

MEETING — AGENDA —

Ngā Take

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Western Bay of Plenty
District Council

COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera



**Additional Item
C17
Tuesday, 10 July 2018**

Open Items
Council No. C17
Additional Item

Pages

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Miriam Taris
Chief Executive Officer
Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Initial Proposal



Western Bay of Plenty
District Council

Representation Review

Is there a better way?

For the 2019 and 2022
Western Bay of Plenty District Council elections

Consultation booklet

www.westernbay.govt.nz

Te Kaunihera a rohe mai i nga Kuri-a-Whare ki Otamarakau ki te Uru



Introduction

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act) councils must review their electoral arrangements at least once every six years. Western Bay of Plenty District Council last reviewed its arrangements in 2012 for the 2013 and 2016 elections.

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Where are we at with the representation review?

Electoral system

Where Council considers the electoral (voting) system to be used.

Council passed a resolution in August 2017 to remain with the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system.

COMPLETED

Māori representation

Where Council considers whether or not to establish Māori wards.

Council passed a resolution in November 2017 to establish Māori Wards. However, as more than five percent of electors (voters) demanded a poll to decide the final outcome, a poll was held in May 2018. The result of the poll is that Māori wards will not be established for the Western Bay for at least the 2019 and 2022 elections.

COMPLETED

Representation arrangements

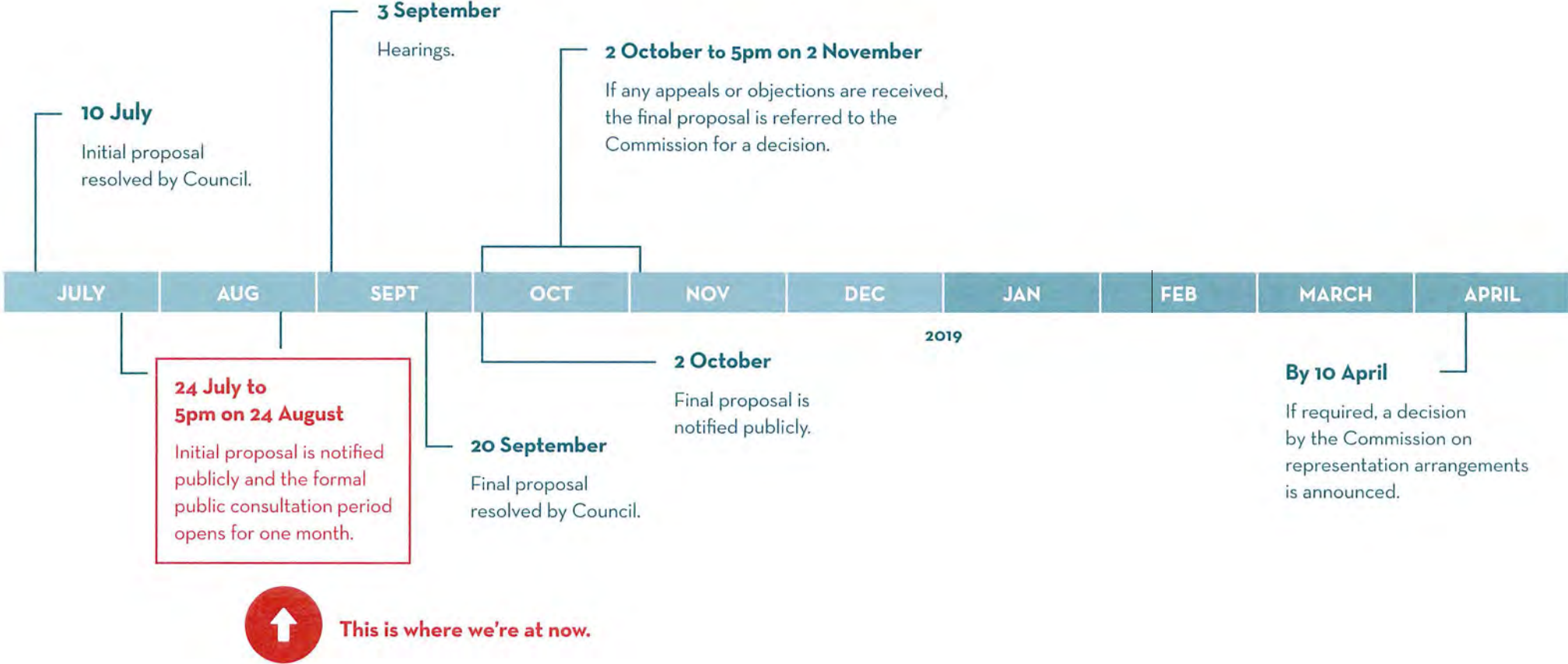
Where Council considers how our communities of interest are best represented.

Council undertook informal public engagement during March-April 2018 asking people to identify their 'communities of interest' and comment on our current representation arrangements. A community of interest is a group of people who express a common geographical, economic, social, historical or other bond. We considered all the feedback received and used this to help form an initial representation proposal which is now out for formal public consultation. The consultation period will be followed by public hearings, the development of the final proposal and, if necessary, a final decision from the Local Government Commission (Commission) by 10 April 2019.

UNDERWAY

Representation Review Timetable

(As prescribed by the Local Electoral Act 2001)



An aerial photograph showing a town nestled in a valley. The town is surrounded by green fields and some industrial or commercial buildings. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is a mix of urban development and natural landscape.

Your feedback helped Council to develop the initial proposal

Earlier this year Council undertook an engagement process that included community drop-in sessions throughout the District. There were three main areas we wanted feedback on: communities of interest; councillor representation; and community board representation.

Feedback was received through an online form and a hardcopy version posted out to ratepayers. Information about the engagement was made available on Council's 'Have Your Say Western Bay' site and communicated through various channels such as the Council website, e-News, District Update newsletter, Connect People's Panel update, Facebook and local newspapers.

This engagement process, where nearly 1000 pieces of feedback were received, helped Council develop guiding principles that have been used to form this proposal.

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Guiding principles

In reviewing representation arrangements, councils must take into account three key things:



What are our communities of interest?



What is the most effective representation of our communities of interest (total number of councillors, number of wards and community boards or committees, etc.)



Ensure fair representation of communities of interest (each councillor represents about the same number of people, within plus or minus 10 percent).

These three things are underpinned by a set of guiding principles under the Act. In addition to what's required by law, Council established the following principles to guide the development of the initial proposal for the representation review.

The principles are that the proposal should:



Cover the entire District



Encourage community leadership



Support strong community relationships



Enable community-informed decision making



Build community capacity and networks



Recognise the role of technology has changed the way we engage with communities.

Based on these guiding principles and the preferences expressed during the engagement process, Council has resolved this initial proposal for formal public consultation.

How to have your say

To have your say about the initial proposal you can:



Make a submission online at haveyoursay.westernbay.govt.nz/initialproposal



Attend a community event. There are nine community events where you can find out more about the initial proposal. For more information go to haveyoursay.westernbay.govt.nz/initialproposal



Printed copies of the representation review initial proposal and submission forms are available at our service centres, please phone 0800 926 732 (freephone) or email haveyoursay@westernbay.govt.nz

Hearings

If you wish to make an oral submission to Council as part of the hearings process on **Monday 3 September**, please ensure you indicate this on the submission form.

Community groups

If you belong to a community group and would like more information, call us on **0800 926 732** (freephone) to request a meeting with staff before the consultation period ends on **Friday, 24 August 2018**.





The consultation period is open from Tuesday 24 July to 5pm on Friday 24 August 2018.

The proposal - is there a better way?

1. Elected members

No change proposed

The initial proposal for the 2019 and 2022 local elections is for Western Bay of Plenty District Council to retain 11 councillors elected from the existing three wards, plus the Mayor elected District-wide.

Ward	Councillors
Katikati-Waihi Beach	3 
Kaimai	4 
Maketu-Te Puke	4 
Plus the Mayor elected District-wide 1 	

2. Ward boundaries

Minor boundary adjustment

The initial proposal for the 2019 and 2022 local elections is that Council retains the three wards of: Katikati-Waihi Beach; Kaimai; and Maketu-Te Puke. Council is, however, suggesting a minor boundary adjustment to allow communities of interest - identified by the community and Council - to be grouped in a way that better reflects the relationships between those communities and their wards.

The adjustment:

- Involves the boundary between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards
- Would result in approximately 282 dwellings moving from the Kaimai ward into the Katikati-Waihi Beach ward
- Would mean that the people in the affected area would become part of the ward in which they share common links with educational, shopping, social and other needs.

For details of the boundary change please refer to attached maps on pages 11 and 12.

What does this mean for you?

Have your say: Do you agree with the proposed minor ward boundary adjustment between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards?

3. Local representation

Change from community boards to community committees

During the last representation review, Council signalled its intention to review its community boards given the reduction in the number of wards from five to three at that time.

Council is now proposing:

- That our five community boards (Waihi Beach, Katikati, Omokoroa, Te Puke and Maketu) are replaced with three community committees, aligned to the three ward boundaries. The three community committee structure will provide for local representation across the entire District and representatives will be drawn from communities of interest that have been identified through community feedback.
- The community committees for Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards would include the changes outlined in the boundary adjustment outlined previously.

For details on the differences between community boards and community committees please refer to the information on page 8.

What does this mean for you?

Have your say: Do you agree with the proposed local representation changing from community boards to community committees?

Why we think there's a better way

Our District's communities have changed since 1989. The District has grown, particularly in recent times, and the rural/urban mix has altered, with better transport corridors driving an increase in 'lifestyle' properties. Our community boards currently represent just 58 percent of our District's resident electors.

Western Bay citizens are more mobile and they move between communities while they 'live, work and play'. Many people now choose to live in one community and commute to work in another.

The way Council works has also changed over this time, with councillors and staff spending more time engaging and working directly in our communities. Relationships between communities and their local representatives are more direct than they were 30 years ago and are no longer restricted to formal local structures and processes.

Technology allows our citizens to engage directly with Council on issues that affect them, whether it is to report a concern, to submit through a consultation process or to just 'have your say' informally. Your feedback told us that many of you wish to use technology to have a more direct relationship with your councillors.

Our Council has strong relationships with our local communities, their leaders and networks and these relationships inform Council discussion and decision making both formally and informally. Your feedback on local representation told us that, for many of you,

your sense of community and local representation does not fit the current community board operating model.

Council believes that a change to local representation is necessary in order to be more relevant to all of our local communities, to be more flexible in representation to support changing community needs and to enable a broader membership from community leaders and their networks across the entire District.

What are community committees?

A community committee is a committee of Council, but members are not elected under the Local Electoral Act. The community nominates candidates and members would be appointed through a Council process. Membership would also include the ward councillors. Community committees' roles and responsibilities would then be determined by Council.

The three ward-based community committees would create opportunities for broader representation at a local level. They would allow residents and

ratepayers to have a greater voice in determining the needs of their community and assist Council in its responsibilities to the community. The committees would have a key role to partner with community groups and citizens to act as a point of contact with Council.

Each community committee would have terms of reference that covers their:

- Membership – membership would include the ward councillors and appointed representatives from the community
- Tenure – generally three years to match the election cycle
- Delegations
- Meeting schedules
- Voting arrangements
- Work programme.

Each community committee's annual work programme would identify projects and priorities, and be collaboratively developed by the committee and Council through Council's annual plan and long term plan processes. The work programme would be aligned to a community plan where this exists.

What are community boards?

Community boards are elected to represent their communities and have delegated roles and responsibilities according to legislation and Council decisions. They carry out functions and exercise those powers delegated to them by Council such as advocating for the community board area to Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes.

Our District currently has five community boards (Waihi Beach, Katikati, Omokoroa, Te Puke and Maketu) across our three wards. These were created in 1989 with the amalgamation of 850 local counties, boroughs, city councils and various local boards, into the 86 local authorities that exist today.

Each community board currently has four members elected under the Act and two ward councillors appointed by Council.



Key differences - community boards and community committees

Community Boards

Created by the local government reforms in 1989; members are elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001

Currently representing 58 percent of electors

Operate in limited defined areas - smaller and rural communities are not represented

Carry out statutory functions and exercise those powers delegated to them by Council

Historically there's reasonably good local support in those areas represented by community boards

Allows for utilisation of knowledge and experience relative to localised issues in those areas represented by a community board

Board communication and engagement processes have at times replicated Council initiatives

Meeting cycles bound by Council requirements - currently a six-weekly turnaround

Not all ward councillors are appointed to all boards within their ward to allow for consistent numbers.

Community Committees

Created by Councils with membership made up of ward councillors and people nominated by the community - with assistance from Council

Would represent 100 percent of electors in each community of interest within each ward

Would operate across all communities of interest within District wards

Delegations and Terms of Reference (TOR) as set by Council, work plan aligned with Council Annual Plan, Long Term Plan, and District Plan cycles

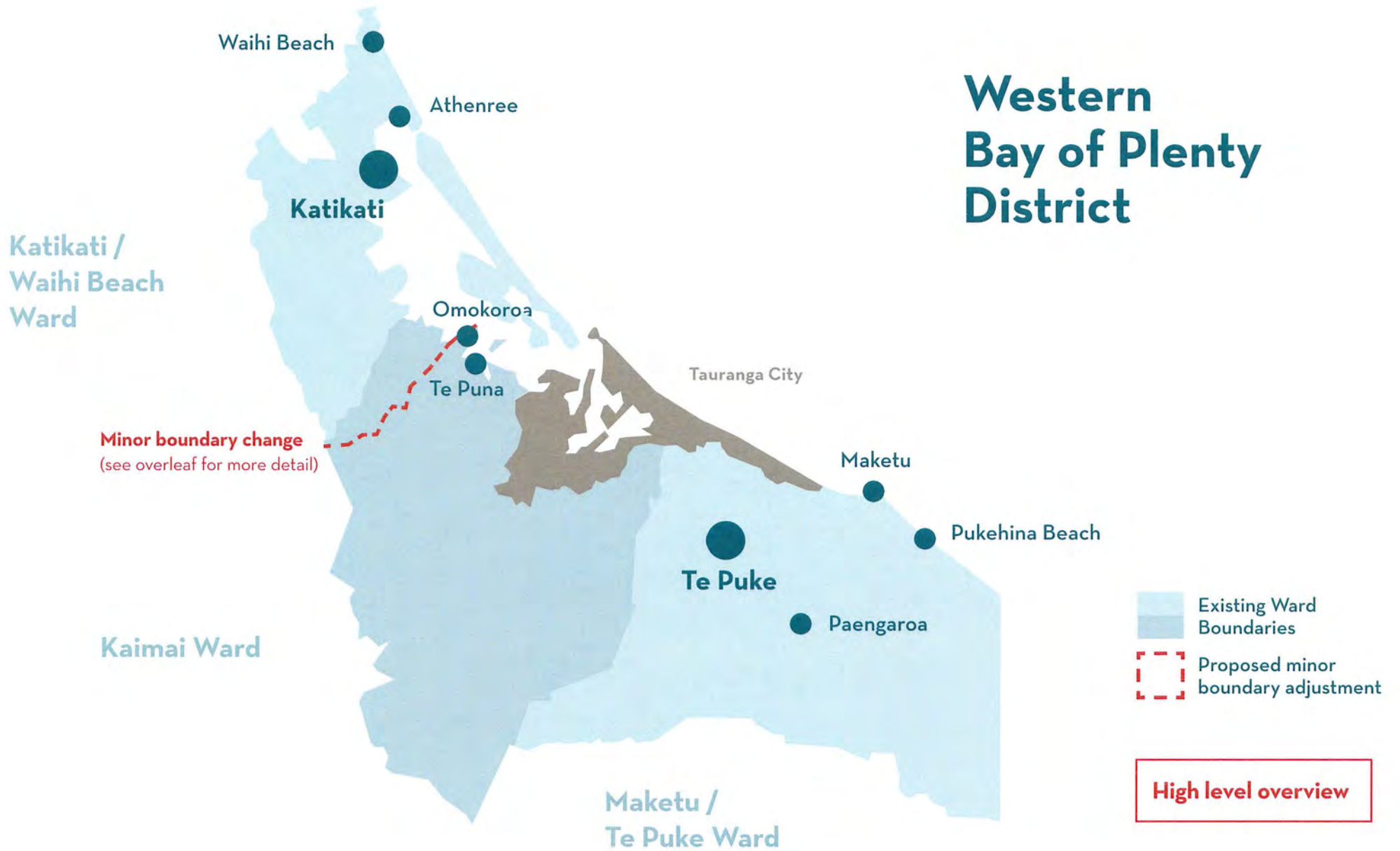
Allows for utilisation of knowledge and experience relative to localised issues across all the communities of interest within each ward

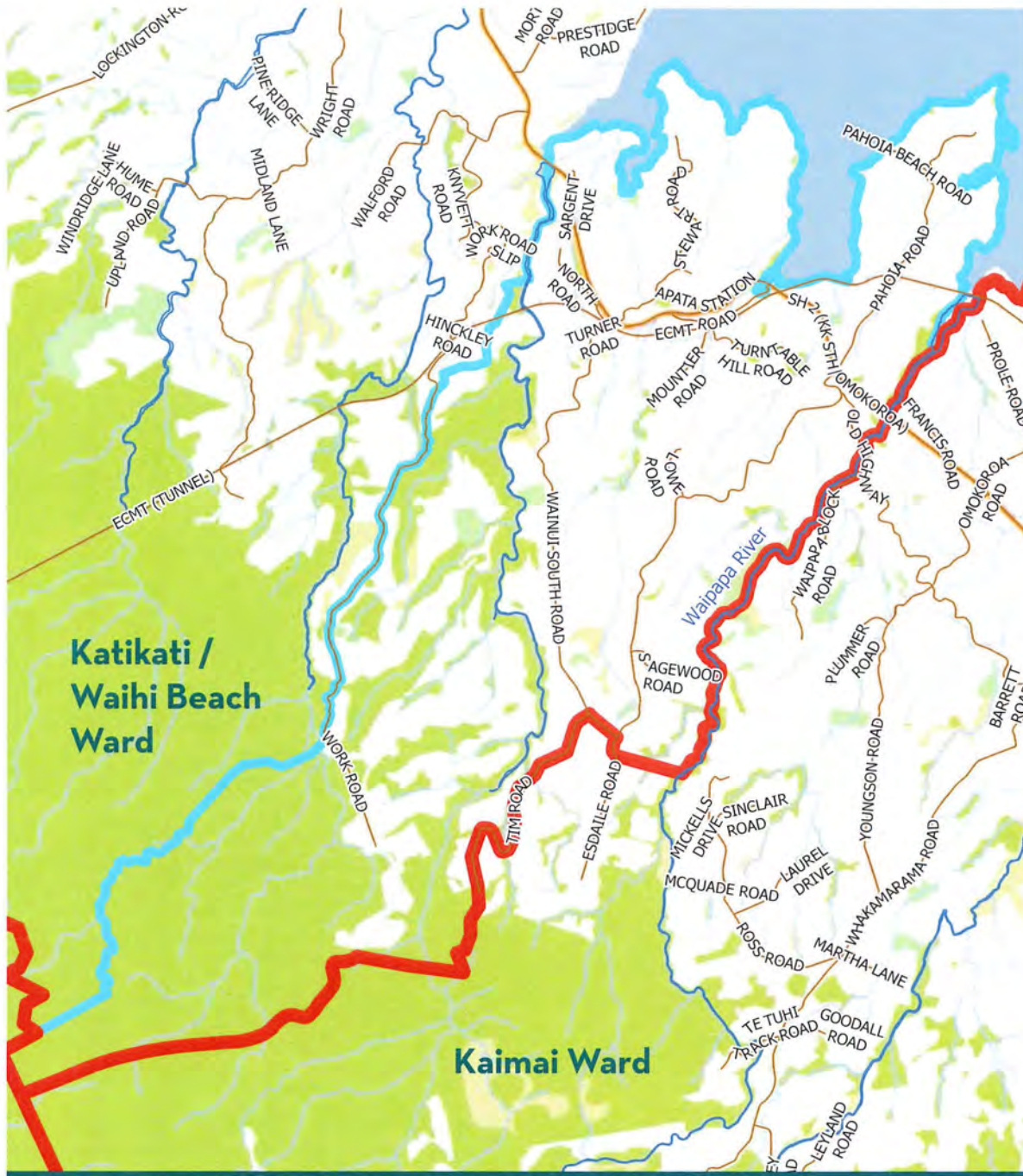
Opportunity for establishment of strong alignment with newer Council engagement methods - more direct, informal and inclusive

Allowance for a more flexible, agile and timely response to community challenges and opportunities

Would enable greater collaboration between ward councillors and community representatives - all ward councillors appointed.

Western Bay of Plenty District





Proposed Ward Boundary Change Area

- Existing Ward Boundary
- Proposed Ward Boundary



Have your say on the Representation Review: Is there a better way?



Representation Review for the 2019 and 2022 Western Bay of Plenty District Council elections

SUBMISSION FORM

We appreciate you taking the time to have your say on the Representation Review.
Once you've submitted your feedback we will let you know we've received it.

Visit www.haveyoursay.westernbay.govt.nz to make a submission online.

Otherwise fill out this submission form and drop it off at one of our five offices.

All the information you provide in your submission form (including personal details) will become public documents.

All written feedback must be received by 5pm Friday, 24 August 2018. *Submitters must provide details

For photocopying purposes, please write clearly using a black pen.

Name*: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr

Organisation (if applicable):

Email or postal address*:

Signature*:

Date*:

Privacy statement

All submissions (including name and all contact details) are provided to elected members and made available to the public at our office and on our website. Personal information will also be used for the administration of the consultation process. All information collected will be held by Western Bay of Plenty District Council, with submitters having the right to access and correct personal information. Please refer to Council's Privacy Policy at www.westernbay.govt.nz/privacy-policy.

About this submission form

This form has two sections:

- Section 1 - Your submission details
- Section 2 - Questions about the proposed changes in the initial proposal.

1. Section 1 - Your submission details

Which Western Bay of Plenty District ward do you currently live in? *

- Katikati-Waihi Beach
- Kaimai
- Maketu-Te Puke
- Don't know

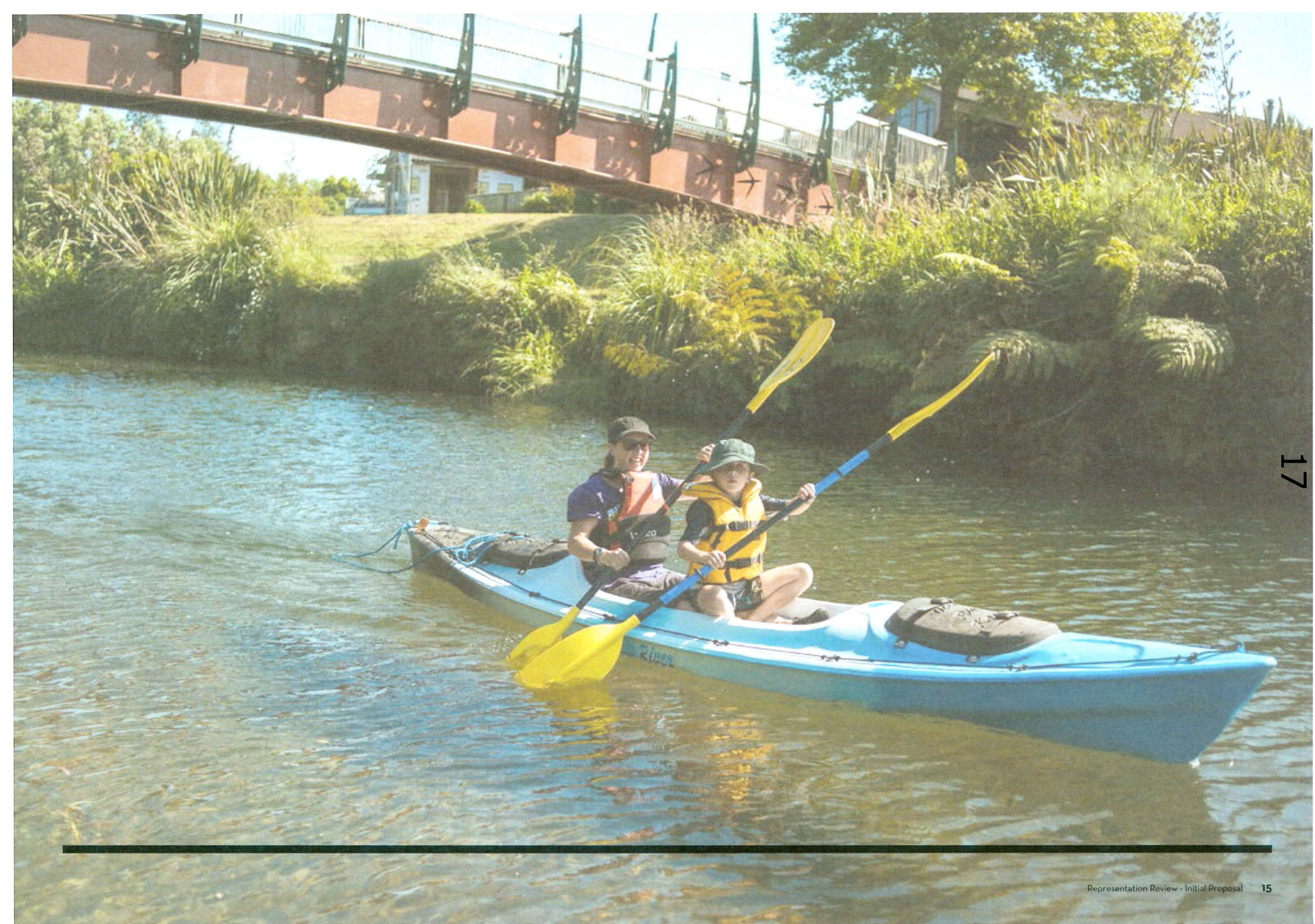
*Please name the community that you live in.

*Would you like to make an oral submission to Council as part of the hearings process on Monday 3 September?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please give your phone number so that a hearing time can be arranged.

Continued on the reverse of this form



All feedback must be received by 5pm Friday, 24 August 2018

Details inside on how you can comment
or give your feedback on the issues raised.

If you require further information or have any questions
please phone our Customer Relationship Team on **07 571 8008**,
0800 926 732 or visit your nearest library and service centre:

Council Head Office

Barkes Corner, 1484 Cameron Road, Greerton
Private Bag 12803, Tauranga Mail Centre, Tauranga 3143
P 07 571 8008 • **E** customerservice@westernbay.govt.nz

Katikati Library & Service Centre

36 Main Road, Katikati • **P** 07 571 8008

Waihi Beach Library & Service Centre

Waihi Beach Community Centre, Waihi Beach • **P** 0800 926 732

Omokoroa Library & Service Centre

McDonnell Street, Omokoroa • **P** 07 571 8008

Te Puke Library & Service Centre

130 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke • **P** 07 571 8008

your
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