



**WHANGANUI  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

# **Statement of Proposal**

## **Representation Review 2024**

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## SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Whanganui District Council is seeking feedback on its initial Representation Review proposal.

The Council voted to include Māori wards for the 2025 local body elections in October of 2023. This has been worked into the proposal and is no longer being consulted on. This alters the voting dynamic, meaning the community can no longer vote as a single entity. Voters will be split by their electoral roll status – either the general or Māori roll.

The Council will retain the 12 councillors and one mayor breakdown with ten being elected through a general ward, and two through the Māori ward.

This proposal also seeks to make minor adjustments to the Wanganui Rural Community Board's (the Board) subdivision boundaries to more closely meet the 'population to elected member' ratio rules of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act).

This would affect the boundaries of the Whanganui and Kai Iwi subdivisions but would still take into account recognised communities of interest. The proposal would result in only small-scale changes and the same number of elected members would continue to represent each rural subdivision. It would reduce the level to which we currently do not comply with the rules in the Act.

Finally, we will be retaining the First Past the Post electoral system where the candidate/s with the most votes wins.

## INTRODUCTION

Under the Act, local authorities must review their electoral arrangements at least every six years. The Council last reviewed its arrangements in 2018 for the 2019 elections, with minimal changes made to the Whanganui Rural Community Board. That means we have to do another review before the 2025 elections.

Representation reviews are about:

- Identifying our communities of interest.
- Considering how these communities of interest are best represented through:
  - the basis on which councillors are elected (i.e. at large, wards or a mixture of both);
  - the total number of councillors;
  - ward numbers, names and boundaries; and
  - community board arrangements.
- Ensuring each councillor represents about the same number of people
- Making decisions about the electoral system to be used; and
- Identifying any arrangements for Māori wards.

### ***Council***

Council has decided, after consulting with the community and mana whenua, to establish a Māori ward. In general, the Council has decided to retain all of its existing representation arrangements. This means that the same number of elected members will represent the district but the voting will be split between the general and Māori roll.

## ***Board***

The Whanganui Rural Community Board's boundaries for the Whanganui and Kai Iwi subdivisions do not currently meet the Act's rules on fair representation. These say that each elected member should represent about the same number of people. This is called the +/- 10% rule.

As a result, it is proposed that minor adjustments be made so that representation can be more equally spread.

## **KEY DATES**

- Submissions open 2 July 2024
- Submissions close 4 August 2024
- Public hearings 13 August 2024
- Council considers and adopts final proposal 3 September

## **PROPOSAL**

In February 2024, the Council conducted a survey to better understand the communities preferred representation arrangements; following the survey results the Council is proposing the following:

After considering the survey results and the different options available, the Council has recommend the following arrangements for our district:

### ***Council***

The Council is proposing that the:

- Whanganui District will be represented by a Mayor and 12 councillors. This is the same as the current arrangements.

The following changes are being proposed:

- Voters on the general roll will vote for ten general ward councillors and voters on the Māori roll will vote for two Māori ward councillors.

### ***Board***

These arrangements for the Board are proposed to remain the same:

- The Whanganui Rural Community Board will consist of three subdivisions (Kai Iwi, Whanganui and Kaitoke).
- The members of the Whanganui Rural Community Board will be elected by the electors of the subdivisions of the community as follows:
  - Kai Iwi subdivision – Three members
  - Whanganui subdivision – Two members
  - Kaitoke subdivision – Two members
- Two councillor appointments will be made to the Whanganui Rural Community Board.

The following changes are being proposed:

- Two current subdivisions – Whanganui and Kai Iwi – do not comply with the Act’s rules on fair representation which say that each elected member should represent about the same number of people. Currently, Whanganui has too few people for the number of elected members it has and Kai Iwi has too few elected members for the number of people living in this subdivision.
- It is proposed that the Whanganui and Kai Iwi boundaries be adjusted. This would see meshblocks 4010778, 1680600, 1680501, 1680502, 1680103, 1680001 and 1679700 be moved from the Kai Iwi subdivision to the Whanganui subdivision. It would also see meshblocks 4018473 and 4018481 removed from the Kai Iwi subdivision as they are now considered urban.

**CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS:**

	Population	Members	Population - member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
<b>Whanganui Rural Community</b>					
Whanganui Subdivision	1,350	2	675	-215	<b>-24.16</b>
Kai Iwi Subdivision	2,950	3	983	93	<b>10.49</b>
Kaitoke Subdivision	1,930	2	965	75	8.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>890</b>		

**PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT**

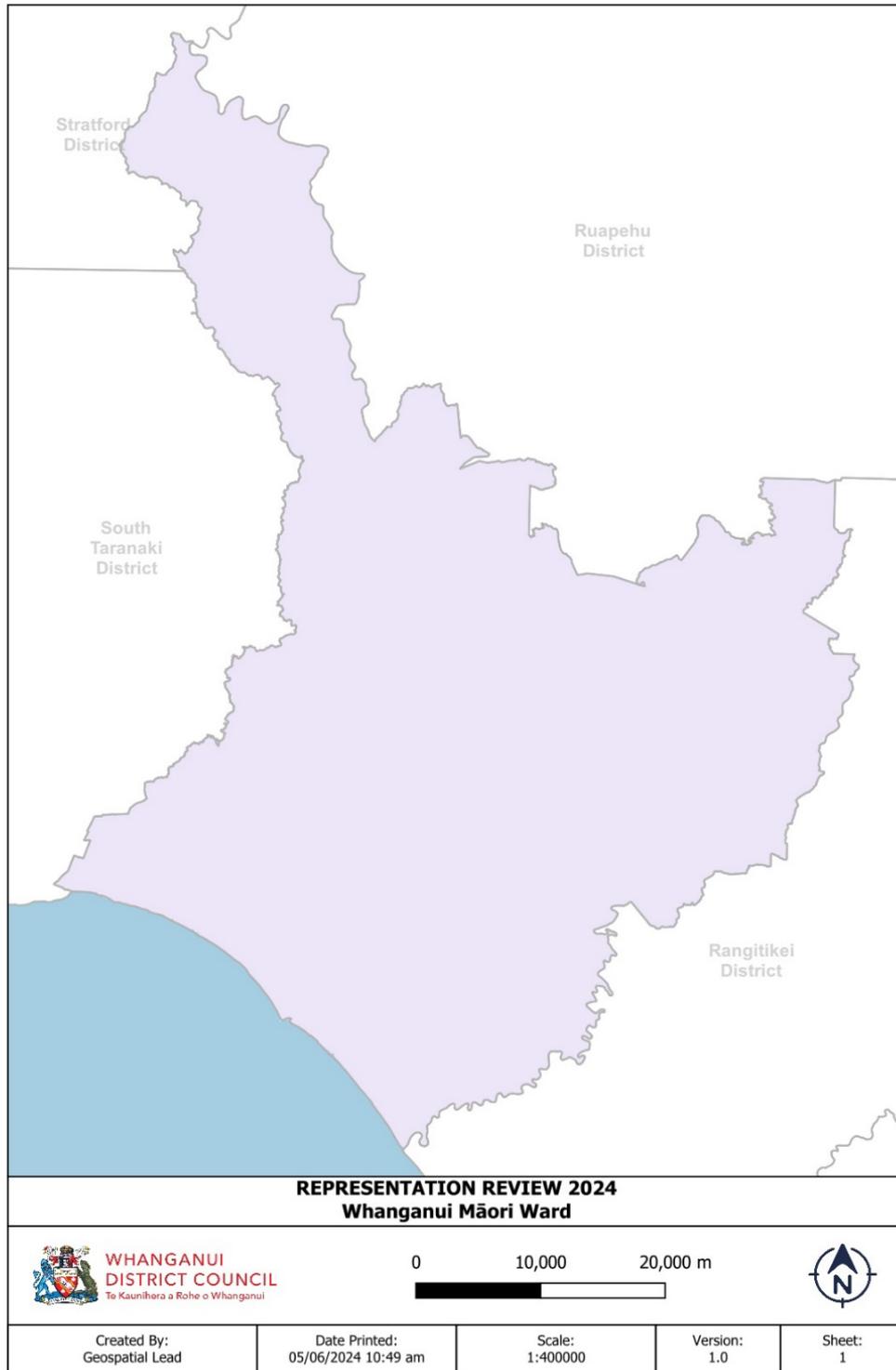
	Population	Members	Population - member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
<b>Whanganui Rural Community</b>					
Whanganui Subdivision	1,710	2	855	-32	<b>-3.6</b>
Kai Iwi Subdivision	2,560	3	853	-34	<b>-3.8</b>
Kaitoke Subdivision	1,940	2	970	83	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,210</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>887</b>		

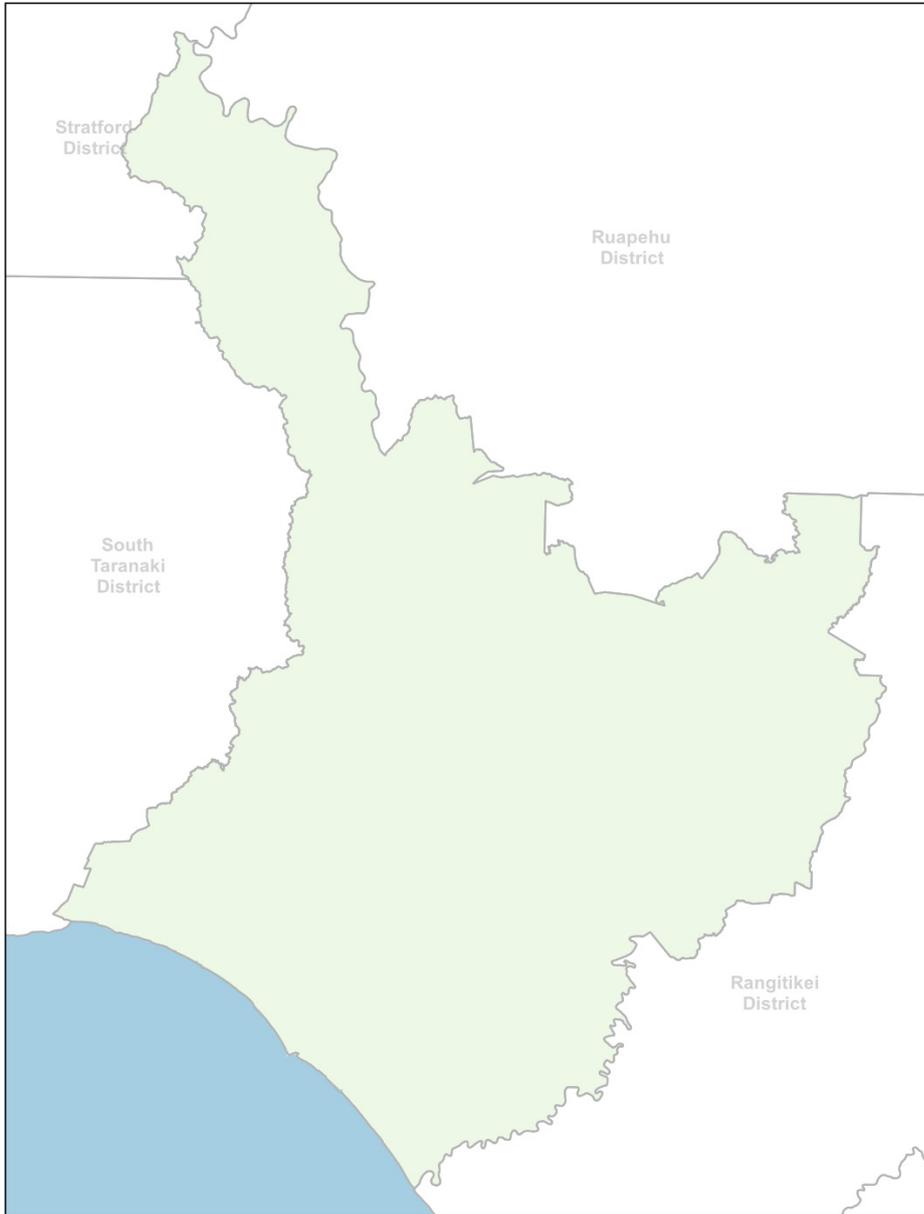
More information, including maps, is provided on page 7.

## REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL:

Change	Reason	Who this would effect
<b>Kai Iwi</b>		
Moving the boundary of the Kai Iwi subdivision into the Whanganui subdivision. This would make the Kai Iwi subdivision smaller and the Whanganui subdivision larger.	Moving the boundaries of Kai Iwi will allow the community board members to comply with the Act. This would retain the existing communities of interest.	Mesh blocks 4010778, 1680600, 1680501, 1680502, 1680103, 1680001 and 1679700 would be transferred from the Kai Iwi subdivision to the Whanganui subdivision.
<b>Whanganui</b>		
Adding parts of the current Kai Iwi boundary into the Whanganui subdivision. This would make the Whanganui subdivision larger but it had previously been over-represented by the elected member/population ratio.	Aligning parts of the Kai Iwi subdivision with the population to elected member ratio by moving it into the Whanganui subdivision.	Mesh blocks 4010778, 1680600, 1680501, 1680502, 1680103, 1680001 and 1679700 would be transferred from the Kai Iwi subdivision to the Whanganui subdivision.
<b>Urban</b>		
Moving parts of the Kai Iwi subdivision into the Urban area.	This will also align the elected member to population ratio to be in compliance with the LGC.	Mesh blocks 4018473 and 4018481 are removed from the Kai Iwi subdivision as they are now considered urban.

# COUNCIL MAPS





**REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024  
Whanganui General Ward**



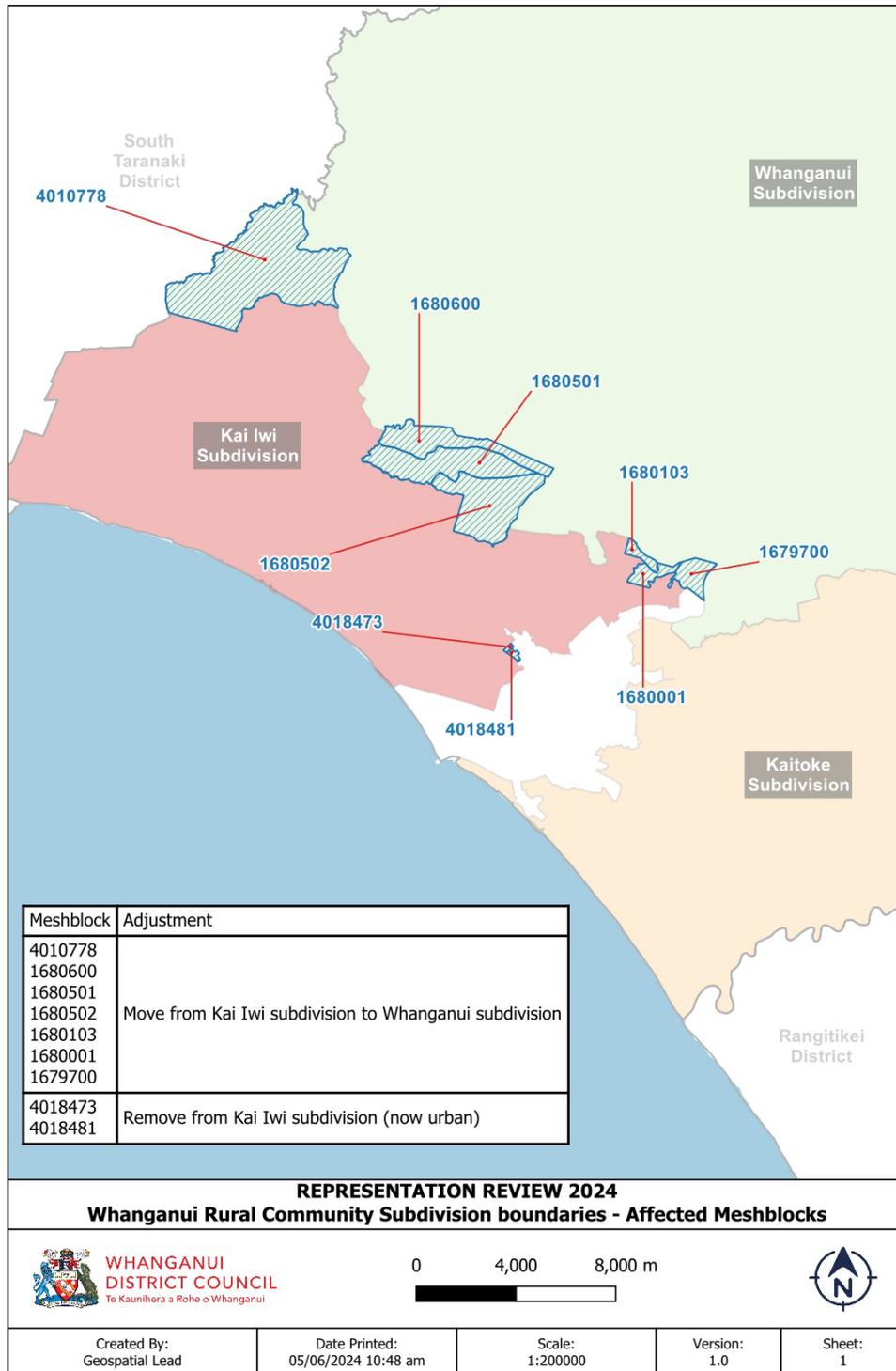
**WHANGANUI  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
*Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui*

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# BOARD MAPS





**REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024**  
**Whanganui Rural Community Subdivision boundaries**

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## HAVE YOUR SAY

To have your say about the representation proposal you can make a submission online at <https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/Your-Council/Have-Your-Say/Current-Consultations>

Alternatively, you can collect submission forms from the Whanganui District Council Customer Service counter at the main municipal building located at 101 Guyton Street or from the Davis Central City Library and Gonville Library.

Please indicate whether you would like to speak to your submission and include contact details. People who wish to be heard by Council will be given the opportunity to do so.

The hearings will be heard on the morning of 13 August 2024. You will be contacted with a specific time should you wish to speak.

For any queries please contact [the](#) Democracy Team at [democracy@whanganui.govt.nz](mailto:democracy@whanganui.govt.nz)

Written submissions open on 2 July 2024 and close on 4 August 2024. Council will acknowledge in writing each submission received. All submissions will be considered and deliberated on

## NEXT STEPS

Oral submissions will be heard and all other submissions considered. Council will then meet to make a decision on its final proposal. This will be publically notified within six weeks of the close of submissions. There will then be a one month period to appeal or object to the decision. If there is an appeal or objection, or the final proposal does not comply with the Act's requirements for fair representation it must be referred to the Local Government Commission (LGC).

The LGC will determine the representation arrangements for the 2025 Whanganui District Council elections. That decision must be made by 10 April 2025.