

Summary of Final Proposal arrangements

Representation Review 2024



**Western
Bay of Plenty**
District Council

Council representation

Per its initial proposal, Council proposes three general wards to be known as Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward, Kaimai Ward and Maketu-Te Puke Ward and one Māori ward to be known as Waka Kai Uru. Maps showing the ward boundaries can be found below.

Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward

Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward, comprising the area delineated on Plan LG-022-2019-W-2 deposited with the Local Government Commission, with the exclusion of a small north-western portion.

Kaimai Ward

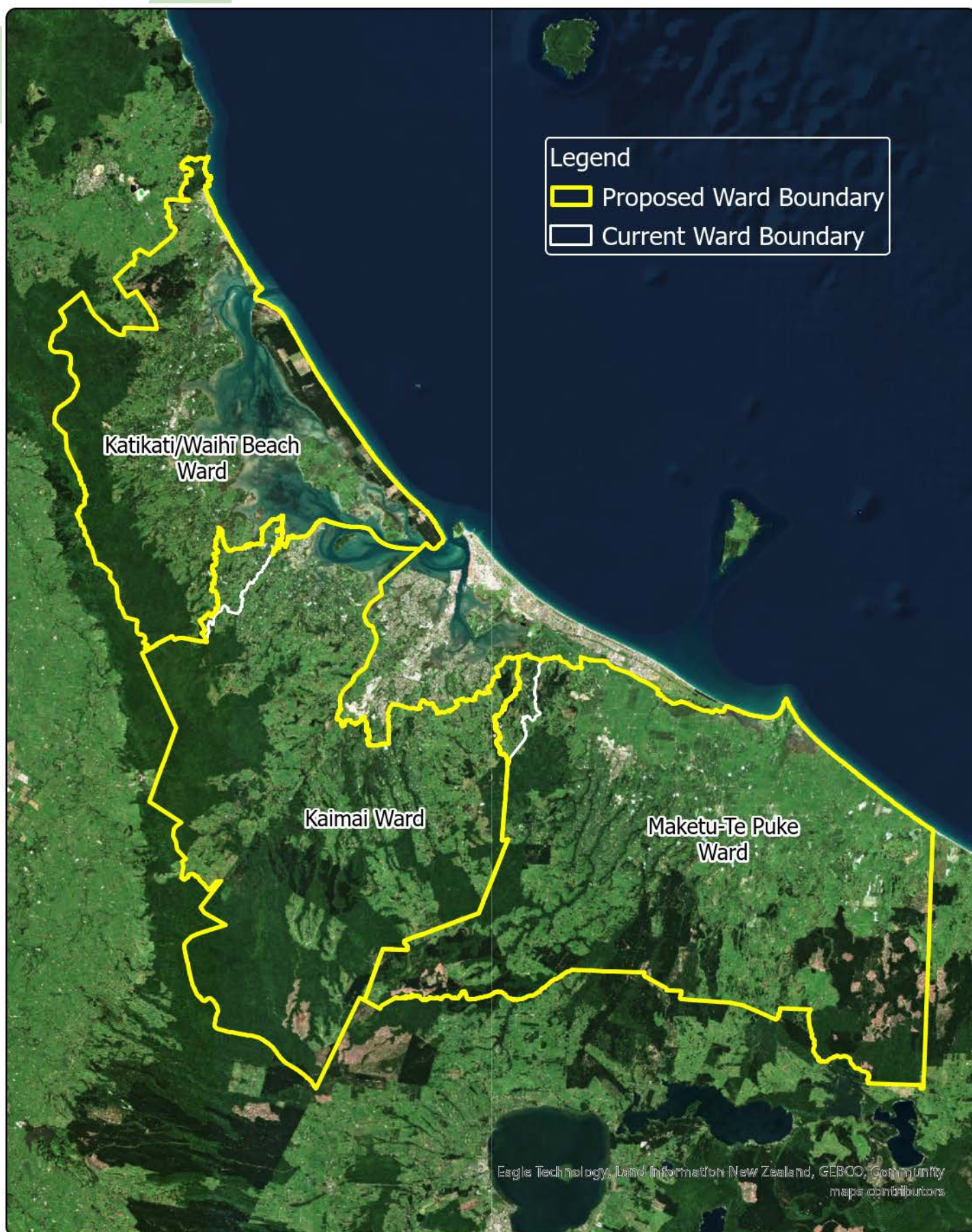
Kaimai Ward, comprising the area delineated on Plan LG-022-2019-W-2 deposited with the Local Government Commission, with the inclusion of a small north-western portion of the current Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward and the exclusion of a small north-eastern portion.

Maketu-Te Puke Ward

Maketu-Te Puke Ward, comprising the area delineated on Plan LG022-2013-W-4 deposited with the Local Government Commission, with the inclusion of a small north-eastern portion of the current Kaimai Ward.

Waka Kai Uru Ward

Māori electoral population district -wide.





Per its initial proposal, Council proposes reducing the overall number of councillors to 10, made up of 8 general ward councillors (2 representing the Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward, 3 representing the Kaimai Ward and 3 representing the Maketu-Te Puke Ward), 1 Māori ward councillor (representing Waka Kai Uru Ward) and the Mayor (elected ‘at large’)

Ward	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from applicable quota
Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward	14,530*	2	7,265	8.53%
Te Puke-Maketu Ward	18,580*	3	6,193	-7.48%
Kaimai Ward	20,440*	3	6,813	1.79%
Totals	53,550*	8		
*takes into account two ward boundary changes per initial proposal				
Waka Kai Uru Ward	7,240	1	7,240	7.54%

Community Board Representation

Council proposes to disestablish its current five Community Boards, being Waihi Beach, Katikati, Ōmokoroa, Te Puke and Maketu Community Boards and establish three new Community Boards, each to cover one of the three wards. To be known as the Maketu-Te Puke Community Board, Kaimai Community Board and Katikati-Waihi Beach Community Board. Each to comprise of six elected members and two councillors appointed from the respective ward, with subdivisions as set out in the map and table below.

	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota
Maketu - Te Puke Ward Community Board (*see Note 1)				
Te Puke	13,000	3	4,333	15.04%
Maketu	2,740	1	2,740	-27.26%
Eastern	6,860	2	3,430	-8.94%
	22,600	6		
Kaimai Ward Community Board				
Ōmokoroa	7,480	2	3,740	1.45%
Kaimai West	7,300	2	3,650	-0.99%
Kaimai East	7,340	2	3,670	-0.45%
	22,120	6		
Katikati - Waihi Beach Community Board (*see Note 2)				
Waihi Beach	4,100	3	1,367	-48.65%
Katikati	11,870	3	3,957	48.65%
	15,970	6		



* Note 1: Rationale for Maketu - Te Puke Ward Community Board proposed subdivision arrangements

The proposed subdivision arrangements for the Maketu-Te Puke Ward Community Board do not comply with the +/- 10% rule for fair representation. This is considered appropriate given the nature of the ward and the communities within it. The three subdivisions represent three distinct areas within the ward – Te Puke, Maketu, and then the broader eastern area including the communities of Pukehina, Pongakawa and Paengaroa. These areas are connected for schooling, shopping, recreational, employment and social activities at a ward level. Given the distribution of the communities and electoral population, it is considered that there are few options for electoral subdivision boundaries that comply with the +/-10% fair representation requirement, while also appropriately reflecting communities within the ward.

Council considers that aligning the community board area with the ward boundary will achieve an area that is appropriate for the efficient and effective performance of its role. This is because all areas within the ward are equitably represented by a community board, rather than large areas in the eastern part of the ward that are currently not part of a community board area. This includes the communities of Pukehina, Pongakawa and Paengaroa that are not currently represented by a community board (albeit with some active ratepayer/community associations). The universality of coverage lends to greater delegation and function of the community board, and potential for increased funding given that all properties in the ward would contribute through future rates. This could lead to enhanced localism. There is also the potential for a reduced rates burden for Maketu Community.

The Maketu-Te Puke ward is well understood by the community, having been in effect since 2013 (albeit with some minor boundary adjustments to maintain fair representation requirements as between wards). Prior to this, Maketu and Te Puke were separate wards, originally being formed out of the 1989 local government reorganisation arrangements. As a result, there is strong familiarity and identity with the ward – both from outside the ward area and from those communities within it. The former Maketu ward covered Maketu and also Pukehina.

- It was considered that splitting the Te Puke area between separate electoral subdivisions would not effectively reflect that community, which is the largest urban centre in the ward. We also heard through submissions that reducing the area to just the urban limits does not accurately reflect the community of Te Puke, which includes the townships of Waitangi and Manoeka. This is also generally reflective of the spatial extent identified through the Te Puke Spatial Plan process that is currently underway.
- Given the long-established community of Maketu and its community board representation, it was considered important that this area is reflected by an electoral subdivision. Following the boundaries created by State Highway 2 and the coastline creates an easily understood area. The smaller population in Maketu make it challenging to align with the +/- 10% rule for fair representation, whilst effectively recognising it as a communities of interest. There is also some anticipated growth in terms of Papakāinga on Te Arawa Land Holdings land within Maketu village, and a private Plan Change for Arawa Road is currently being determined by an independent panel of RMA hearings commissioners. Over time, these types of developments could address the level of non-compliance with the +/- 10% rule.
- For the eastern area, it is considered that there are sufficient commonalities between the rural areas and smaller communities of Pukehina, Pongakawa and Paengaroa. This subdivision area is compliant with the +/- 10% rule. These communities are considered to be distinct from the larger urban settlement of Te Puke and the coastal settlement of Maketu. They have their own schools, some significant employers and local retail offerings. The Paengaroa community has an active community association and its own community plan. The Pukehina community also has an active resident/ratepayer association. It is important to acknowledge future growth anticipated within this area as set out in the Future Development Strategy – namely the new Eastern Town that is currently planned in the long term, but will likely be brought forward to satisfy land supply requirements.

* Note 2: Rationale for Katikati - Waihi Beach Ward Community Board proposed subdivision arrangements

The proposed subdivision arrangements for Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward Community Board do not comply with the +/- 10% rule for fair representation. However, this is considered appropriate given the nature of the ward and the communities within it. The two subdivisions represent two distinct areas within the ward – Waihi Beach and Katikati. These areas are connected for schooling, shopping, recreational, employment and social activities at a ward level.

Council considers that aligning the community board area with the ward boundary will achieve an area that is appropriate for the efficient and effective performance of its role. This is because all areas within the ward are equitably represented by a community board (excluding Matakana and Rangiwaea Islands). The existing two community boards (Katikati and Waihi Beach) already cover the ward in its entirety (excluding Matakana and Rangiwaea Islands), when combining their current areas. The areas are well known to the community, and significant support has been demonstrated through the submission process for these to be retained.

The Katikati-Waihi Beach ward boundary is well understood by the community, having been in effect since 2013 (albeit with some minor boundary adjustments to maintain fair representation requirements as between wards). Prior to this, Waihi Beach and Katikati were separate wards, originally being formed out of the 1989 local government reorganisation arrangements. As a result, there is strong familiarity and identity with the ward – both from outside the ward area and from those communities within it.

Given the long-established communities of Waihi Beach and Katikati and their respective community boards, it was considered important that these areas are reflected by electoral subdivisions. This includes considerations for size and location of the areas including access to elected members. It is also noted that Waihi Beach has significant increases in population through the peak summer period, which creates a range of unique issues and potentially increased demand on community board members. Council considers that the electoral populations required to be used for the purposes of the representation review do not adequately reflect peak summer population.

Council's initial proposal sought to reduce the area covered by Katikati Community Board area and leave the Waihi Beach Community Board area as it currently stands. Katikati Community Board supported leaving the boundaries of the Katikati Community Board as they currently stand, acknowledging that the town and rural surrounds see themselves as sharing a community interest centred around the town. Several submitters from the outlying communities of Ongare Point, Tanners Point and Fairview Estate opposed the proposal to be excluded from the Katikati Community Board area. The Community Board noted that Katikati is a service town to the local rural area and the two have been linked for 150 years. The proposed electoral subdivision area aligns with the current Community Board boundary. Waihi Beach Community Board also submitted in opposition to reducing the Katikati Community Board area.

For more information on the submissions received, options considered and reasons for the decisions, please see the Council agenda and minutes from 20 November 2024.