.

Process

Some submitters have questioned the process, in particular that staff reported a proposal from the Northern Action Group (NAG) and did not seek the views of other community groups. Staff did not seek the views of NAG. The group's proposals had already been presented to the council's Governing Body. In advising the Rodney Local Board of options to address the non-compliance of the Wellsford subdivision, it would have been remiss of staff to not report options based on the NAG proposal as possible options since these also addressed the non-compliance of Wellsford. Staff considered that members know their communities better than staff and would be able to assess the most appropriate option. Staff acknowledge the members of the local board for the degree of consideration they have given this issue.

Another issue mentioned by some is that population data is not based on the 2023 census. Section 19X of the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires the Government Statistician to provide a certificate of the ordinarily resident population. The process for councils to undertake reviews of representation arrangements typically commences with the Local Government Commission circulating statistics to councils in November two years prior to elections. In November 2023 the Local Government Commission advised councils of the timeline for the release of census 2023 data, noting this would commence in May 2024 but would not contain statistics at the level of ward or subdivision. It stated "The Commission's view is that the data source used by a council for its initial proposal should continue to be used for the remainder of the process. In practice, this means that councils will need to use the 2023 population estimates (or customised data sets sought from Stats NZ) for the entirety of their representation review process." The 2023 population estimates are the official Stats NZ estimates based on the 2018 census. Staff acknowledge that this is not ideal. Stats NZ will publish data at ward and subdivision level from October 2024.

Other comments suggested that population should be based on projected data given the speed at which population is growing in some areas. This is not possible since population is required to be based on the most recent census, and not on future growth. Nevertheless if it is possible to identify options that comply with current statistics which would also withstand growth into the future then such options would be preferable.

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Submissions from groups

The following submissions are attached:

Kaukapakapa Area Residents and Ratepayers Assn

Matakana Community Group

North West Country Inc Business Association

Northern Action Group, Rodney Community Voices, Landowners and Contractors Assn

Omaha Beach Community

Pest Free Kaukapakapa

Sylvan Estate Residents

Taupaki Flood Committee

Warkworth Area Liaison Group

