

# Kawerau District Council Representation Review



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# Programme overview

- Karakia and introductions
- Background Representation review
- Overview of how we got our feedback
- Informal preliminary consultation
- Options
- Guidance required
- Local Government Bill
- Timetable
- Next steps

# Background – Representation Review

Representation Review is step 3 of the electoral process following FPP (First Past the Post) and the introduction of Māori Representation

Prescribed formal process in Local Electoral Act

- legal compliance
- documentation
- community consultation

Three key principles:

- (i) communities of interest
- (ii) effective representation
- (ii) fair representation (+/- 10% rule)

# Overview of how we got our feedback

## **Variety of community engagement methods utilised**

- Specific Community Engagement Sessions
- Drop-In Sessions during and after hours
- Printed information and survey delivered via the pānui/newsletter
- Online material and surveys (website, Social Media channels)
- Council Offices promotion
- Discussed at the schedule of Annual Plan 2024-2025 engagement meetings

# Engagement Process completed

## Community Engagment Sessions

- Drop-in sessions library and concert chamber: 22 and 28 March; 4 April
- KADAP meeting: 8 April
- Annual Plan meeting presentations 12 April: Grey Power; 16 April: Kaumātua Forum; 18 April: drop-in session Concert Chamber; 23 April: Ruatahi Marae; 9 May: Kawerau Community Markets

## Newsletters/pānui

- 6 March pānui: Survey - Representation Review- Early Feedback
- 21 March pānui: Representation Review 2024 – FAQ

## Social Media Posts

- Various social media posts from 8 March / Featured content pinned (*Link to survey*)

## Website

- Link to survey on homepage from 8 March; Website Information and FAQs from 8 March

**Other** - CSO TV; Council Offices, isite and library (*all had surveys*)

# Informal preliminary consultation

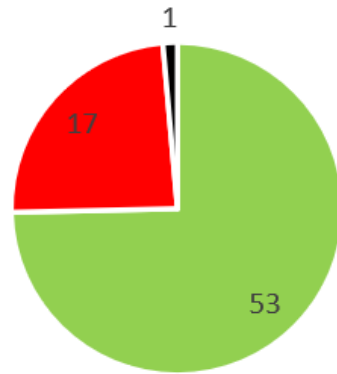
- Survey undertaken April to May 2024 with 71 responses
- Key questions asked:
  - age, gender, ethnicity
  - is eight the right number of councillors?
  - do you want more or less seats?
  - should councillors be elected from wards, at large or a combination of both?
  - does Kawerau need a community board?
  - should there be more than one ward for either our general or Māori ward councillors?
  - why do you want that many councillors?
  - why do/don't you want community boards?

# Summary of Informal preliminary consultation

- largest response from Europeans (49%) followed by Māori (28%), aged over 65 years (49%) and female (55%)
- overall, respondents feel the current arrangements work well
- prefer same number of councillors (75%)
- preference for no community boards (70%)
- preference for combination mixed system (60%)

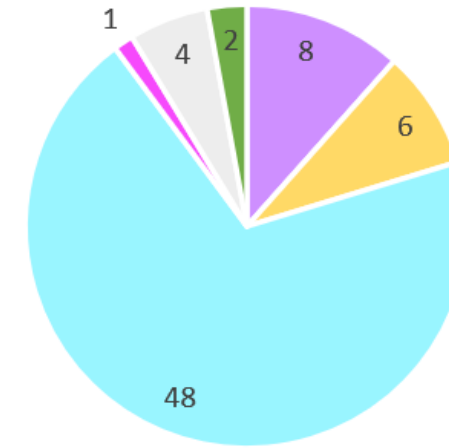
# Informal preliminary consultation: *Number of seats around the table*

Do you think eight (status quo) is the right number of councillors to represent the interest of the different communities in our district?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Blank

Do you want more or less seats?



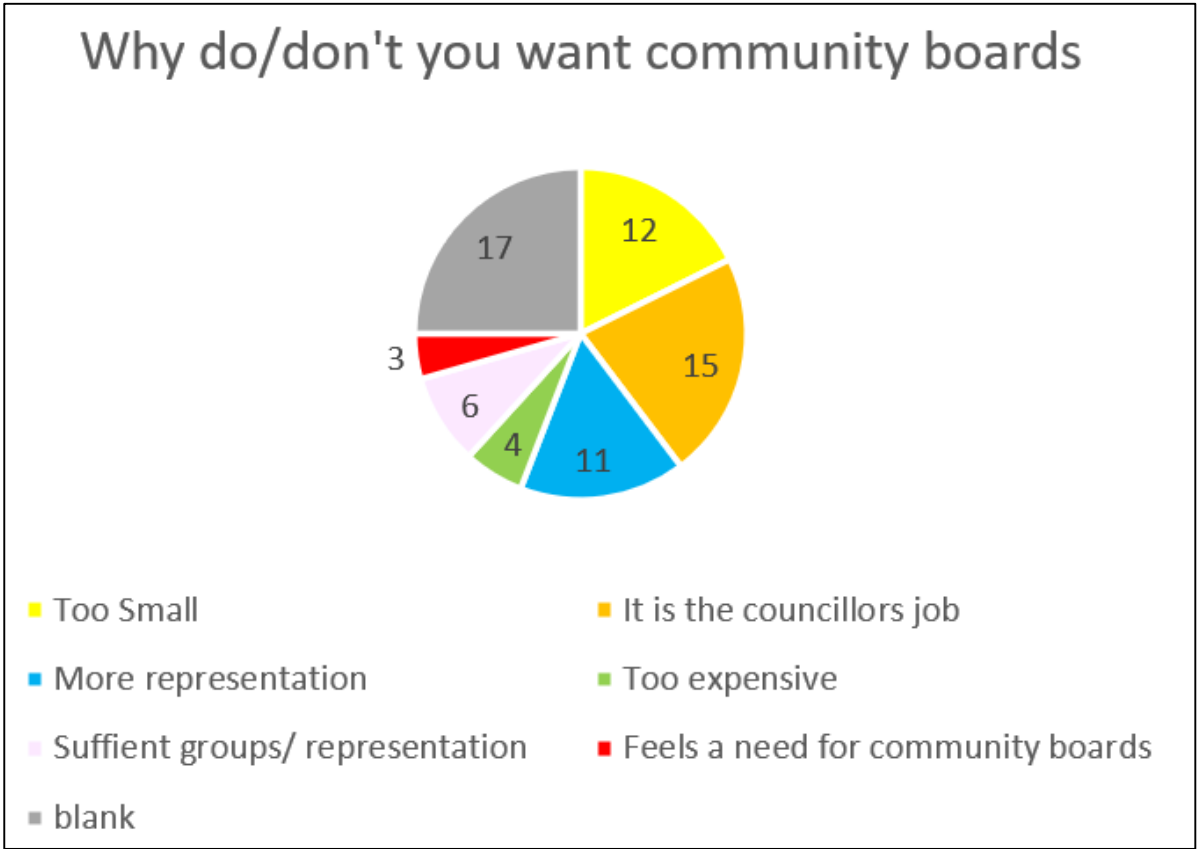
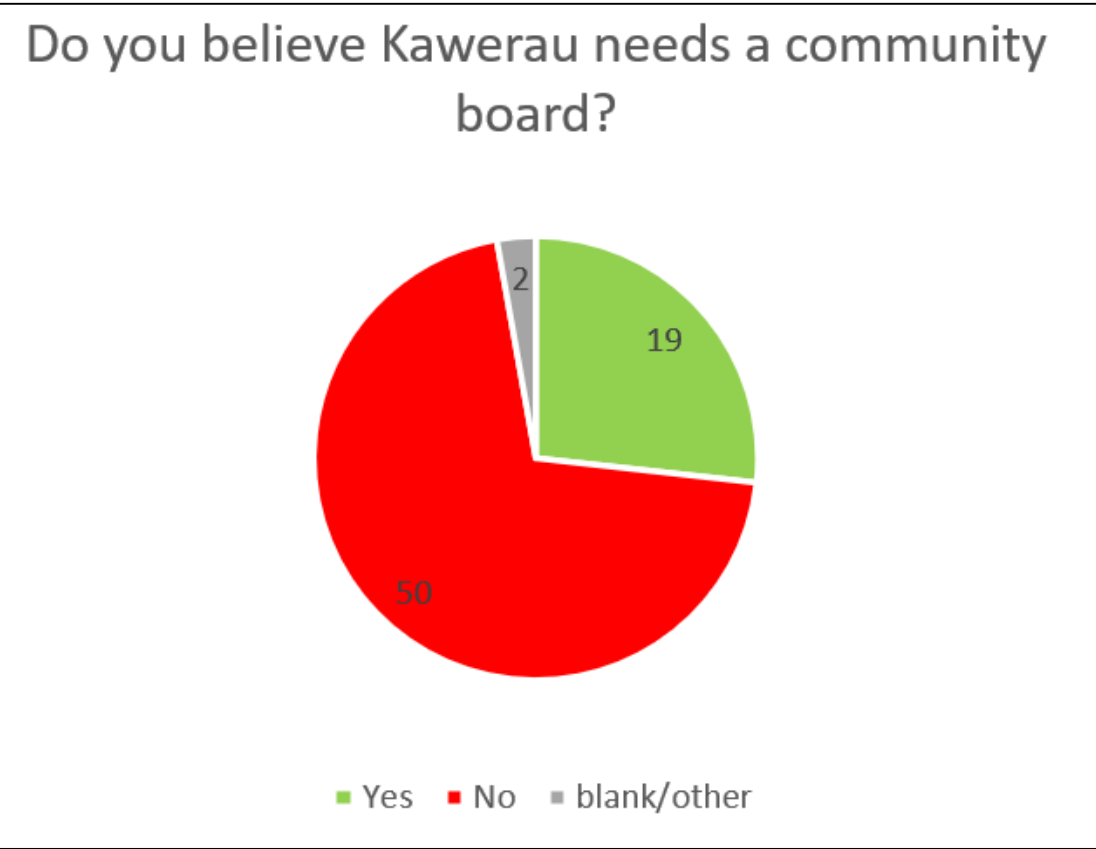
■ 6 ■ 7 ■ 8 ■ 9 ■ blank/other ■ 6 or 7



# *Feedback: why do you want more or less seats*

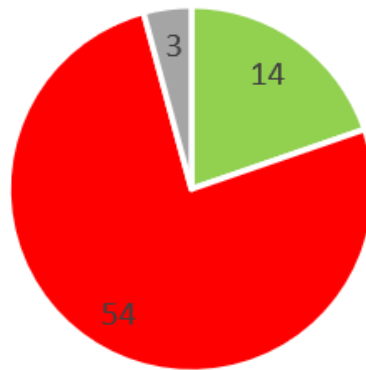
- Majority agree with keeping status quo
- Want an even number so there is an even split between Māori and general wards
- Eight is a good amount for the size of our district
- Works well at the moment
- Worried about it costing more
- There is too many councillors

# Informal preliminary consultation: *Community Boards?*



# Informal preliminary consultation: *One Ward*

Should there be more than one ward for our district for either or both of the general ward councillors and/or Māori ward councillors?

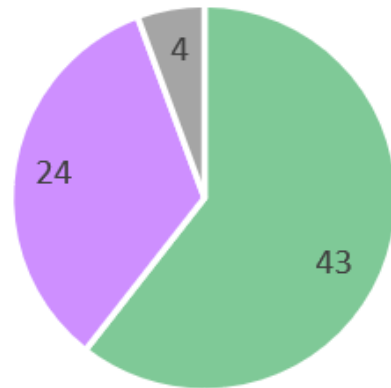


■ Yes ■ No ■ Blank

- Majority agree with keeping status quo.
- Councillors elected from district-wide ward

# Informal preliminary consultation: *Combination Model*

Do you think councillors should be elected from wards, at large or a combination of wards and 'at large'?



■ A combination of wards and 'at large' ■ Wards ■ Blank/other

- Majority feedback that Council comprise General, Māori and At Large (district-wide) wards
- Common feedback from the 'drop-in' sessions was that they felt the combination model gave them more voting choices.

# Options – 1

- 60% of respondents support
  - 8 councillors in total
    - 3 councillors from 1 district wide general ward
    - 3 councillors from 1 district wide Māori ward
    - 2 councillors elected district wide

Everyone votes for



ONE MAYOR



"AT LARGE"

If you are in the General roll you vote for



GENERAL WARD

If you are in the Māori roll you vote for



MĀORI WARD

.....

**Please note:** the number of councillors in any ward or "at large" can change depending on how many councillors we choose to represent Council. Everyone can vote for one Mayor and the "at large" councillors. People on the Māori Electoral roll can only vote for the Māori ward councillors and vice versa for the general roll.

# Council's with combination models in 2022 Local Government Elections:

- New Plymouth District Council
- Kāpiti Coast District Council
- Lower Hutt City Council
- Masterton District Council
- Nelson City Council
- Gore District Council

# Options – 2

- 33% respondents support
  - 8 councillors in total
    - 4 councillors from 1 district wide general ward
    - 4 councillors from 1 district wide Māori ward

## One mayor plus

**9** seats at Council table



**8** seats at Council table



**7** seats at Council table



**6** seats at Council table



# Guidance required

- Preferred option?
  - number of councillors
  - number of wards
  - ward names, boundaries, number of councillors per constituency
- Any further scenarios to explore?



# Local Government Bill

- Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Constituencies) Amendment Bill
  - introduced 20 May 2024
  - 4 weeks in select committee June 2024
  - enacted late July 2024
- Two key parts of Bill:
  - polls on Māori wards and constituencies
  - adjustments to election timing
- Likely to be passed

# Local Government Bill

- Councils that established Māori wards or constituencies without poll (e.g. Kawerau District Council) must either:
  - conduct poll on Māori wards or constituencies alongside 2025 elections or
  - rescind decision to introduce Māori wards or constituencies
- Reintroduction of ability for electors to demand poll if council introduces Māori wards or constituencies, effective after 2025 elections (this was removed in 2021)

# Local Government Bill

- **If not rescinding**
  - Māori wards in place for 2025 election and poll **must** be held with 2025 election
  - Māori ward councillors in office for 2025-2028 term
  - small additional cost of poll of 10-20c per elector (\$1,000 for KDC)
  - result of poll effective for 2028 and 2031 elections
  - if outcome of poll is to disestablish Māori wards, representation review required in 2027
- If bill is in effect on or before 31 July (deadline for initial proposal resolution), deadline extended to 13 September
- **If rescinding, two options (must decide by 6 September 2024)**
  - cease representation review and continue with current arrangements; or
  - conduct shortened review with an initial proposal resolution by 13 September 2024
  - no longer required to consider Māori wards in 2026

# Local Government Bill

- Election timeline changes
  - overall timetable starts earlier
    - start date currently 18 July 2025 to be 7 July 2025
  - voting pack delivery time extended (from 6 days to 14 days)
    - to be 9 to 22 September 2025
  - voting period extended 10 days (from 22.5 to 32.5 days)
    - to be 9 September to 11 October 2025
  - slightly shorter nomination period (starts on a Monday)
    - to be 7 July to 1 August 2025

# Timetable

- Council workshop 1 (overview) 21 February 2024
- Preliminary community engagement April - May 2024
- Council workshop 2 (summary of consultation, scenarios) 12 June 2024
- **Council meeting (initial proposal resolution) 26 June 2024 (next step)**
- Public notice of initial proposal 1 July 2024
- Submission period 1 July – 5 August 2024
- Submission hearings 14 August 2024
- Council workshop 4 (summary of submissions/deliberations) 28 August 2024
- Council meeting (final proposal resolution) 25 September 2024
- Public notice of final proposal 30 September 2024
- Appeal/objection period 30 September – 4 Nov 2024
- LGC determination (if required) by 10 April 2025

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