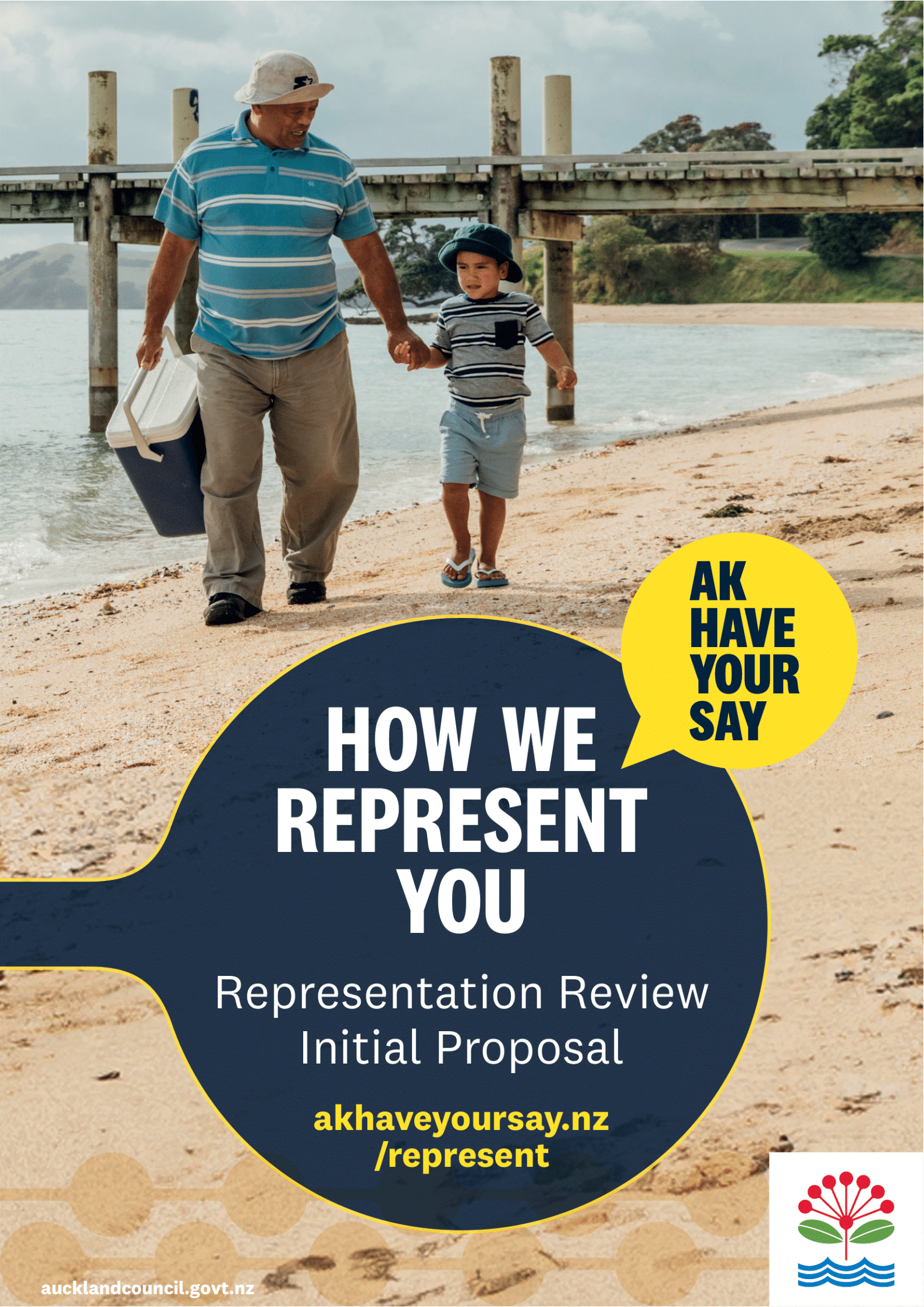




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HOW WE REPRESENT YOU

Representation Review
Initial Proposal

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/represent**



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Initial proposal for representation arrangements for the 2025 elections

On 27 June 2024, the council reviewed its representation arrangements as it is required to do under legislation and resolved that the following proposal apply to the Auckland Council Governing Body and local boards for the local elections on 11 October 2025.

Legal requirements

Communities of interest

Section 19T of the [Local Electoral Act 2001](#) requires that the arrangements proposed by the council provide for effective representation of communities of interest.

Fairness of representation

Section 19V of the [Local Electoral Act 2001](#) requires that the population that each member represents in a ward must not vary from the average across the whole of Auckland by more than 10% unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise. The same rule applies to subdivisions in local board areas for those local boards that have subdivisions.

Alignment of ward and local board boundaries

Section 19T of the [Local Electoral Act 2001](#) requires that so far as is practicable, ward boundaries coincide with any local board area boundaries.

Governing Body (councillors, wards and their boundaries)

To ensure rural community representation, the number of members of the Governing Body will be based on one councillor representing about 85,000 people resulting in 20 councillors, in addition to the mayor. This is equivalent to the current number of councillors.

The council proposes that the 20 councillors are elected from 13 wards to effectively represent communities of interest.

Wards will be based on the communities of interest that applied for the 2022 elections, except for those wards which have changes to their current boundaries as shown in the following table. Detail describing the proposed changes in each ward is provided below the table.

Ward	Changed from 2022?	Population (2023)	Members in each ward	Pop. per member	Diff from average	% diff from average
Rodney Ward	No	81,000	1	81,000	-5,965	-6.86%
Albany Ward	Yes	191,390	2	95,695	8,730	10.04%
North Shore Ward	Yes	150,110	2	75,055	-11,910	-13.70%
Waitākere Ward	No	187,000	2	93,500	6,535	7.51%
Waitematā and Gulf Ward	Yes	94,050	1	94,050	7,085	8.15%

Whau Ward	No	86,300	1	86,300	-665	-0.76%
Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa Ward	Yes	163,720	2	81,860	-5,105	-5.87%
Ōrākei Ward	Yes	86,130	1	86,130	-835	-0.96%
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward	Yes	84,100	1	84,100	-2,865	-3.29%
Howick Ward	No	157,700	2	78,850	-8,115	-9.33%
Manukau Ward	No	185,800	2	92,900	5,935	6.82%
Manurewa-Papakura Ward	No	186,700	2	93,350	6,385	7.34%
Franklin Ward	No	85,300	1	85,300	-1,665	-1.91%
Total		1,739,300	20	86,965		

Changes to wards from the 2022 elections and the affected communities of interest

For maps of the following ward changes please refer to Appendix B, Maps 1.1 to 1.5.

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

Before the 2019 elections, the representation in the Waitemātā and Gulf Ward exceeded the average population per councillor by 43.74 per cent. The population of the Waitemātā and Gulf Ward was reduced by moving the boundary between the Waitemātā 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 Waitemātā Local Board area, will return to the Waitemātā and Gulf Ward and remain in the Waitemātā 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 Waitemātā Local Board area does not change. This avoids central Auckland wards not complying with the fairness of representation rule.

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.

Further alignment with local board boundaries

The section below on minor changes to local board boundaries leads to additional minor adjustments in ward boundaries to ensure they stay aligned with those local board boundaries.

Non-complying wards

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.

Local boards (subdivisions and their boundaries)

Local board communities of interest

This review only changes the boundaries of electoral subdivisions within local board areas, not the local board boundaries themselves. Minor changes to local board boundaries are allowed if the population shift meets the limits set by regulations.

The council proposes that the representation arrangements for the 21 local boards in the 2025 elections be based on the communities of interest used in the 2022 elections, except for the changes to subdivisions that are listed in the following table.

Local board subdivisions	Changed from 2022?	Pop (2023) ¹	Memb ers	Pop per member	Diff from average	% diff from average
Rodney Local Board subdivisions (Map 2.1 and 2.2)						
North Rural Subdivision	New	16,690	2	8,345	-646	-7.19%
South Rural Subdivision	New	17,050	2	8,525	-466	-5.18%
Warkworth Subdivision	Yes	17,910	2	8,955	-36	-0.40%
Kumeū Subdivision	Yes	19,750	2	9,875	884	9.83%
Dairy Flat Subdivision	No	9,520	1	9,520	529	5.88%
Total		80,960	9	8,991		
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board subdivisions						
Hibiscus Coast Subdivision	No	64,800	4	16,200	1,563	10.67
East Coast Bays Subdivision	No	52,300	4	13,075	-1,563	-10.67
Total		117,100	8	14,638		

¹ Population statistics are provided by Statistics NZ and distributed to councils by the Local Government Commission. They are a 2023 estimate based on the 2018 census.

Albert-Eden Local Board subdivisions						
Ōwairaka Subdivision	No	50,200	4	12,550	125	1.01
Maungawhau Subdivision	No	49,200	4	12,300	-125	-1.01
Total		99,400	8	12,425		
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki subdivisions						
Maungakiekie Subdivision	No	32,100	3	10,700	-1,314	-10.94
Tāmaki Subdivision	No	52,000	4	13,000	986	8.20
Total		84,100	7	12,014		
Howick Local Board subdivisions (Map 3)						
Pakuranga Subdivision	No	43,100	3	14,367	39	0.27
Howick Subdivision	No	44,000	3	14,667	339	2.37
Botany Subdivision	Yes	27,840	2	13,920	-407	-2.84
Flat Bush Subdivision	New	42,660	3	14,220	-107	-0.75
Total		157,600	11	14,327		
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board subdivisions						
Papatoetoe Subdivision	No	60,700	4	15,175	1,361	9.85
Ōtara Subdivision	No	36,000	3	12,000	-1,814	-13.13
Total		96,700	7	13,814		
Franklin Local Board subdivisions						
Waiuku Subdivision	No	16,350	2	8,175	-1,308	-13.80
Pukekohe Subdivision	No	41,800	4	10,450	967	10.19
Wairoa Subdivision	No	27,200	3	9,067	-417	-4.39
Total		85,350	9	9,483		

Changes to local board subdivisions from the 2022 elections and the affected communities of interest

The initial proposal includes changes to subdivisions in two local board areas to better represent those communities. Map references are in Appendix B: Representation review maps.

Rodney Local Board

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 and South Rural. The total number of elected members for the Rodney Local Board remains at nine.

Howick Local Board

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).

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.

Minor changes to local board boundaries

When doing a representation review, the council can include minor changes to local board boundaries in the proposal to address minor issues.² There are limits to the number of people³ who would be affected through a local board minor boundary change.

The initial proposal includes the following minor changes to local board boundaries. All map references are found in Appendix B: Representation review maps.

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).

*meshblocks is a term used by Statistics NZ and is a unit of measurement for population data. Boundaries must align with meshblocks.

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).

² [Section 19JAA of the Local Electoral Act 2001](#) and [clause 141 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001](#) 2001

³ 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).

More information

You can view supporting information for the council's proposal for representation arrangements for the 2025 elections on our website at [akhaveyoursay.nz/represent](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/represent).. Further information on the website includes:

- an interactive map viewer showing all proposed changes
- reports to the Governing Body on the representation review
- reports to local boards with special issues addressed through the representation review
- the Local Government Commission determination on the 2019 review
- the Local Government Commission representation review guidelines.

Information is also available at libraries and service centres.

Any queries regarding the council's proposal should be directed to representationreview@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Submissions are invited

The council invites anyone with an interest in the proposed representation arrangements to make a written submission on the council's representation proposal.

You may make your submission:

- by using the online form on council's website
- by email to: representationreview@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- by post to:

Auckland Council Representation Review
Freepost Number 190198
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

In your feedback, please indicate if you wish to speak about your submission and ensure we have your contact details. The law requires us to offer each submitter a reasonable opportunity to be heard as part of the representation review process.

Submissions must be received by no later than 4pm, Thursday 8 August 2024.

Appendix A: Current arrangements

Governing Body

Ward (current boundaries)	Pop (2023)	Members	Pop per member	Diff from average	% diff from average
Rodney Ward	81,000	1	81,000	-5,965	-6.86
Albany Ward	191,600	2	95,800	8,835	10.16
North Shore Ward	149,900	2	74,950	-12,015	-13.82
Waitākere Ward	187,000	2	93,500	6,535	7.51
Waitematā and Gulf Ward	79,800	1	79,800	-7,165	-8.24
Whau Ward	86,300	1	86,300	-665	-0.76
Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa Ward	165,400	2	82,700	-4,265	-4.90
Ōrākei Ward	87,600	1	87,600	635	0.73
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward	95,200	1	95,200	8,235	9.47
Howick Ward	157,700	2	78,850	-8,115	-9.33
Manukau Ward	185,800	2	92,900	5,935	6.82
Manurewa-Papakura Ward	186,700	2	93,350	6,385	7.34
Franklin Ward	85,300	1	85,300	-1,665	-1.91
Total	1,739,300	20	86,965		

All local boards

Local board	Pop (2023)	Members	Pop per member
Rodney Local Board	81,000	9	9,000
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	117,200	8	14,650
Upper Harbour Local Board	74,500	6	12,417
Kaipātiki Local Board	91,300	8	11,413
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	58,600	6	9,767
Henderson-Massey Local Board	131,400	8	16,425
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	55,600	6	9,267
Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board	1,050	5	210
Waiheke Local Board	9,420	5	1,884
Waitematā Local Board	86,700	7	12,386
Whau Local Board	86,300	7	12,329
Albert-Eden Local Board	99,500	8	12,438
Puketāpapa Local Board	61,100	6	10,183
Ōrākei Local Board	86,200	7	12,314
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	84,100	7	12,014
Howick Local Board	157,700	9	17,522

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	89,200	7	12,743
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	96,700	7	13,814
Manurewa Local Board	110,900	8	13,863
Papakura Local Board	75,800	6	12,633
Franklin Local Board	85,300	9	9,478

Local board subdivisions

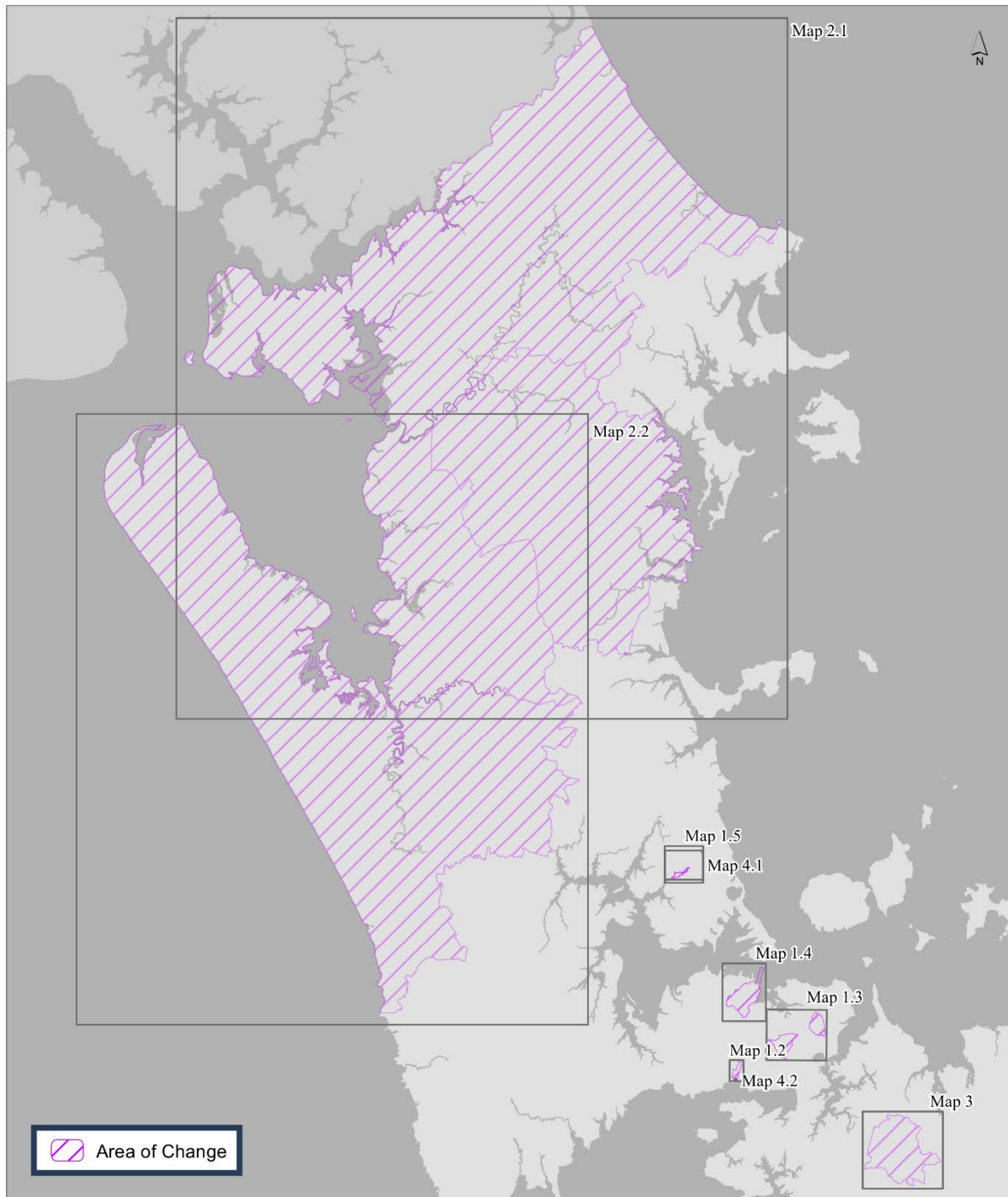
Local board	Pop (2023)	Members	Pop per member	Diff from average	% diff from average
Rodney Local Board subdivisions					
Wellsford	6,960	1	6,960	-2,036	-22.63
Warkworth	23,600	3	7,867	-1,129	-12.55
Kumeū	40,900	4	10,225	1,229	13.67
Dairy Flat	9,500	1	9,500	504	5.61
Total	80,960	9	8,996		
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board subdivisions					
Hibiscus Coast	64,800	4	16,200	1,563	10.67
East Coast Bays	52,300	4	13,075	-1,563	-10.67
Total	117,100	8	14,638		
Albert-Eden Local Board subdivisions					
Ōwairaka	50,200	4	12,550	125	1.01
Maungawhau	49,200	4	12,300	-125	-1.01
Total	99,400	8	12,425		
Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board subdivisions					
Maungakiekie	32,100	3	10,700	-1,314	-10.94
Tamaki	52,000	4	13,000	986	8.20
Total	84,100	7	12,014		
Howick Local Board subdivisions					
Pakuranga	43,100	3	14,367	-3,144	-17.96
Howick	44,000	3	14,667	-2,844	-16.24
Botany	70,500	3	23,500	5,989	34.20
Total	157,600	9	17,511		

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board subdivisions					
Papatoetoe	60,700	4	15,175	1,361	9.85
Ōtara	36,000	3	12,000	-1,814	-13.13
Total	96,700	7	13,814		
Franklin Local Board subdivisions					
Waiuku	16,350	2	8,175	-1,308	-13.80
Pukekohe	41,800	4	10,450	967	10.19
Wairoa	27,200	3	9,067	-417	-4.39
Total	85,350	9	9,483		

Appendix B: Representation review 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



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Representation review initial proposal overview



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Ward boundary changes

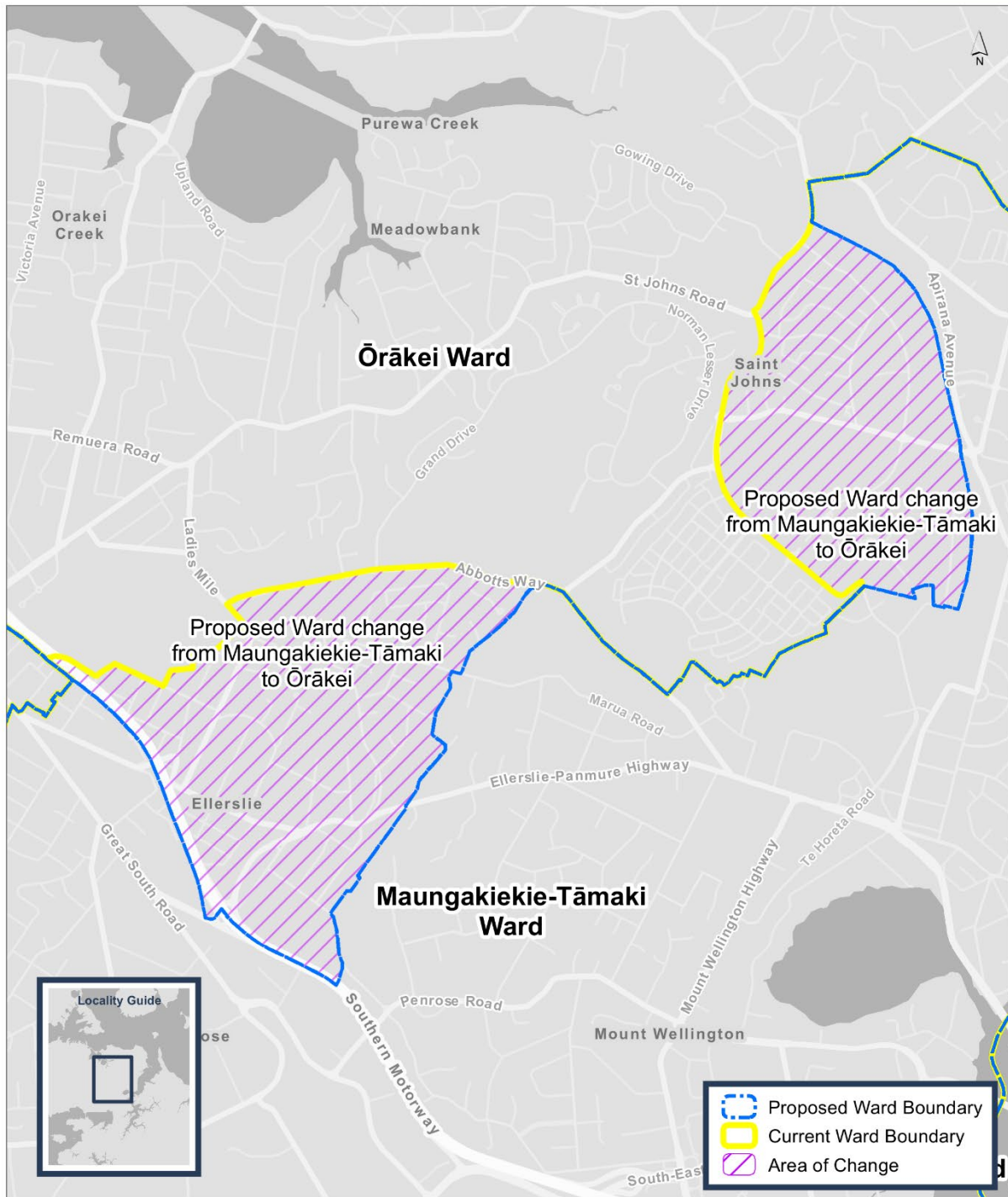
Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa /
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki (Royal Oak)

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Date Printed:
2/07/2024





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Ward boundary changes

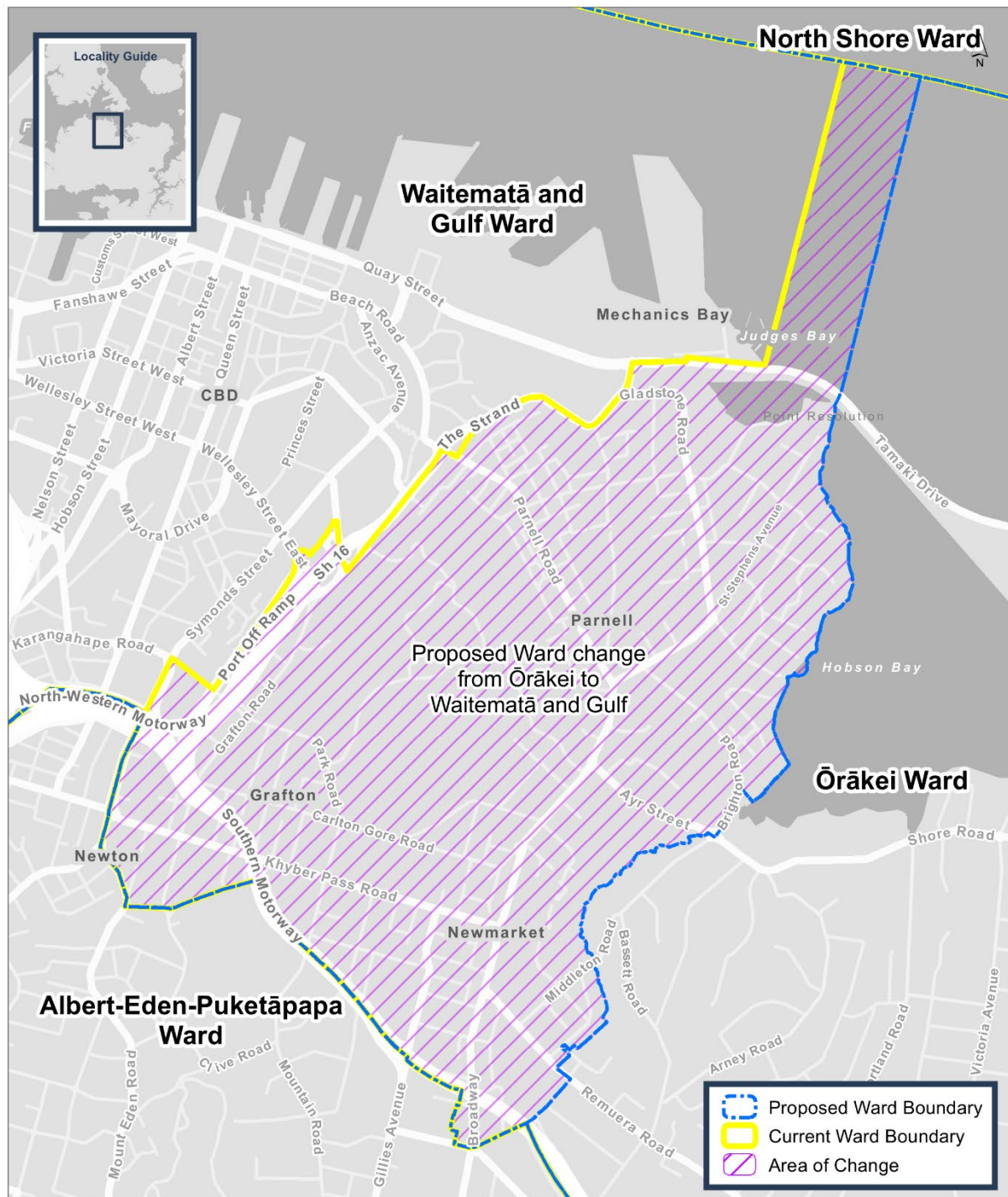
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki / Ōrākei
(Ellerslie & St Johns)

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Meters

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Date Printed:
1/07/2024





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Ward boundary changes

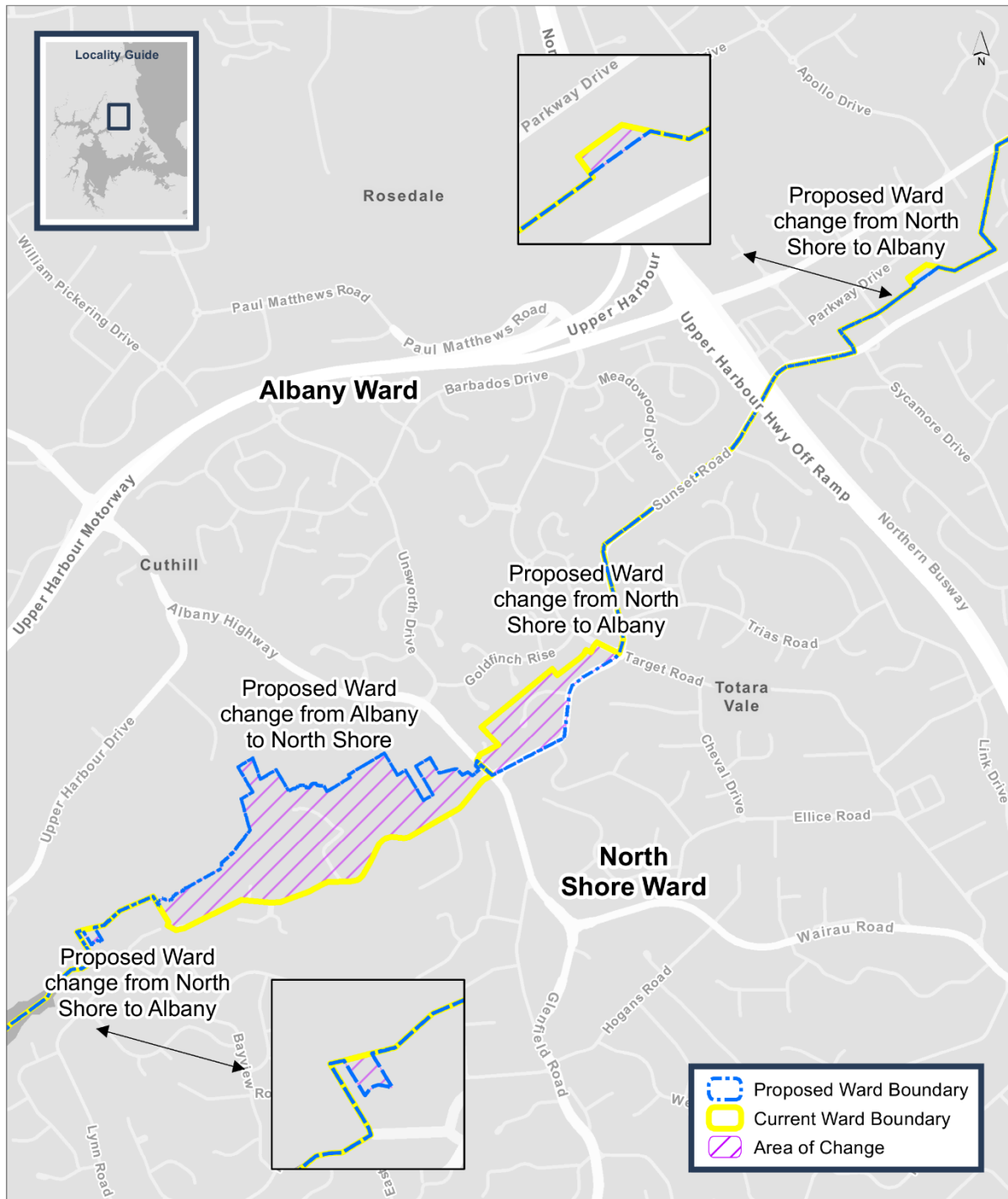
Ōrākei / Waitematā and Gulf
(Parnell, Newmarket, Grafton)

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Date Printed:
1/07/2024





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Ward boundary changes

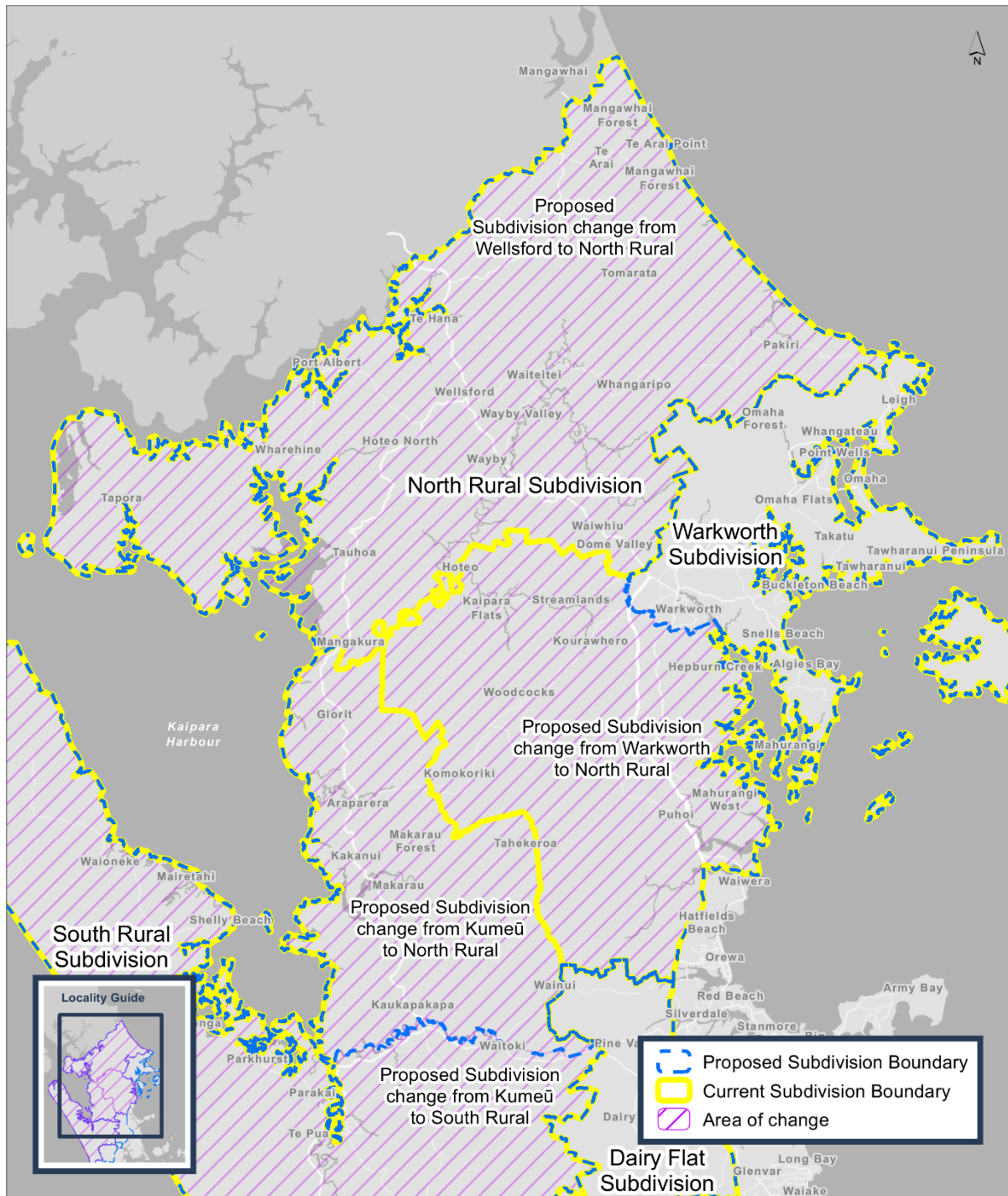
Albany / North Shore (Bayview)
North Shore / Albany (Saunders Reserve,
Kereru Reserve & Sunset Rd)

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Date Printed:
1/07/2024

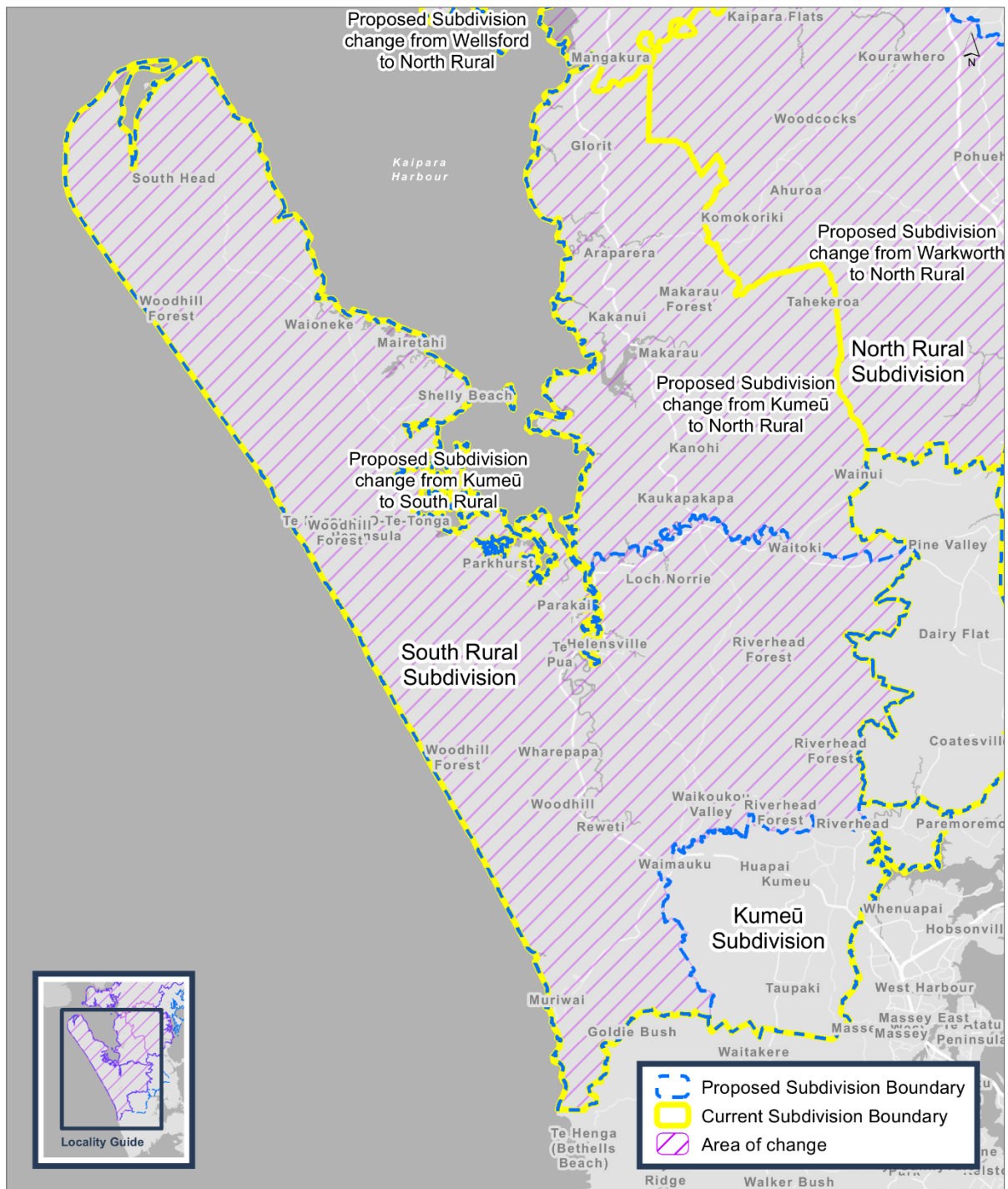




Subdivision boundary changes

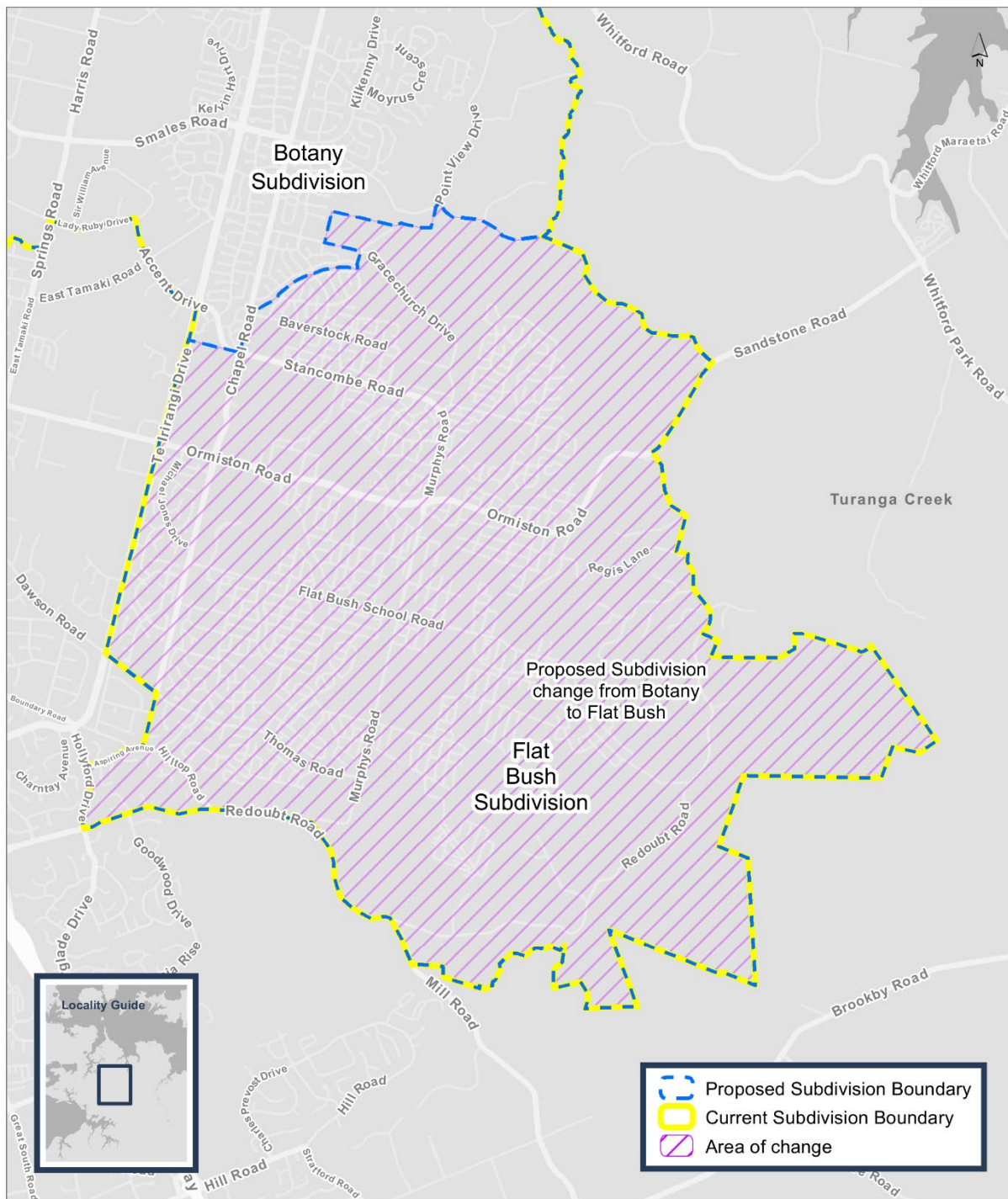
North Rural / Wellsford / Warkworth / Kumeū

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1/07/2024



Subdivision boundary changes

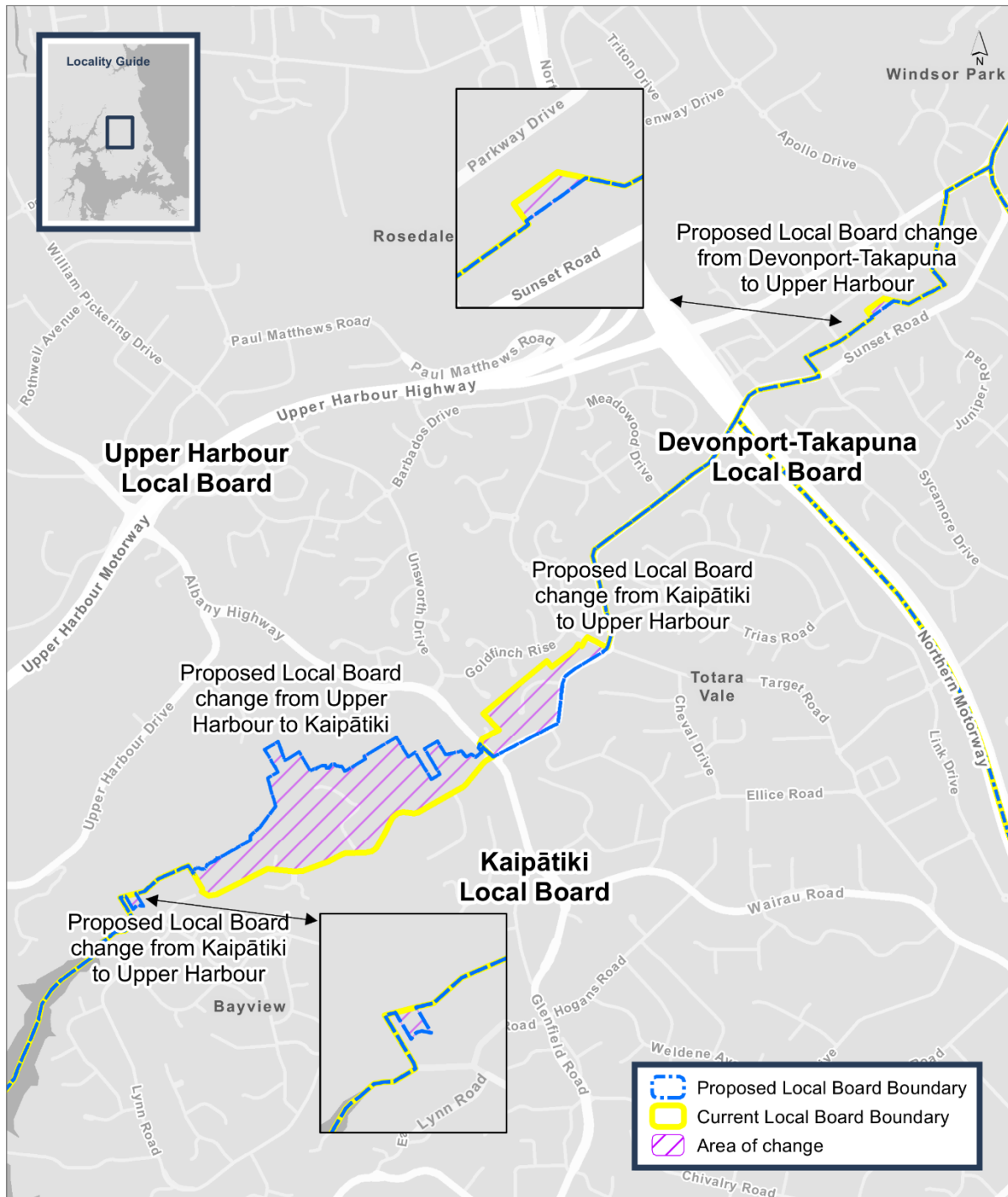
South Rural / Kumeū



Subdivision boundary changes

Botany / Flat Bush

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1/07/2024



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Local Board boundary changes

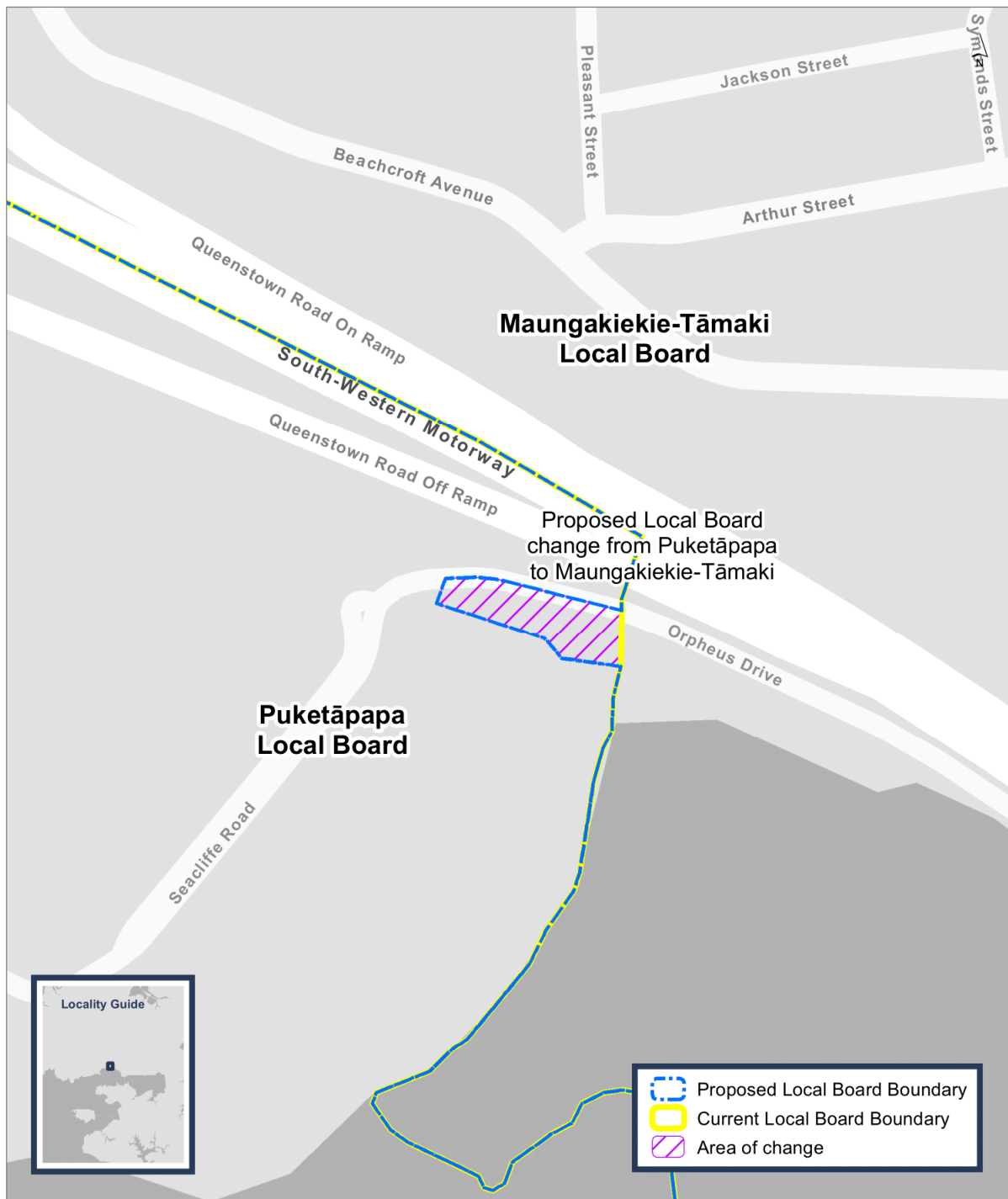
Kaipātiki / Upper Harbour (Kereru Reserve & Sunset Rd)
Devonport-Takapuna / Upper Harbour (Saunders Reserve)
Upper Harbour / Kaipātiki (Bayview)

0 110 220 330
Meters

Scale @ A4
= 1:20,000

Date Printed:
1/07/2024





Local Board boundary changes

Puketāpapa / Maungakiekie-Tāmaki
(Taumanu Reserve)

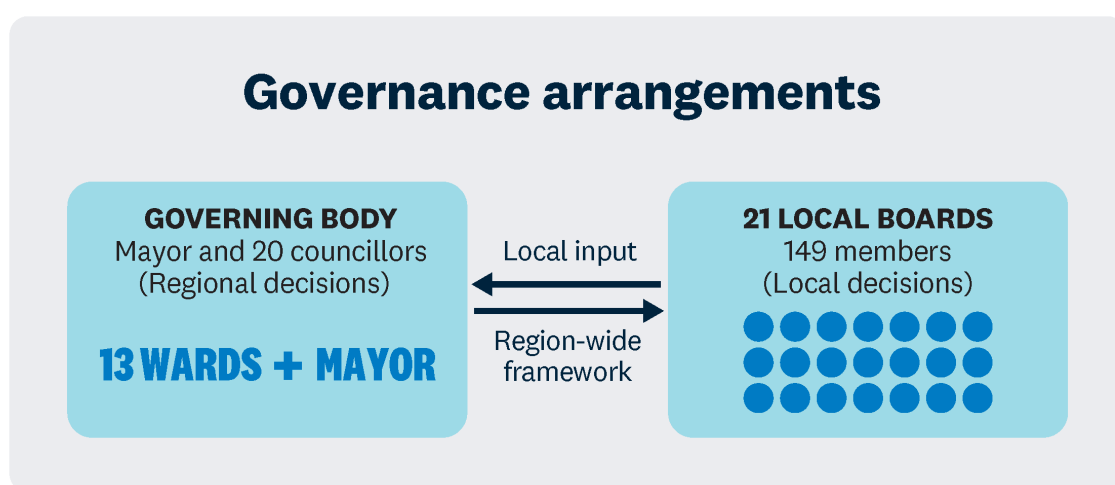
Appendix C: Background information

Overview of proposed changes to Auckland Council's Governing Body and local boards

Every six years, Auckland Council must review representation arrangements to ensure they are fair and effective and are keeping pace with Auckland's growth. This review includes the Governing Body, and local boards. Our last review was in 2018 for the 2019 local government elections.

How Auckland Council is currently set up

The [Local Government \(Auckland Council\) Act 2009](#) states that both the Governing Body and local boards share responsibility and democratic accountability for Auckland Council's decision-making.



Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland is divided into 13 [wards](#), each represented by councillors elected by Aucklanders living in those wards. Currently, there are 20 councillors. The mayor is elected by all voters in Auckland. The mayor and councillors make up the Governing Body which collectively acts in the best interests of all Aucklanders.

The Governing Body handles all regional decisions, establishes strategies, policies, and plans, sets the rates and allocates funding for the local boards.

We also have 21 [local boards](#) responsible for making decisions specific to the communities in their geographic areas. Each local board consists of five to nine elected members, totalling 149 members across all boards.

Local boards create local plans to guide their decision-making and actions over their three-year terms. These plans outline the vision, strategic priorities, outcomes, projects and initiatives that reflect the aspirations and priorities of their communities.

These boards look after local libraries, parks and community centres, events, environmental protection and community grants. In addition, they contribute to regional plans and decisions made by the Governing Body.

Did you know?

Some people know that their local pools and leisure centres are managed by local boards. But what about being at the beach? After a swim you head into the changing room and then use the communal barbeque at the nearest park? Things like changing rooms and public parks are assets managed by local boards.

The current representation arrangement for Auckland Council is in Appendix A.

Auckland Council in the past, present, and future

How we got to where we are now

It has been almost 15 years since Auckland's local government became a unitary council, combining eight urban and rural councils into one. Before this, each local council operated independently, resulting in varied service quality, resource distribution, and community engagement, slowing problem-solving for Auckland as a whole.

These significant changes followed the [Royal Commission on Auckland Governance](#), established in 2007. The Commission conducted extensive research with communities, academics, and professionals, and delivered their findings. Their goal was to recommend the best local government model for Auckland to ensure value for money, regional wellbeing, and support for national goals.

In 2009, the Royal Commission recommended creating one unitary council (now Auckland Council) and six smaller local councils. They tested two other models for greater local representation but concluded that having 20 local councils would be too many, too expensive, and likely to result in poorer services.

The Government, on direction from the then Minister of Local Government, decided instead to establish 20 - 30 local boards to better accommodate local preferences and voices. The Local Government Commission settled on 21 local boards, as detailed in the [Local Government \(Auckland Council\) Act 2009](#), and this model has been maintained since.

Local government in the New Zealand context

In 2021, the government announced an independent review of local government to look at how New Zealand's system of local democracy and governance needed to evolve over the next 30 years to better serve our communities.

The Future for Local Government Panel's (the Panel) recommendations (see He piki tūranga, he piki kotuku) includes 'a redesign of councils' operating models, new approaches to leadership, and new council structures' to respond well and quickly to the increasing challenges communities are facing today.

The Panel found that with the global financial situation, councils are under pressure due to reducing resources and growing expectations to support communities with their needs which range from climate change and increasing inequity to infrastructure deficits and low social cohesion (that is, having strong social relationships based on trust, mutual obligations, and respect within a community).

The limited focus and complicated structures of councils makes change difficult, slow, and reduces opportunities to make an impact for communities. It found that the current system of local government is not resourced or set up to support communities to face significant challenges over the next 30 years.

The Panel recognised the benefits in combining similar structures to share economies, expertise, and resources, but also supported the importance of wellbeing needs of local communities – ‘keeping the local in local government’.

We want to know how well you think the current local board structure represents you and your community, and whether it effectively delivers local representation.

Understanding representation reviews

A [representation review](#) is about:

- deciding how many councillors we have, how they are elected and which areas (wards) they represent
- deciding how many wards we have and where their boundaries
- looking at local board subdivisions, where they are needed, and their boundaries (subdivisions are smaller areas within a local board to ensure effective representation for all communities)
- minor changes to local board boundaries.

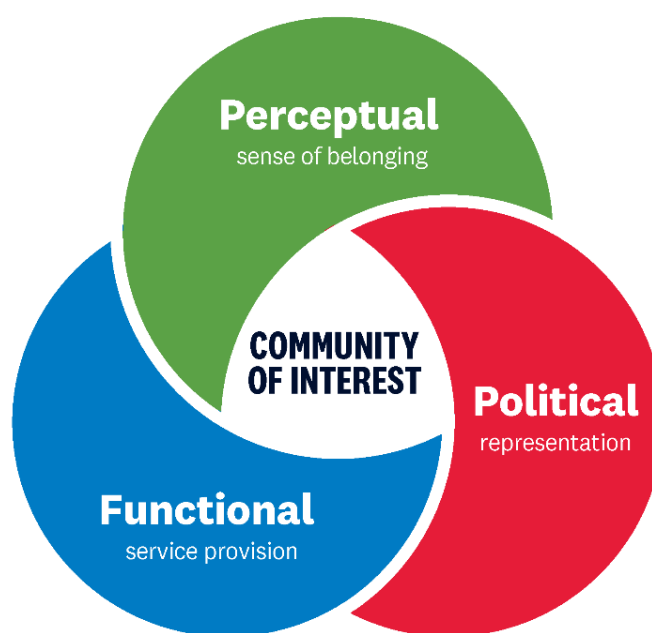
The process requires the council to first develop an initial proposal for the review and then to seek public views on that proposal. The initial proposal is the one described in this material.

The act contains three important requirements councils must adhere to for a representation review.

1. Communities of interest

Section 19T of the Act requires the council to provide effective representation for [communities of interest](#).

Community of interest is a way to describe groups of people who share common characteristics or bonds.



The Local Government Commission (LGC) describes communities of interest as:

- perceptual – a sense of belonging to a clearly defined area or locality
- functional – the ability to meet with reasonable economy the community's requirements for comprehensive physical and human services (reasonable economy means providing the community's needed services without unnecessary or excessive spending)
- political – the ability of the elected body to represent the interests and reconcile the conflicts of all its members.

In simpler terms, they are groups of people who feel connected to a place, can get the services they need there, and are well-represented by their leaders.

This means we must consider where communities of interest are and align representation arrangements with them as much as possible.

2. Fairness of representation

Under section 19V of the Act, we must follow a rule for fair representation that aims to ensure the elected representatives for each ward represent a relatively similar number of people (within 10 per cent of the average). This rule also applies to subdivisions within local boards.

For example: under the council's initial proposal, there will be 20 ward councillors to represent 1,739,300¹ electors. Under the fair representation rule, the average population that each councillor represents is 86,965. Therefore, wards must be within the range of 78,269 and 95,662 (86,965 +/- 10 per cent).

There are some cases where complying with this rule would not be best for communities within wards or local boards. We can choose not to comply with the rule if it would mean splitting communities of interest.

The initial proposal includes one ward and four local board subdivisions that do not comply with the fair representation rule. The reason for non-compliance is outlined in the Non-complying wards and Non-complying local board subdivisions sections.

3. Requirement for ward and local board boundaries to align

Section 19T of the act states that ward boundaries must align with any local board area boundaries as much as possible.

The initial proposal includes ward boundary adjustments to fix those areas where local boards and wards are not aligned.

We want your feedback on

Our proposals for:

- Governing Body representation
- Local board representation
- Minor changes to local board boundaries.

What can't be changed?

Some aspects of how Auckland is represented cannot be changed through this consultation because they are either required by law or have already been decided by the council. These include:

- holding a representation review at least once every six years.⁴
- ensuring representation is based on population ratios (which means that each representative serves a similar number of people).⁵
- shared decision-making between the Governing Body and local boards⁶
- between five and 12 elected members for each local board.⁷
- elected Māori seats on the Governing Body or local boards.⁸

When these changes would take place

We will first decide if the initial proposal above needs any changes in response to public feedback. If they do, we will make these changes and publicly notify the final proposal.

Objections or appeals to the final proposal will be open between 3 October and 3 November 2024. If any are received, they will be referred to the Local Government Commission (LGC) alongside the final proposal, so it can make a decision in time for the 2025 local government elections. If no objections or appeals are received, the proposals will be implemented for the 2025 local government elections.

⁴ [Local Electoral Act 2001, section 19H](#)

⁵ [Local Electoral Act 2001, section 19V](#)

⁶ [Local Government \(Auckland Council\) Act 2009, section 7](#)

⁷ [Local Government \(Auckland Council\) Act 2009, section 11](#)

⁸ [Governing Body decision in October 2023 on Māori seats for Auckland Council that further work is required](#). This means that Māori representation on Governing Body will not be in place for the 2025 local elections. Māori representation on Auckland Council's local boards is not allowed under the current law.