

Council Briefing

Date: Friday 21 September 2018

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Northern Wairoa War Memorial Hall – 37 Hokianga Road, Dargaville

	Briefing Report	Page
1	Representation Review 2018	1
	Attachment 1: Initial proposal map of the District	3
	Attachment 2: Summary of submissions	4

Representation Review 2018

Meeting: Council Briefing

Date of meeting: 21 September 2018

Reporting officer: Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer

1 Purpose

To consider submissions received and discuss whether Council's initial proposal is to be either confirmed or amended as the final proposal for its review of representation arrangements (number of councillors, wards etc.) for adoption at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 09 October 2018.

2 Background

Following consideration of preliminary informal consultation and six options, Council, at its meeting on 26 July 2018, resolved to adopt as its initial proposal eight councillors (plus the mayor) elected from four wards (see Attachment 1), with no community boards. The four wards and number of councillors per ward are Dargaville (two councillors), Kaiwaka-Mangawhai (two councillors), Otamatea (two councillors) and West Coast-Central (two councillors).

Public notice of the initial proposal was subsequently given inviting submissions over a one-month period from 01 to 31 August 2018.

3 Discussion

A total of 81 submissions were received, 28 in support of the initial proposal and 53 opposed to the initial proposal.

73 of the submissions received were from the Otamatea Ward of which 24 were a pro-forma submission published on Kaipara Concerns.

Those who oppose the initial proposal identified the following issues:

- the east/west imbalance is not adequately addressed;
- Mangawhai, as the fastest growing area in the District, is not adequately reflected in representation;

- use of outdated population data;
- communities of interest not appropriately recognised.

Those who support the initial proposal identified the following issues:

- makes sense;
- allows for better and fair local representation;
- support for a new Kaiwaka-Mangawhai ward

A more detailed analysis of the submissions is attached (Attachment 2).

This briefing will be informed by a presentation which will take elected members through the options presented by the submitters for discussion, in comparison with the initial proposal.

4 Attachments

- Attachment 1: Initial proposal map of the District
- Attachment 2: Summary of submissions

Dale Ofoske

14 September 2018

Attachment 1



Attachment 2: Summary of Submissions

This report is intended to provide a summary of the submissions received on Kaipara District Council's Representation Review 2018 (Initial Proposal). The Representation Review 2018 was consulted on during August 2018. This included four community drop-in sessions (Mangawhai, Maungaturoto, Ruawai and Kaiwaka), with 250 Initial Proposal documents handed out, 150 people spoken to (including 100 at the Mangawhai drop-in) and 101 webpage views.

Discussion

The submission period ran from 01 to 31 August 2018. The submission period saw:

- **81** submissions were received – **28** supported the Initial Proposal, and **53** were opposed.
- The 53 oppositions included 24 submissions that were made using the pro-forma submission as published on Kaipara Concerns¹. This included 2 submissions that used only part of the pro-forma submission or altered the final suggested representation table.
- The submissions were mostly received from the Otamatea ward. There were **2** submissions received from the Dargaville ward, **4** from West Coast-Central, and **73** from Otamatea. The remainder were from organisations or iwi who are not affiliated with a particular ward.

Submissions in Support

The submissions in support submitted that the Initial Proposal 'makes sense', that it has made sensible boundary alterations that allow for recent growth and reflect tourist numbers, population changes and the summer influx; that the Initial Proposal is localised and relevant; and that it will allow for better and fair local representation across the proposed four wards.

An Otamatea submitter also submitted that in favour of the Initial Proposal on the grounds that Otamatea should be extended to the west. Two other submitters who supported the Proposal made comments that Mangawhai should be separate, including the proposal that the boundary for the Kaiwaka-Mangawhai ward should be at Baldrock Road. Another proposal was that the new ward should be renamed Eastern Ward and that within that area, seven distinct areas (i.e. Hakaru, Topuni etc.) should be recognised, and 'community levies' be established.

Submissions in Opposition

There were a number of common themes that were presented in the submissions that opposed the Initial Proposal. This is to be expected, given that nearly half the submissions received were made using the pro-forma submission previously mentioned. All submissions in oppositions expressed similar reasons for opposing the proposal, and these are summarised below:

¹ <https://www.kaiparaconcerns.co.nz/>

- That the Initial Proposal does not change the East-West imbalance, and is strongly weighted with an obvious bias towards the West Coast and Dargaville. This contrasts with a number of other submissions, which were concerned that the Proposal leaves the burden of a large geographical area (West Coast-Central) with only two councillors.
- That the Initial Proposal does not reflect Mangawhai's status as the fastest growing area of the District, nor does it cater for future growth. The submission point was made that the current deviations in the Proposal should be reversed, to reflect predicted growth (Mangawhai) and decline (Dargaville).
- That the Initial Proposal does not reflect Mangawhai's status as providing a higher share of rates revenue per head of population, proportion of rating units and as a key income source. Submitters stated that 'whilst not directly relevant under the legislation' this could be considered when determining why Otamatea should be 'over-represented' in any new arrangement.
- The majority of opposition submissions critiqued the data used for the Initial Proposal. This included criticisms of outdated data that had been used by the Council and its proposal, including comparisons to population forecasting that Council used during the Long Term Plan process. There were also critiques of Census methods of collection (i.e. mid-week testing) and predictions that the 2018 Census results will confirm a significant increase in population in the Eastern part of the current Otamatea ward, and that the representation should be adjusted now in preparation for these results.
- There were a number of submissions that the Initial Proposal is not democratic, with submitters stating the proposed representation is neither sufficient nor proportional, and does not provide equal representation or fair representation. There were a number of submitters who were concerned that the unfair representation would continue into the future, by locking in this representation for another two election cycles.
- That the Initial Proposal does not appropriately recognise 'communities of interest'. Submissions state that the Otamatea is an established, distinct area with its own history, physical and topographical features and a sense of community and belonging enhanced by shared facilities (i.e. schools) and similarities in demographic, socio-economic, economic and ethnic characteristics, and that the Initial Proposal will drive a wedge between these existing communities of interest in Otamatea.

There were a number of alternative approaches advanced in the opposition submissions. These include:

- That the four wards as proposed remain, but with three councillors for Kaiwaka-Mangawhai.
- That there should be two wards only (existing Otamatea with or without a slight westward variation and the rest of the District) with two councillors for each ward.
- That the total number of councillors be reduced to seven, and West Coast-Central and Dargaville are combined with a total of three councillors, and Mangawhai and Otamatea to have two councillors each.
- The most commonly cited alternative was the current three wards remain, but that the total number of councillors increase to nine, and Otamatea gains an additional councillor.