

Elizabeth Foo

What ward are you currently in?

Pirongia-Kakepuku

Do you support all aspects of this proposal?

No

Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the number of general ward councillors from 10 to 7 and combine the rural wards of Pirongia-Kakepuku and Maungautari?

No

Comments on the proposed reduction:

It is vital that the Waipa rural community maintains the current representation of 3 councillors and 2 wards if anything we need more representation. The rural contribution to both the district and New Zealand in both agriculture and tourism is immense. We are the home of Dairy, Racing and tourism in the Waipa, without which the urban areas would suffer if not adequately represented. |To maintain the rural beauty and productivity of our villages and landscape we must have rural issues represented by those that understand the balance needed for Waipa to thrive as a whole. Looking just at Te Pahu, there has been steady growth in the area, from census data the percentage population increase has been 6% between 2006 and 2013 and 12% between 2013 and 2018 if the trend continues (figures from stats NZ due in October 2024) the 2023 census would show another doubling of 24% we will see. |I am vigorously opposed to decreasing the number of council representatives for the pirongia-kakapuku ward.

Do you agree with a minor boundary change to the Cambridge Ward and subdivision to incorporate an additional area at Karāpiro into the Cambridge Ward?

No

Comments on the boundary change:

I do not have enough knowledge of the effect or the reasoning of this change

Do you support the proposed names for the wards?

No

Comments on the proposed ward names:

Pirongia-Kakepuku and Maungatautari should remain as they are, they are very different in both geography (being separated by SH39) and economy. Combining them dilutes the separate issues of each ward and is confusing.

Do you support the proposed subdivision names?

No

Comments on the proposed subdivision names:

Pirongia can not be forgotten

Do you support the appointed councillors on the Community Boards being two councillors appointed either from:

No

Comments on the appointed councillors:

There is already a large disparity of voting power between urban and rural communities. |There should be a third community board just representing the rural ward. |As there is currently only 2 community boards, the councillors should be 2 rural and 2 urban.

General comments:

It is imperative we do not lose sight of the reason why people are moving to the Waipa, it is because of the rural outlook and proximity to urban centres as such rural representation is key to getting the right balance.

I have uploaded supporting material

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I wish to present my submission verbally to a public Council hearing:

No