



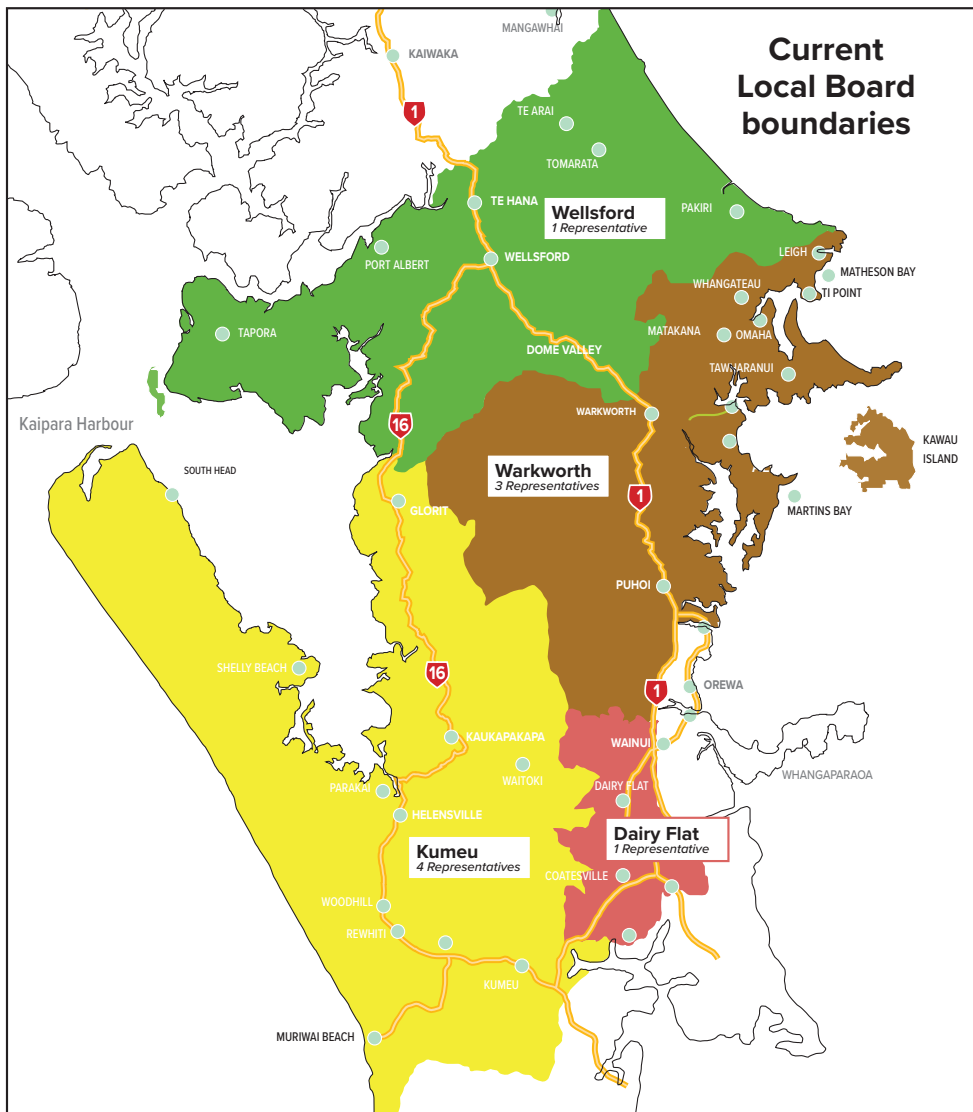
The Northern
Action Group
Incorporated

2024 Representation Review: Rodney LBA Subdivision Boundaries

Improving compliance, equality and
balance in representation

Background

- In 2024 AC must review and propose Local Board areas and subdivisions for the 2025 elections.
- Preliminary work is being done on what will be proposed.
- Some changes may be needed for population updates, but the Rodney LBA is unlikely to change much (it was under quota at the last review).
- Subdivision changes proposed in 2020 were deferred by the GB as:
 - It would be costly to conduct the review;
 - It might open up other areas for review;
 - A review was required for the 2025 elections.
- Rodney and Franklin are the only LBAs with significant rural populations.



Current Rodney LBA situation

- Wellsford subdivision **does not comply with quota**.
- 64% rural voters are spread as minorities across Rodney.
- RLB representation is drawn around small urban populations - Warkworth, Kumeu – which form majorities.
- Different service level needs of rural and small urban areas thus not equally represented.
- Maori and Kaipara harbour land interests have split representation.
- **RESULT:**
 - Representation is **non-complying, unequal and unbalanced**.



Proposed for subdivision boundary changes:

- Allow use of SSGA23(18) Rural/Urban classifications for determining representation in significant rural LBAs;
- Allow communities of interest to be non-contiguous (if needed)

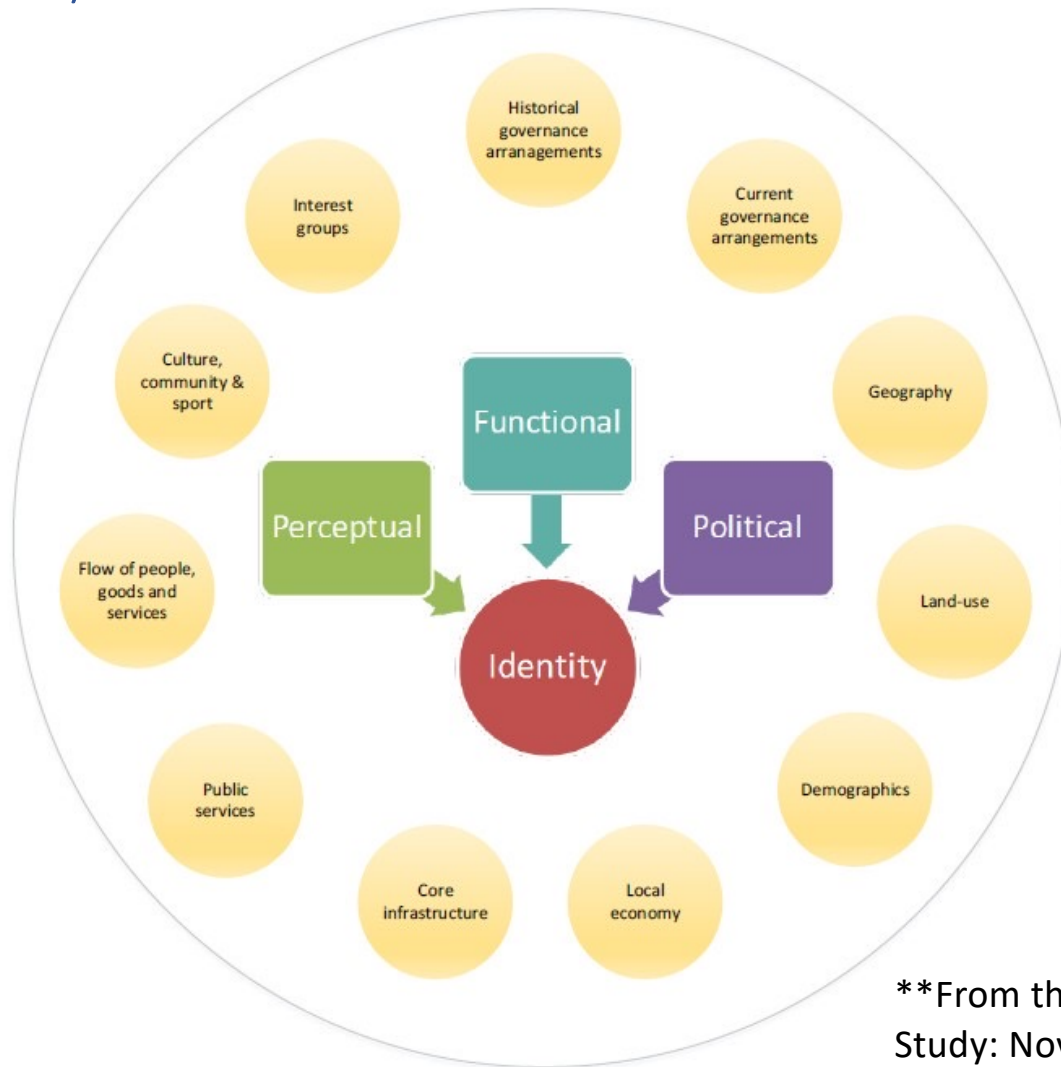


Community of interest concept

- Has non-geographical dimensions of
 - Perceptual,
 - Functional, and
 - Political,
- But typically centered on “place”.*
- For local Government services, rural needs and service provision are different from urban.
- Rural people are more widely dispersed geographically and have common interests in better roads & drainage; less needs for urban facilities – toilets, footpaths, libraries, halls etc.; but find their representation has become subordinate to urban in a large, diverse UA.
- Keys to fairer representation are allowing non-contiguous groups to be communities of interest and using the rural/urban distinction in significantly rural areas.

*LGC’s guideline uses a H. Fulcher discussion paper (1989) - commonly interpreted as meaning a group(s) of people with common interests and/or similarities in a geographic area.

LGC Graphic of Community of Interest Factors.

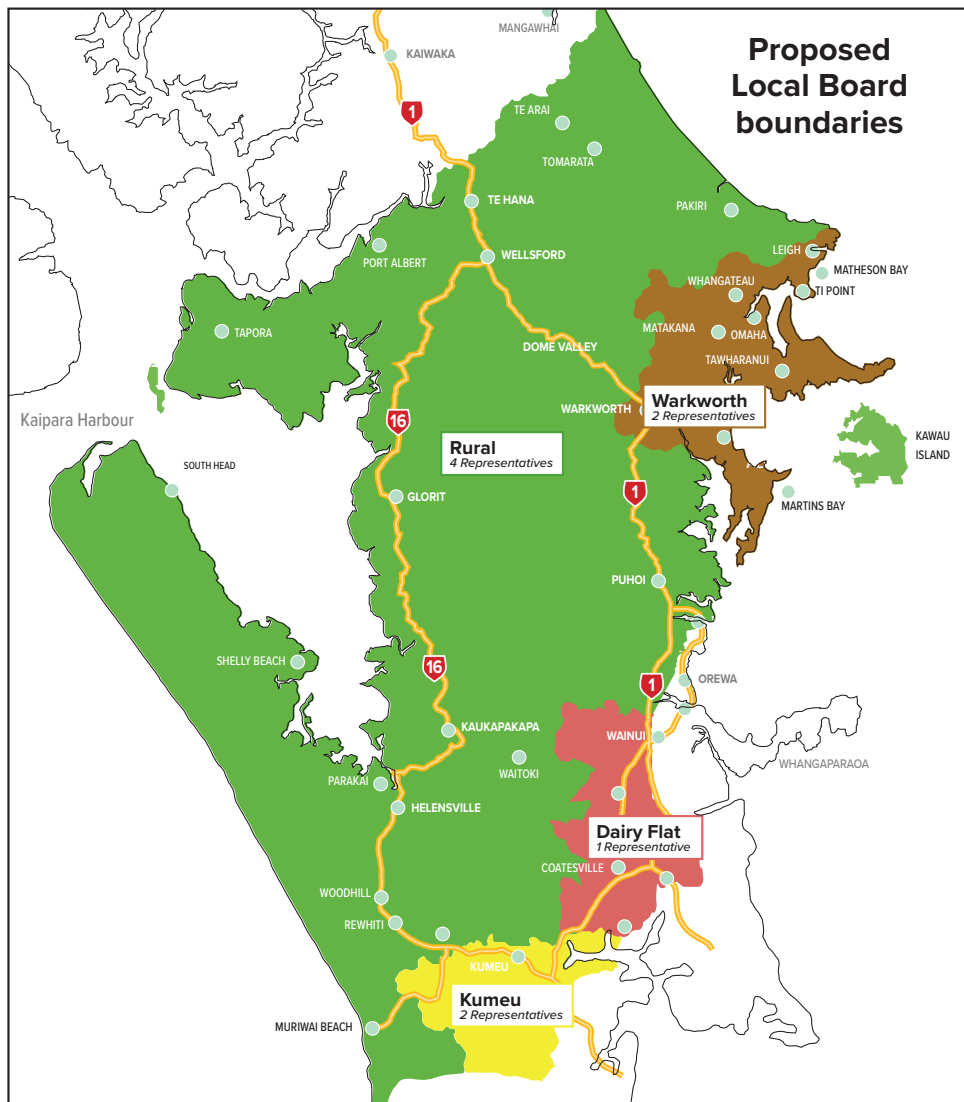


**From the LGC Communities of interest Study: November 2017.



Representation fairness

- The 2013 Constitutional Advisory Panel noted that choosing voting areas based on population leads to significant differences in electorate size, with Maori and rural electorates being disproportionately large; that urban and rural interests were seen as distinct; and that Iwi boundaries were seen as an important indicator of a community of interest.
- Recognising the rural/urban distinction in significantly rural areas is one way to address representation fairness. The changes proposed would require that to be considered - when the urban centric status quo would be otherwise unlikely to do so.
- Allowing non-contiguous voting groups is a complementary provision, that can potentially also have application in Iwi representation, perhaps choosing Maori wards with representation on an Iwi rather than a location basis?
- In Rodney, rural/urban representation could be structured on either continuous or non-contiguous groupings.



2020 Proposal to AC

- New Rural subdivision to replace Wellsford. (represents 42%)
- Warkworth - reduced (24%)
- Kumeu - reduced (23%)
- Dairy Flat - no change (11%).
- Iwi to nominate/support candidate(s) for the Rural members. (one member = 11% and Maori make up 12% of Rodney population).

Alternatives based on SSGA23

(using 2022 population estimates)

Contiguous Subdivisions*

Subdivision	Population	Members	Over/Under Quota
Rural	43%	4	-3.6%
Warkworth	23%	2	3.2%
Kumeu	24%	2	8.9%
Dairy Flat	10%	1	-9.8%
TOTAL	100%	9	

*reflects traditional population groupings.

Non-contiguous subdivisions#

Subdivision	Population	Members	Over/Under Quota
Rural Other	54%	5	-3.4%
Rural Settlements	9%	1	-16.5%
Small Urban Areas	37%	3	11.1%
TOTAL	100%	9	

#un-adjusted - using SSGA23 classifications directly.



Benefits – in Rodney

- Common rural service level interests have unified representation; small urban service level interests are consolidated.
- Maori Kaitiakitanga role over rural Rodney recognized.
- Single subdivision representation of Kaipara harbour.
- RESULT:
 - Representation is complying, equal and balanced.



Where to from here?

- Community support for the change at this stage will help AC decide that the new proposal is the one recommended for consultation next year.
- Otherwise, it is likely both the current and new boundary proposals will be presented for consultation.
- In a review year many different opinions will be expressed.
- NAG will conduct a preliminary poll to gauge support.
- The RLB will be asked for its view next year but can express one now to facilitate the change.
- A workshop is suggested to discuss process and substance – it would help improve everyone's understanding.