

7.3 2021 REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW

File Number: A3240077

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TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report recommends that Council adopts an initial proposal as outlined in the recommendation, with a formal consultation process to occur from 20 August to 1 October 2021.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Councils are required to undertake a representation arrangements review at least once every 6 years, or if Māori wards/constituencies are introduced;
- The last review was undertaken in 2015 with minimal changes made from the previous 2009 review;
- Informal feedback has indicated some communities of interest required reviewing along with the number of councillors.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That the Far North District Council, in accordance with sections 19H and 19J and clauses 1 and 2 of Schedule 1A of the Local Electoral Act 2001, adopts the following as its initial proposal for the review of representation arrangements for at least the 2022 triennial local elections:

- a) The Far North District Council to comprise the Mayor elected at large and 10 councillors elected under the ward system, specifically 6 general ward councillors and 4 Māori ward councillors.**
- b) The Far North District Council be divided into 4 wards, these being:**
 - i) Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward (represented by 1 general ward councillor), comprising the area in the proposed Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward map as shown on Attachment 1.**
 - ii) Te Hiku General Ward (represented by 2 general ward councillors), comprising the area in the proposed Te Hiku General Ward map as shown on Attachment 2.**
 - iii) Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa General Ward (represented by 3 general ward councillors), comprising the area in the proposed Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa General Ward map as shown on Attachment 3.**
 - iv) Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward (represented by 4 Māori ward councillors), comprising the whole of the district in the proposed Māori Ward map as shown on Attachment 4.**
- c) The Bay of Islands-Whangaroa name be changed to Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa being the Māori name for Bay of Islands–Whangaroa.**
- d) The Māori ward be named Ngā Tai o Tokerau.**
- e) The above general wards are the current ward areas with the exception of the Kaikohe-Hokianga and the Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa ward boundaries to be altered as follows:**

- **Meshblock 0037202 be added to the Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa General Ward from the Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward.**
- **Meshblock 0036401 be added to the Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa General Ward from the Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward.**
- **Meshblocks 0034600, 0034800 be added to the Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa General Ward from the Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward.**

f) The number of Māori ward councillors complies with Schedule 1A of the Local Electoral Act 2001,

g) The Far North District Council be divided into 3 subdivided communities, these being:

(i) Kaikohe-Hokianga Community subdivided into:

- 1) Kaikohe Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Kaikohe Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 5.**
- 2) North Hokianga Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed North Hokianga Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 6.**
- 3) South Hokianga Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed South Hokianga Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 7,**

being the existing community board and subdivision areas with the exception of the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board subdivision boundaries to be altered as follows:

- a. Meshblocks 0032600, 0033200, 0033100, 0032700, 0033000 be added to the Kaikohe Subdivision from the South Hokianga Subdivision**
- b. Meshblocks 0039200, 0039500, 0040501, 0040502, 0040601 and 0040602 to be added to the South Hokianga from the Kaikohe Subdivision**

(ii) Te Hiku Community subdivided into:

- 1) Doubtless Bay Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Doubtless Bay Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 8.**
- 2) Kaitāia Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Kaitāia Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 9.**
- 3) North Cape Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed North Cape Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 10.**
- 4) Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 11.**

being the current community board and subdivision areas with the exception of the Te Hiku Community Board subdivision boundaries to be altered as follows:

- a. Meshblock 0012701 be added to the Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision from the North Cape Subdivision**

(iii) Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa Community subdivided into:

- 1) Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 1.**
- 2) Kerikeri Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Kerikeri Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 13.**

- 3) **Paihia Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Paihia Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 14.**
- 4) **Russell-Ōpua Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Russell-Ōpua Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 15.**
- 5) **Waipapa Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Waipapa Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 16.**
- 6) **Whangaroa Subdivision comprising the area in the proposed Whangaroa Subdivision map as shown on Attachment 17.**

being the existing community board and subdivision areas with the exception of the Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa Community Board subdivision boundaries to be altered as follows:

- a. **Meshblock 0047701 be added to the Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision from the Russell-Ōpua Subdivision**
- b. **Meshblocks 0046100, 0046400, 0046700, 0046801, 0047801 be added to the Russell-Ōpua Subdivision from the Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision**
- c. **Meshblocks 4009371, 4009372, 0043905, 0044701 be added to the Kerikeri Subdivision from the Whangaroa Subdivision**
- d. **Meshblocks 0033600, 0033800, 0043902, 0043904, 0043905, 0043907, 0044003, 0044004, 0044005, 0044008, 0044503, 0044504, 0044505, 0044506, 0044507, 0044508, 0044603, 0044604, 0044605, 0044606, 0044607, 0044608, 0044609, 0044701, 0044703, 0044801, 4007581, 4007583, 4008359, 4008360, 4008361, 4009371, 4009372, 4010073, 4011285, 4011286, 4011319 be added to the Waipapa Subdivision from the Kerikeri Subdivision**

h) There be 19 community board members, being:

(i) 7 members elected from the Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa Community Board comprising:

- 1) **Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision – 1 member**
- 2) **Kerikeri Subdivision – 2 members**
- 3) **Paihia Subdivision – 1 member**
- 4) **Russell-Ōpua Subdivision – 1 member**
- 5) **Waipapa Subdivision – 1 member**
- 6) **Whangaroa Subdivision – 1 member**

and 1 member of the Council representing the Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa Ward appointed to the community board by Council

(ii) 6 members elected from the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board comprising:

- 1) **Kaikohe Subdivision – 3 members**
- 2) **North Hokianga Subdivision – 1 member**
- 3) **South Hokianga Subdivision – 2 members**

and 1 member of the Council representing the Kaikohe-Hokianga Ward appointed to the community board by Council

(iii) 6 members elected from the Te Hiku Community Board comprising:

- 1) **Doubtless Bay Subdivision – 1 member**
- 2) **Kaitāia Subdivision – 3 members**

- 3) North Cape Subdivision – 1 member
 - 4) Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision – 1 member
- and 1 member of the Council representing the Te Hiku Ward appointed to the community board by Council

i) The reasons for the boundary alterations to the wards and community board subdivisions are:

(i) the adjustments ensure that communities of interest that were split are now rectified

(ii) in rectifying the communities of interest, the adjustments largely comply with section 19V Local Electoral Act 2001 (the fair representation criteria) with the exceptions of:

- Te Hiku General Ward
- North Cape Subdivision of the Te Hiku Community Board
- Whangaroa Subdivision of Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa Community Board
- Russell-Ōpua Subdivision of Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa Community Board
- South Hokianga Subdivision of Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board
- Kaikohe Subdivision of Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board

(iii) the affected meshblocks are contiguous, have no physical divisions and are similar to the surrounding land.

AND THAT the formal, legislative consultative process and the following timetable be adopted.

Council Resolution (Initial)	12 August 2021 (last legal date 31 August 2021) (section 19H, LEA)
Public Notice	20 August 2021 (within 14 days of resolution) (section 19M, LEA)
Public Submission Period	20 August to 1 October 2021 (six weeks) (section 19M, LEA)
Submissions Heard	14-15 October 2021 (section 19M, LEA)
Council Resolution (Final)	4 November 2021 (section 19N, LEA)
Public Notice	12 November 2021 (within 6 weeks of close of submissions) (section 19N, LEA)
Public Objection Period	12 November to 13 December 2021 (one month) (section 19N, LEA)
Forward Material to LGC	By 24 December 2021 (if required) (section 19Q, LEA)

Note that if section 19V Local Electoral Act 2001 has not been complied (+/- 10% rule), the matter is treated as an objection and automatically referred to the Local Government Commission for determination, such determination to be made by 10 April 2022.

AND THAT the hearing of any representation arrangements review submissions received be heard by Council on 14-15 October 2021.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The Local Electoral Act (LEA) requires every local authority to undertake a representation arrangements review at least once every six years, or if Māori wards/constituencies are introduced. Council undertook its last representation arrangements review in 2015 and is therefore required to undertake its next review in 2021.

For the 2015 review, following the receipt of 8 submissions, the initial proposal became the final proposal and as no appeals were received, became the basis of election for the 2016 and 2019 triennial elections.

The current representation arrangements are:

- Mayor elected at large;
- 9 councillors elected from 3 wards (4 from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Ward, 2 from the Kaikohe-Hokianga Ward and 3 from the Te Hiku Ward);
- 19 community board members elected from 3 subdivided community boards (7 from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board, 6 from the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board and 6 from the Te Hiku Community Board).

Council has previously considered two other representation issues, the choice of electoral system and Māori representation. Council resolved on 13 August 2020 to change to the single transferable voting electoral system. It further resolved on 4 May 2021 to establish one or more Māori wards for the 2022 and 2025 triennial elections.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

DISCUSSION

Legislative Requirements

Part 1A of the LEA sets out the requirements for a representation arrangements review. Issues that a local authority are required to consider include:

- whether councillors (other than the Mayor) are to be elected by electors of the district as a whole (at large), by electors of two or more wards, or in some cases by a mix of electors of the district (at large) and by electors of wards;
- the proposed number of councillors to be elected in each category (at large/ward/mixture - if applicable);
- the proposed name and boundaries for each ward;
- whether there should be communities and community boards, and if so, the nature of a community and structure of a community board;
- whether one or more communities should be constituted;
- whether any community board should be abolished or united with another community;
- whether the boundaries of a community should be altered;
- whether a community should be subdivided for electoral purposes;
- the number of members of a community board (including the number elected and appointed);
- whether members of a community board to be elected by electors of a community as a whole, or by electors of two or more subdivisions, or by electors of each ward (if community comprises two or more wards);
- the name, boundaries and number of members of each subdivision of a community (if adopted).

Key Principles

In undertaking a representation arrangements review, the following key principles are required to be considered:

- communities of interest
- effective representation
- fair representation

The Local Government Commission Guidelines on undertaking a representation arrangements review contains the following information:

Communities of Interest

- not defined in legislation
- essential part of review process

- can mean different things to different people
- is an area where one feels a sense of belonging
- is an area where one looks for social, service and economic support
- sense of belonging can be influenced by geographic features such as a roading network
- community of interest can be identified by access to goods and services needed every day
- rohe, takiwā area of tangata whenua may also be factors

Defining characteristics may include:

- sense of community and belonging
- similarities in demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics
- similarities in economic activities
- dependence on shared facilities (schools, recreational, retail, cultural)
- physical and topographical features
- history of area
- transport and communication links communities of interest may change over time
- must be able to be defined as a single geographical area ie a physical boundary must be able to be defined

Effective Representation

- once communities of interest have been defined by geographical boundaries, need to consider how these communities will be most effectively represented
- does each community of interest require separate representation?
- can communities of interest be grouped together to achieve effective representation?
- is effective representation best achieved by an at large system, a ward system or a mixed system?
- if at large - how many members would provide effective representation for the district as a whole?
- if wards - how many members for each ward would provide effective representation?
- should there be communities and community boards?
- ward boundaries to coincide with mesh block boundaries

Fair representation

- population equity (plus/minus 10% of average representation) – applies to wards and subdivisions of community boards.

Process

The process to follow when undertaking a representation arrangements review is:

1. identify the district's communities of interest;
2. determine the effectiveness of members by looking at the overall number of members, the number of members elected from general and Māori wards and whether they represent the district as a whole or from wards or by a mixture, in order that members are effective (are able to listen to and represent constituents effectively);
3. investigate whether there should be community boards, and if so, the number, boundaries, number of members, whether they be subdivided etc;
4. determine that members fairly represent their constituents by ensuring the average population ratio is no more than a +/- 10% variance.

Communities of Interest

The district's land use is predominantly rural with supporting service towns. The largest residential concentrations are Kaitāia, Kaikohe and Kerikeri.

The decision to implement Māori wards for the 2022 and 2025 elections requires the establishment of one or more Māori wards in addition to general wards. Council recommended adopting one district-wide Māori ward for the 2022 elections, with a possible review of arrangements ahead of the 2025 elections.

The proposed name for the Māori ward is Ngā Tai o Tokerau and like the Māori ward arrangement, there is a possibility of a review of this ahead of the 2025 elections.

The currently named Bay of Islands-Whangaroa community board expressed a strong desire to change their name to one more reflective of its Māori origins. Council recommended adopting Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa as a direct translation. In all other respects (except for those already mentioned in the report) there are no other changes – this is simply a name change.

The district is currently divided into three wards and Council considers that the current ward boundaries still largely reflect the district’s communities of interest (Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa, Kaikohe-Hokianga and Te Hiku). It is recommended that the three current wards become three general wards, with some minor boundary alterations as follows:

Current Ward	New Ward	Reason for change	Affected Meshblocks
Kaikohe-Hokianga	Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa	Moved Ngapipito into Kawakawa-Moerewa subdivision as a community of interest and to balance numbers	0037202
Kaikohe-Hokianga	Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa	Group Waimate North as a community of interest and moved into Paihia subdivision	0034600, 0034800
Kaikohe-Hokianga	Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa	Group Pakaraka as a community of interest and moved into Paihia subdivision	0036401
Entire Far North District	Ngā Tai o Tokerau	One new Māori ward covering the entire far north district.	All meshblocks within the Far North district

The district is also currently divided into three subdivided community boards (Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa, Kaikohe-Hokianga and Te Hiku), which Council still considers appropriate. However, the subdivision boundaries within each of the community boards are recommended to be slightly modified, as follows:

Current Subdivision	New Subdivision	Reason for change	Affected Meshblocks
Kawakawa-Moerewa	Russell-Ōpua	Moved Maromaku and Waiomio as communities of interest and to balance numbers from the Taumārere move	0046100, 0046400, 0046700, 0046801, 0047801
Kaikohe	South Hokianga	Balance numbers taken for Ōkaihau	0039200, 0039500, 0040501, 0040601, 0040502, 0040602
Kerikeri	Waipapa	Created a new subdivision for Waipapa as its own community of interest	0033600, 0033800, 0043902, 0043904, 0043905, 0043907, 0044003, 0044004, 0044005, 0044008, 0044503, 0044504, 0044505, 0044506, 0044507, 0044508, 0044603, 0044604, 0044605, 0044606, 0044607, 0044608, 0044609, 0044701, 0044703, 0044801, 4007581, 4007583, 4008359, 4008360, 4008361, 4009371, 4009372, 4010073, 4011285, 4011286, 4011319
North Cape	Whatuhiwhi	Group Awanui as a community of interest	0012701
Russell-Ōpua	Kawakawa-Moerewa	Moved Taumārere as a community of interest	0047701
South Hokianga	Kaikohe	Group Ōkaihau as a community of interest	0032600, 0033200, 0033100, 0032700, 0033000
Whangaroa	Kerikeri	Sandys Road, Pungaere Road added to Kerikeri as a community of interest	4009371, 4009372, 0043905, 0044701 (these may remain in the Kerikeri

			Subdivision should the new Waipapa Subdivision not proceed)
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Community board subdivision boundaries are able to be altered in a representation review under section 19J(2)(c) LEA.

Effective Representation

The Far North’s estimated resident population at 30 June 2020 was 71,050, 25,000 of this being the Māori electoral population (MEP) and 46,050 being the general electoral population (GEP).

The estimated resident population has increased by approximately 10,000 since the last review in 2015. It is considered that an additional councillor (10 councillors up from 9, plus the Mayor) would better provide effective representation to constituents (access and availability, councillor workload etc).

The number of Māori and general councillors is determined by a formula set in legislation that depends on the total number of councillors, the MEP and the GEP of the district. The recommended addition of one councillor would result in 6 general ward councillors and 4 Māori ward councillors.

When applying the fair representation criteria (‘plus or minus 10% rule’) to the proposed three general wards, each general councillor must represent between 6,907 and 8,442 population. As it is proposed there be one district-wide Māori ward, the fair representation criteria would not apply to the Māori ward.

Council also considers that 19 community board members also provides effective representation (access and availability) to local communities.

Fair Representation

The requirement that the average number of resident population to councillors (for wards) and for community board members (for subdivisions) cannot exceed +/- 10% must be taken into account when undertaking a representation arrangements review.

The latest population estimates (as at 30 June 2020) confirm that two of the three general wards comply with the fair representation criteria as follows:

General and Māori Wards					
Ward	General Electoral Population	Number of Councillors	Average	Māori Electoral Population	% Variation
Te Hiku General	13,260	2	6,630		-13.61%*
Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa General	25,160	3	8,387		+9.27%
Kaikohe-Hokianga General	7,630	1	7,630		-0.58%
Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward		4		25,000	N/A
Total	46,050	10		25,000	

GEP: 46,050 / 6 councillors = 7,675 (+/- 10% = 6,907-8,442)

Māori councillors (4) elected from one district-wide ward.

*To comply with the fair representation criteria, this would have resulted in splitting communities of interest. Council believes this is not a desirable outcome and is supported by section 19V(3)(ii) of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Community Boards				
Community Board	Subdivision	General Electoral Population	Number of Members	% Variation
Te Hiku	North Cape	3,250	1	-12%
	Whatuwhiwhi	3,620	1	-1.97%
	Doubtless Bay	4,010	1	+8.58%
	Kaitāia	11,280	3	+1.81%
Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa	Whangaroa	4,160	1	-11.6%
	Kerikeri	10,180	2	+8.16%
	Waipapa	4,800	1	+2%
	Paihia	5,030	1	+6.88%
	Russell-Ōpua	4,210	1	-10.53%
	Kawakawa-Moerewa	4,560	1	+3.1%
Kaikohe-Hokianga	North Hokianga	2,490	1	+6.3%
	South Hokianga	4,660	2	-12.35%
	Kaikohe	8,800	3	+10.34%

Te Hiku Community: 22,160 / 6 members = 3,693 (+/- 10% = 3,323-4,062)

Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa Community: 32,940 / 7 members = 4,705 (+/- 10% = 4,234-5,175)

Kaikohe-Hokianga Community: 15,950 / 6 members = 2,658 (+/- 10% = 2,392-2,923)

In most cases the need to address known issues (or feedback from our communities, community boards and council on communities of interest) has required balancing the numbers resulting in some minor non-compliance with the +/- 10% rule. Council believes they can justify being marginally outside of the +/- rule in these cases so as not to split communities of interest (section 19V(3)(ii) of the Local Electoral Act 2001).

Māori Wards – Additional Context

The decision to adopt one or more Māori wards for the 2022 and 2025 elections was made on 4 May 2021.

Creating the most meaningful model for Māori representation at the Council table requires a high degree of engagement and consultation with our MOU partners, iwi leaders and wider Māori community. Within the timeframes under the legislation, this engagement has largely not been able to be undertaken.

We have, however, been able to have a discussion with some of our iwi chairs and MOU partners in lieu of other engagement opportunities. The general view of those we were able to talk to is that one district-wide Māori ward for the 2022 elections is a useful starting point. One Māori ward would comprise the entire Far North district and all 4 Māori councillors would be elected by those on the Māori electoral roll within the district.

The benefit of one district-wide ward is that it is simple to understand for voters, and, recognising that many Māori identify with more than one iwi, it does not split communities of interest / tribal affiliations.

A possible concern with one district-wide ward is that balanced geographical distribution of Māori councillors might not be achieved, potentially resulting in a cluster of Māori councillors from one part of the district. This may, or may not, be an issue and only time will tell (post elections).

Our regional counterparts (Northland Regional, Whangarei District and Kaipara District Councils) are also adopting one Māori ward/constituency for their own representation arrangements consultation.

It should be noted that whilst it is proposed to adopt one Māori ward for 2022 elections there will be an opportunity post-election to discuss the most effective representation model for Māori ahead of the 2025 election, should it be seen as required and subject to any major shift in electoral roll changes that could occur following the Māori option in 2024.

An alternative exploration undertaken by officers was to attempt to divide the Far North district into two wards, following (where possible) iwi and hapū boundaries - thus creating a north Māori ward and a south Māori ward structure. The available resources to Council to draw such boundaries are the Te Puni Kōkiri iwi maps, which Council recognises is not necessarily seen as an authoritative source by iwi themselves. This is a large and complex discussion that Council has not been able to be undertaken within the timeframes and there are concerns that this model is unlikely to be acceptable to the wider Māori population.

Finally, the purpose of the representation review is to establish the representation arrangements for the next election. For clarity, any changes to ward boundaries from a rating perspective will take effect from 1 July 2023 in accordance with the section 43 of the Local Government Rating Act.

Take Tūtohunga / Reason for the recommendation

Taking into account feedback from our communities, community boards, and Council, it is recommended to progress to formal consultation with this initial proposal. The initial proposal addresses the matter of communities of interest and effective representation whilst having a justified rationale for slight deviations from the +/- 10% rule.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no budgetary considerations as a result of this report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward Map - A3279760
2. Proposed Te Hiku General Ward Map - A3279772
3. Proposed Te Pēwhairangi ki Whangaroa General Ward Map - A3279773
4. Proposed Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward - A3280826
5. Proposed Kaikohe Subdivision Map - A3279761
6. Proposed North Hokianga Subdivision Map - A3279762
7. Proposed South Hokianga Subdivision Map - A3279768
8. Proposed Doubtless Bay Subdivision Map - A3279765
9. Proposed Kaitāia Subdivision Map - A3279758
10. Proposed North Cape Subdivision Map - A3279764
11. Proposed Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision Map - A3279770
12. Proposed Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision Map - A3279772
13. Proposed Kerikeri Subdivision Map - A3279766
14. Proposed Paihia Subdivision Map - A3279769
15. Proposed Russell-Ōpua Subdivision Map - A3279759
16. Proposed Waipapa Subdivision Map - A3279771
17. Proposed Whangaroa Subdivision Map - A3279763
18. Proposed General Wards Map - A3289192
19. Proposed Subdivisions Map - A3289229

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	This report has a low degree of significance. Whilst consultation is legislatively required, it does not meet any of the additional thresholds that would make it significant. [It should be noted that the level of community interest is not yet understood – the informal engagement on representation arrangements led to 171 responses].
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	Local Electoral Act, Local Government Act.
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	It has district wide relevance. Community boards have been consulted twice in developing the initial proposal with Council, and community board chairs have been invited to every workshop with Council since 24 June 2020 (along with deputy chairs leading into the last two rounds of workshops in 2021).
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	The establishment of Māori wards has a significant impact on Māori and is in line with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi - Protection, Partnership and Participation. Engagement with iwi leaders and MOU partners took place over many weeks once Council made its decision on 4 May 2021 through email and planned workshops. Due to the time constraints (Council having made its decision very late within the legislative timeframes) it was not possible to undertake the full engagement on the matter of establishing one or more Māori wards. It is therefore recommended in the initial proposal to adopt one district-wide Māori ward for the 2022 elections, with stakeholder engagement occurring in 2023 to determine whether more than one Māori ward will be the best solution for the Far North.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to	There are no persons (other than those identified already) who are likely to be particularly affected by the representation review.

<p>their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).</p>	
<p>State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.</p>	<p>The remuneration for elected members is set by the Remuneration Authority so there are no new budgetary implications as a result of the representation review. Budget has been set side in this financial year to run communications and engagement initiatives to ensure that our communities are informed of the changes – being the representation review, the electoral system and the establishment of Māori wards.</p>
<p>Chief Financial Officer review.</p>	<p>The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report.</p>