

## Final proposal for representation arrangements for the 2025 local elections

In August 2024, Waipā District Council consulted with the community on an Initial Proposal for the 2025 Local Government Elections. It included a reduction in the number of councillors from 11 to eight, and combining the two rural wards to become one.

On September 25, 2024, the Council considered the submissions received on the initial proposal, and at its meeting on 29 October 2024, Council resolved its final proposal for representation arrangements for the 2025 elections to be held on 11 October 2025.

In finalising its proposal, Council must comply with the Local Electoral Act 2001. This legislation requires Councils to make sure that the representation arrangements:

- Provide effective representation of communities of interest within the district, and
- Ensure that the ratio of people represented per councillor in each ward, is no more than 10% greater or smaller than the ratio of population per councillor across the whole district (the ‘+/-10% rule’).

### *Submissions*

Waipā District Council received 109 submissions on its Initial Proposal. Of those, 23 submitters supported all aspects of the proposal, including a reduction in the number of councillors, and combining the two existing rural wards to create a new rural ward.

A total of 86 submitters did not support all aspects of the proposal. Objections to the proposal included:

- Concern about a reduction in rural representation
- A potential reduction in residents’ access to elected members
- Possible impact on elected member workload if the overall councillor numbers were reduced
- That a combined rural ward would cover a large area, and it would be difficult to provide effective representation with reduced councillor numbers

### *Final proposal*

Having considered all of the submissions, the Council resolved to amend its Initial Proposal to retain Council’s current representation arrangements, including:

- the Mayor being elected at large and 11 councillors elected under the ward system, specifically 10 general ward councillors and one Māori Ward councillor;
- retaining the Pirongia and Kakepuku General ward and Maungatautari General ward, with their existing boundaries;

- retaining the existing boundaries of the Cambridge General ward and the Cambridge subdivision;

and to incorporate two additional amendments.

The first amendment is required to ensure legal compliance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the +/-10% rule for population per member ratio). Growth in the Pirongia-Kakepuku Ward since the last representation review means the current boundary is not compliant. The legislation allows for the council to:

- Include a boundary change to rectify the non-compliance, or;
- Define the membership of wards in a way that does not comply with section 19V(2), where specific grounds exist under section 19V(3)(a) of the Local Electoral Act 2001.
- Council has chosen to include a minor boundary change to the Te Awamutu and Kihikihi General Ward. The boundary change moves the T1 Growth Cell, known as Frontier Estate, into the Te Awamutu and Kihikihi General Ward. from the Pirongia and Kakepuku Ward. This is an area of urban development directly adjacent to the current Te Awamutu and Kihikihi General Ward boundary and is an extension of the Te Awamutu township.

The second is to enable the appointment of two Councillors to each Community Board from either the relevant urban General Ward, and/or the relevant rural General Ward, and/or the Waipā Māori Ward.

The Council accepted the objections raised in submissions relating to:

- rural representation,
- the number of councillors and
- the combining of the Pirongia and Kakepuku and Maungatautari General wards.

The Council rejected submissions supporting the Initial Proposal.

The reasons Council made these decisions and amendments were to ensure that the amended proposal:

- i)* Ensures specific rural representation is adequately provided for in the representation structure.
- ii)* Avoids the creation of a combined rural ward covering a large geographic area with a variety of communities with different needs and interests.
- iii)* Does not involve the combining of two rural communities of interest.
- iv)* Avoids a scenario where all rural councillors may be elected from one side of the district. Provides a greater number of councillors to represent the different communities of interest in the district.
- v)* Does not require a minor boundary change to the Cambridge Ward and Subdivision to incorporate an additional area at Karāpiro into the Cambridge Ward/Subdivision;
- vi)* Provides for a boundary change on the north west side of Te Awamutu to bring the area known as T1 Growth Cell (Frontier Estate), into the Te Awamutu and Kihikihi urban General Ward from the Pirongia Kakepuku Ward. Such change also ensures that representation in the Pirongia-Kakepuku Ward falls within the range of +/- 10% in compliance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001;

- vii) Does not require any changes to ward or subdivision names; and
- viii) Provides more choice for the appointment of councillors to each community board, by including urban, rural and Māori Ward representation to the relevant community board.

Therefore, the final proposal is as follows:

#### *Council Representation*

It is proposed that the Council comprises a Mayor elected at large, and 11 members elected from five wards reflecting the following identified communities of interest:

Ward	Communities of interest
Waipā Māori Ward	Māori electoral population district - wide
Cambridge General Ward	Urban areas of Cambridge and Leamington
Te Awamutu and Kihikihi General Ward	Urban areas of Te Awamutu and Kihikihi
Pirongia and Kakepuku General Ward	The rural areas surrounding the Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Ward which look to Te Awamutu as a service centre
Maungatautari General Ward	The rural areas surrounding the urban ward of Cambridge which look to the town as a service centre

The population that each member will represent is as follows:

Ward	Population Estimate (as at 30 June 2023)	Members	Population per member
Waipā Māori Ward	5,320	1	5,320
Cambridge General Ward	22,900	4	5,725
Te Awamutu and Kihikihi General Ward	15,350	3	5,117
Pirongia and Kakepuku General Ward	12,250	2	6,125
Maungatautari General Ward	5,350	1	5,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,170</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,585</b>

In accordance with *section 19V(2), Local Electoral Act 2001* the population that each member represents is within the range of 5,585+/- 10% (5,027 to 6,143).

### Community Board Representation

It is proposed that two community boards be elected. The two community boards will be:

Community Board	Area of Community
Cambridge Community Board	Cambridge and Leamington urban areas, and the rural areas surrounding the urban ward of Cambridge which look to the town as a service centre.
Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Community Board	Te Awamutu and Kihikihi urban areas, and the rural areas surrounding the Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Ward which look to Te Awamutu as a service centre

### Cambridge Community Board

The Cambridge Community Board will have five elected members. Two members will also be appointed to the Board from either the Cambridge General Ward, the Maungatautari General Ward, and/or the Waipā Māori Ward.

The Cambridge Community Board will be subdivided for electoral purposes as follows:

Subdivision	Area of Subdivision
Cambridge Subdivision	Cambridge and Leamington urban areas
Maungatautari Subdivision	The rural areas surrounding the urban ward of Cambridge which look to the town as a service centre.

The population that the members of each subdivision will represent is shown below:

Subdivision	Population Estimate (as at 30 June 2023)	Members	Population per member
Cambridge Subdivision	24,170	4	6,043
Maungatautari Subdivision	5,590	1	5,590
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,760</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5,952</b>

The population each member of the Cambridge Community Board represents falls within the range of 5,952 +/-10% (5,357 to 6,547) in accordance with section 19V(2), *Local Electoral Act*.

### Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Community Board

The Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Community Board will have five elected members. Two members will also be appointed to the Board from the Te Awamutu and Kihikihi General Ward and/or the Pirongia and Kakepuku General Ward, and/or the Waipā Māori Ward.

The Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Community Board will have two subdivisions for electoral purposes as follows:

Subdivision	Area of Subdivision
Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Subdivision	Te Awamutu and Kihikihi urban areas
Kakepuku Subdivision	The rural areas surrounding the Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Ward which look to Te Awamutu as a service centre

The population that the members of each subdivision will represent is shown below:

Subdivision	Population Estimate (as at 30 June 2023)	Members	Population per member
Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Subdivision	18,040	4	4,510
Kakepuku Subdivision	4,470	1	4,470
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,510</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4,502</b>

The population each member of the Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Community Board represents falls within the range of 4,502 +/-10% (4,052 – 4,952) in accordance with section 19V(2), *Local Electoral Act*.

#### *Appeals and objections*

Any person who made a submission on the Council's Initial Proposal may lodge an appeal against the Council's decision. An appeal must relate to the matters raised in that person's original submission.

Any person who objects to the final proposal may lodge an objection to the Council's final proposal. Any objection must identify the matters to which the objection relates.

Appeals and objections must be made in writing and must be received by Council no later than 3 December 2024.

Appeals and objections are to be forwarded to:

Attention – Jo Gread (0800 924 723)

- Physical address - Council Offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu, 3800
- Email – [jo.gread@waipadc.govt.nz](mailto:jo.gread@waipadc.govt.nz)

#### *Further information*

Direct any queries regarding the Council's decision to Jo Gread (contact details above).

Steph O'Sullivan  
Chief Executive  
31 October 2024