

**6.4 REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024 - AROTAKE WHAKAAHUATANGA TANGATA 2024****File Number: A4677056****Author: Casey Gannon, Manager - Democracy Services****Authoriser: Jacine Warmington, Group Manager - Strategic Relationships****TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report recommends that Council adopt the Representation Review 2024 - Arotake Whakaahuatanga Tangata 2024 initial proposal as outlined in the recommendation, with a formal consultation process to occur from 16 May – 17 July 2024.

**WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Territorial Authorities are required to conduct a Representation Review at least once every six years. Far North District Council conducted a full Representation Review in 2021 and has chosen to do another in 2024.
- A Representation Review is a review of Council membership and the basis of election, the total number of Councillors, how Councillors are elected (wards, district-wide, a mix of both), and a review of community boards.
- If Council decide to be represented by wards the Representation Review considers how many wards, boundaries, names, and the number of councillors for each ward. Should community boards be retained, the representation review is to consider the boundaries and number of elected and appointed members.
- Informal feedback data and support from the Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee regarding the Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward has indicated that this should remain as one district-wide ward.

**TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Far North District Council, in accordance with sections 19H and 19J and clauses 1 and 2 of Schedule 1A of the Local Electoral Act 2001, adopt the following as its initial proposal for the review of representation arrangements for at least the 2025 triennial local elections:**

- a) **the Far North District Council to comprise the Mayor elected at large and 10 councillors elected under the ward system, specifically 6 general ward councillors and 4 Māori ward councillors.**
- b) **the Far North District Council be divided into 4 wards, these being:**
  - i) **Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward (represented by 1 general ward councillor), comprising the area in the current Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward map as shown on Attachment 1.**
  - ii) **Te Hiku General Ward (represented by 2 general ward councillors), comprising the area in the current Te Hiku General Ward map as shown on Attachment 1.**

**iii) Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward (represented by 3 general ward councillors), comprising the area in the current Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward map as shown on Attachment 1.**

**iv) Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward (represented by 4 Māori ward councillors), comprising the whole of the district in the Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward map as shown on Attachment 2.**

**c) there be 19 community board members being:**

**(i) 7 members elected from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board comprising:**

- 1) Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision – 1 member**
- 2) Kerikeri Subdivision – 2 members**
- 3) Paihia Subdivision – 1 member**
- 4) Russell-Ōpua Subdivision – 1 member**
- 5) Waipapa Subdivision – 1 member**
- 6) Whangaroa Subdivision – 1 member**

**and 2 members of the Council representing either the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward or Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward appointed to the community board by Council.**

**(ii) 6 members elected from the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board comprising:**

- 1) Kaikohe Subdivision – 3 members**
- 2) North Hokianga Subdivision – 1 member**
- 3) South Hokianga Subdivision – 2 members**

**and 2 members of the Council representing either the Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward or Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward appointed to the community board by Council.**

**(iii) 6 members elected from the Te Hiku Community Board comprising:**

- 1) Doubtless Bay Subdivision – 1 member**
- 2) Kaitāia Subdivision – 3 members**
- 3) North Cape Subdivision – 1 member**

**4) Karikari-Awanui Subdivision – 1 member**

**and 2 members of the Council representing either the Te Hiku General Ward or Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward appointed to the community board by Council.**

- d) The Far North District Council changes the name of the Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision to Karikari-Awanui Subdivision.**
- e) the formal, legislative consultative process and the following timetable be adopted:**

<b>Thursday 9 May 2024</b>	<b>Council meeting (Initial Proposal Resolution)</b>	<b>(section 19H, Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA))</b>
Thursday 16 May	Public Notice (within 14 days of resolution)	<b>(section 19M, LEA)</b>
Thursday 16 May – Monday 17 June 2024	Submission period (1 month)	<b>(section 19M, LEA)</b>
Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 July 2024	Submission hearings	<b>(section 19M, LEA)</b>
<b>Thursday 8 August 2024</b>	<b>Council meeting (Final Proposal Resolution)</b>	<b>(section 19N, LEA)</b>
Monday 12 August	Public Notice (within 14 days of resolution)	<b>(section 19N, LEA)</b>
Monday 12 August – Thursday 12 September 2024	Appeal/objection period (1 month)	<b>(section 19N, LEA)</b>
End of September	Forward material to LGC (if required) or public notice of basis of election	<b>(section 19Q, LEA)</b>

***Note that if section 19V Local Electoral Act 2001 has not been complied (+/- 10% rule), the matter is treated as an appeal and automatically referred to the Local Government Commission for determination, such determination to be made by 10 April 2025.***

- f) the hearing of any representation arrangements review submissions received be heard by Council on 9 and 10 July 2024.**

**1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND**

The Local Electoral Act (LEA) requires every local authority to undertake representation arrangements review at least once every six years, or if Māori wards/constituencies are introduced. Council undertook its last representation arrangements review in 2021 and is therefore required to undertake its next review in 2027. However, Far North District Council has chosen to conduct a representation review in 2024.

The current representation arrangements are:

- Mayor elected ‘at large’.
- 10 councillors elected from 4 wards (3 from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward, 1 from the Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward, 2 from the Te Hiku General Ward and 4 from the Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward).
- 19 community board members elected from 3 subdivided community boards (7 from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board, 6 from the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board and 6 from the Te Hiku Community Board).

## 2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

### DISCUSSION

#### Legislative Requirements

Part 1A of the LEA sets out the requirements for a representation arrangements review. Issues that a local authority are required to consider include:

- whether councillors (other than the Mayor) are to be elected by electors of the district as a whole (at large), by electors of two or more wards, or in some cases by a mix of electors of the district (at large) and by electors of wards;
- the proposed number of councillors to be elected in each category (at large/ward/mixture - if applicable);
- the proposed name and boundaries for each ward;
- whether there should be communities and community boards, and if so, the nature of a community and structure of a community board;
- whether one or more communities should be constituted;
- whether any community board should be abolished or united with another community;
- whether the boundaries of a community should be altered;
- whether a community should be subdivided for electoral purposes;
- the number of members of a community board (including the number elected and appointed);
- whether members of a community board to be elected by electors of a community as a whole, or by electors of two or more subdivisions, or by electors of each ward (if community comprises two or more wards);
- the name, boundaries and number of members of each subdivision of a community (if adopted).

#### Key Principles

In undertaking a representation arrangements review, the following key principles are required to be considered:

- communities of interest
- effective representation
- fair representation

The Local Government Commission Guidelines on undertaking a representation arrangements review contains the following information:

#### Communities of Interest

- not defined in legislation
- essential part of review process
- can mean different things to different people
- is an area where one feels a sense of belonging
- is an area where one looks for social, service and economic support
- sense of belonging can be influenced by geographic features such as a roading network
- community of interest can be identified by access to goods and services needed every day

- rohe, or takiwā of local iwi and hapū may also be factors

Defining characteristics may include:

- sense of community and belonging
- similarities in demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics
- similarities in economic activities
- dependence on shared facilities (schools, recreational, retail, cultural)
- physical and topographical features
- history of area
- transport and communication links communities of interest may change over time
- must be able to be defined as a single geographical area i.e. a physical boundary must be able to be defined

Effective Representation

- once communities of interest have been defined by geographical boundaries, need to consider how these communities will be most effectively represented
- does each community of interest require separate representation?
- can communities of interest be grouped together to achieve effective representation?
- is effective representation best achieved by an at large system, a ward system or a mixed system?
- if at large - how many members would provide effective representation for the district as a whole?
- if wards - how many members for each ward would provide effective representation?
- should there be communities and community boards?
- ward boundaries to coincide with mesh block boundaries

Fair representation

- population equity (plus/minus 10% of average representation) – applies to wards and subdivisions of community boards.

**Process**

The process to follow when undertaking a representation arrangements review is:

1. identify the district's communities of interest;
2. determine the effectiveness of members by looking at the overall number of members, the number of members elected from general and Māori wards and whether they represent the district as a whole or from wards or by a mixture, in order that members are effective (are able to listen to and represent constituents effectively);
3. investigate whether there should be community boards, and if so, the number, boundaries, number of members, whether they be subdivided etc;
4. determine that members fairly represent their constituents by ensuring the average population ratio is no more than a +/- 10% variance.

**Communities of Interest**

The district's land use is predominantly rural with supporting service towns. The largest residential concentrations are Kaitāia, Kaikohe and Kerikeri.

The district is currently divided into four wards and Council considers that the current ward boundaries still largely reflect the district's communities of interest Ngā Tai o Tokerau, Bay of Islands-Whangaroa, Kaikohe-Hokianga and Te Hiku.

The district is also currently divided into three subdivided community boards (Bay of Islands-Whangaroa, Kaikohe-Hokianga and Te Hiku), which Council still considers appropriate.

Community board subdivision boundaries are able to be altered in a representation review under section 19J(2)(c) LEA. As part of the 2021 representation review the Awanui area was brought into the Whatuwhiwhi subdivision where Awanui was previously a part of the North Cape subdivision. This initial proposal is suggesting a name change to reflect that change. **(Attachment 3)**

The informal feedback received showed a majority of submissions in favour of the name change Karikari-Awanui Subdivision.

### **Effective Representation**

- The Far North's estimated resident population at 30 June 2023 was 74,700, 26,300 of this being the Māori electoral population (MEP) and 48,400 being the general electoral population (GEP).

- The number of Māori and general councillors is determined by a formula set in legislation that depends on the total number of councillors, the MEP and the GEP of the district. Under that formula, and assuming 10 councillors remain, there would be 6 general ward councillors and 4 Māori ward councillors.

- When applying the fair representation criteria ('plus or minus 10% rule') to the proposed three general wards, each general councillor must represent between 7,269 and 8,884 population. As there is one district-wide Māori ward, the fair representation criteria would not apply to the Māori ward.

- Council also considers that 19 community board members also provides effective representation (access and availability) to local communities.

### **Fair Representation**

The requirement that the average number of resident population to councillors (for wards) and for community board members (for subdivisions) cannot exceed +/- 10% must be taken into account when undertaking a representation arrangements review.

The latest population estimates (as at 30 June 2023) confirm that the following six variations must be considered as follows:

Wards	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Te Hiku General Ward	13,900	2	6,950	-1,127	<b>-13.95</b>
Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward	26,500	3	8,833	757	9.37
Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward	8,060	1	8,060	-17	-0.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,460</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8,077*</b>		

\*plus/minus 10% range 7,269 – 8,884  
Population Estimates 6/23

<b>Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward</b>	<b>26,300</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6,575</b>		
-------------------------------------	---------------	----------	--------------	--	--

Te Hiku Community Board Subdivision	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
North Cape Subdivision	3,370	1	3,370	-507	<b>-13.07</b>
Karikari-Awanui Subdivision	3,880	1	3,880	3	0.09
Doubtless Bay Subdivision	4,310	1	4,310	433	<b>11.18</b>
Kaitāia Subdivision	11,700	3	3,900	23	0.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,260</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3,877*</b>		

\*plus/minus 10% range 3,489 – 4,264  
Population Estimates 6/23

Plus one appointed member from either Te Hiku General Ward or Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward.

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board Subdivision	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Whangaroa Subdivision	4,350	1	4,350	-617	-12.42
Waipapa Subdivision	5,070	1	5,070	103	2.07
Kerikeri Subdivision	10,800	2	5,400	433	8.71
Paihia Subdivision	5,320	1	5,320	353	7.10
Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision	5,080	1	5,080	113	2.27
Russell-Ōpua Subdivision	4,150	1	4,150	-817	-16.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,770</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4,967*</b>		

- plus/minus 10% range 4,470 – 5,464
- Population Estimates 6/23

Plus one appointed member from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward or Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward.

Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Subdivision	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
North Hokianga Subdivision	2,700	1	2,700	-90	-3.23
South Hokianga Subdivision	4,870	2	2,435	-355	-12.72
Kaikohe Subdivision	9,170	3	3,057	267	9.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,740</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,790*</b>		

- plus/minus 10% range 2,511 – 3,069
- Population Estimates 6/23

Plus one appointed member from the Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward or Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward.



**Take Tūtohunga / Reason for the recommendation**

Taking into account feedback from our communities, community boards, Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee and Council, it is recommended to progress to formal consultation with this initial proposal. The initial proposal addresses the matter of communities of interest and effective representation whilst having a justified rationale for slight deviations from the +/- 10% rule.

The informal feedback period between February and March 2024 included kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) events and engagement throughout the district i.e.: Waitangi Day celebrations, the Whaikaha Health & Disability Expo in Kaikohe, Maranga Mai e te Iwi - Te Tai Tokerau Senior Kapa Haka Regionals in Whangārei, where surveys were offered.

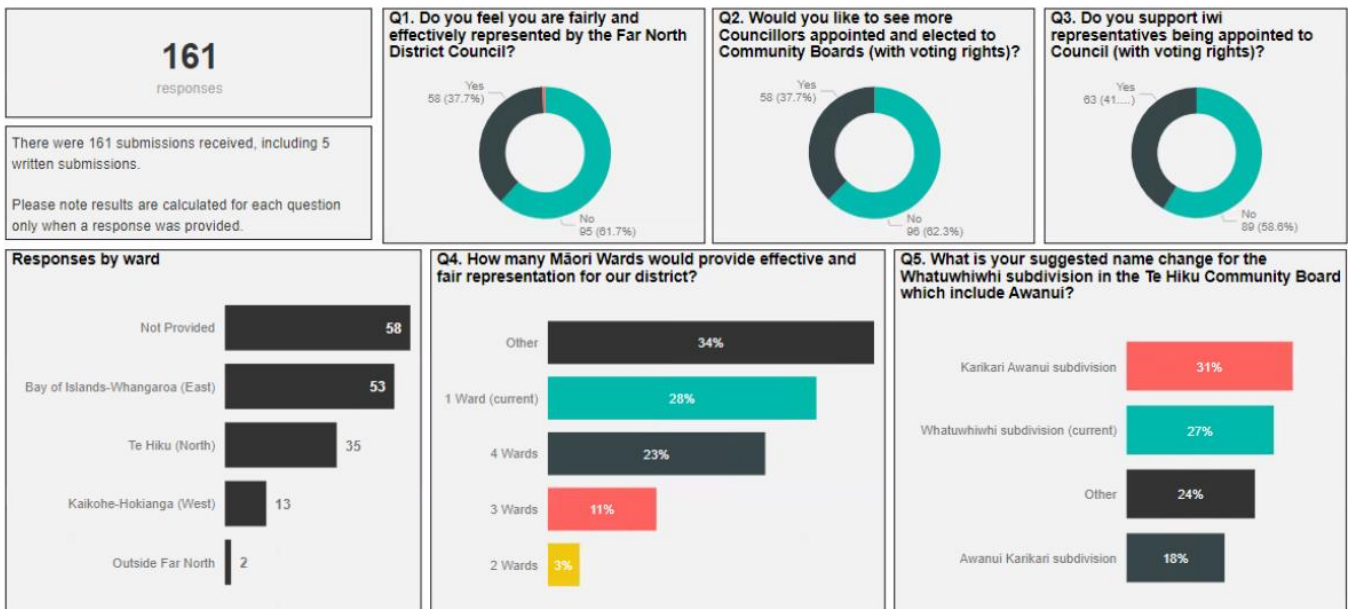
An online survey was made available through pamphlets and posters that had a QR code asking for public input on 5 questions specific to the representation review.

- 1) Do you feel you are fairly and effectively represented by the Far North District Council? If no, why?
- 2) Would you like to see more Councillors appointed and elected to Community Boards (with voting rights)? If no, why?
- 3) Do you support iwi representatives being appointed to Council (with voting rights)?
- 4) Currently, Māori Ward councillors are elected at large (to represent the whole district). There is an option to have more than one Māori Ward (up to four). How many Māori Wards would provide effective and fair representation for our district?
- 5) We are considering a name change for the Whatuwhiwhi subdivision in the Te Hiku Community Board, which includes Awanui. We suggest renaming it to the Karikari Awanui subdivision. Does that name change suit? If not, what is your suggested name change?

161 Submissions were received and the overall results of the survey are below.

**Arotake Whakaahuatanga Tangata - Representation Review 2024**




The Representation Review 2024 is your chance to think about how Far North District Council can represent your community in a fair and effective way.



**3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION**

There are no budgetary considerations as a result of this report.

**ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Representation Review 2024 - Arotake Whakaahuatanga Tangata 2024 initial proposal - General Wards - A4681388** [↓](#) 
2. **Representation Review 2024 - Arotake Whakaahuatanga Tangata 2024 initial proposal - Maori Ward - A4681393** [↓](#) 
3. **Representation Review 2024 - Arotake Whakaahuatanga Tangata 2024 initial proposal - Karikari-Awanui Map - A4682226** [↓](#) 

**Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:**

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
  - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
  - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
  - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

<b>He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement</b>	<b>Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment</b>
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the <a href="#">Council's Significance and Engagement Policy</a>	This report has a low degree of significance. Whilst consultation is legislatively required, it does not meet any of the additional thresholds that would make it significant. [It should be noted that the level of community interest is not yet understood – the informal engagement on representation arrangements led to 171 responses].
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	Local Electoral Act, Local Government Act.
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	It has district wide relevance. Community boards have been consulted twice in developing the initial proposal with Council, and community board chairs have been invited to every workshop with Council since 24 June 2020 (along with deputy chairs leading into the last two rounds of workshops in 2021).
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water.  State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	The establishment of Ngā Tai o Tokerau has had a significant impact on Māori and is in line with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi - Protection, Partnership and Participation.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	There are no persons (other than those identified already) who are likely to be particularly affected by the representation review.

<p>State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.</p>	<p>The remuneration for elected members is set by the Remuneration Authority so there are no new budgetary implications as a result of the representation review. Budget has been set side in this financial year to run communications and engagement initiatives to ensure that our communities are informed of the changes – being the representation review, the electoral system and the establishment of Māori wards.</p>
<p>Chief Financial Officer review.</p>	<p>The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report.</p>



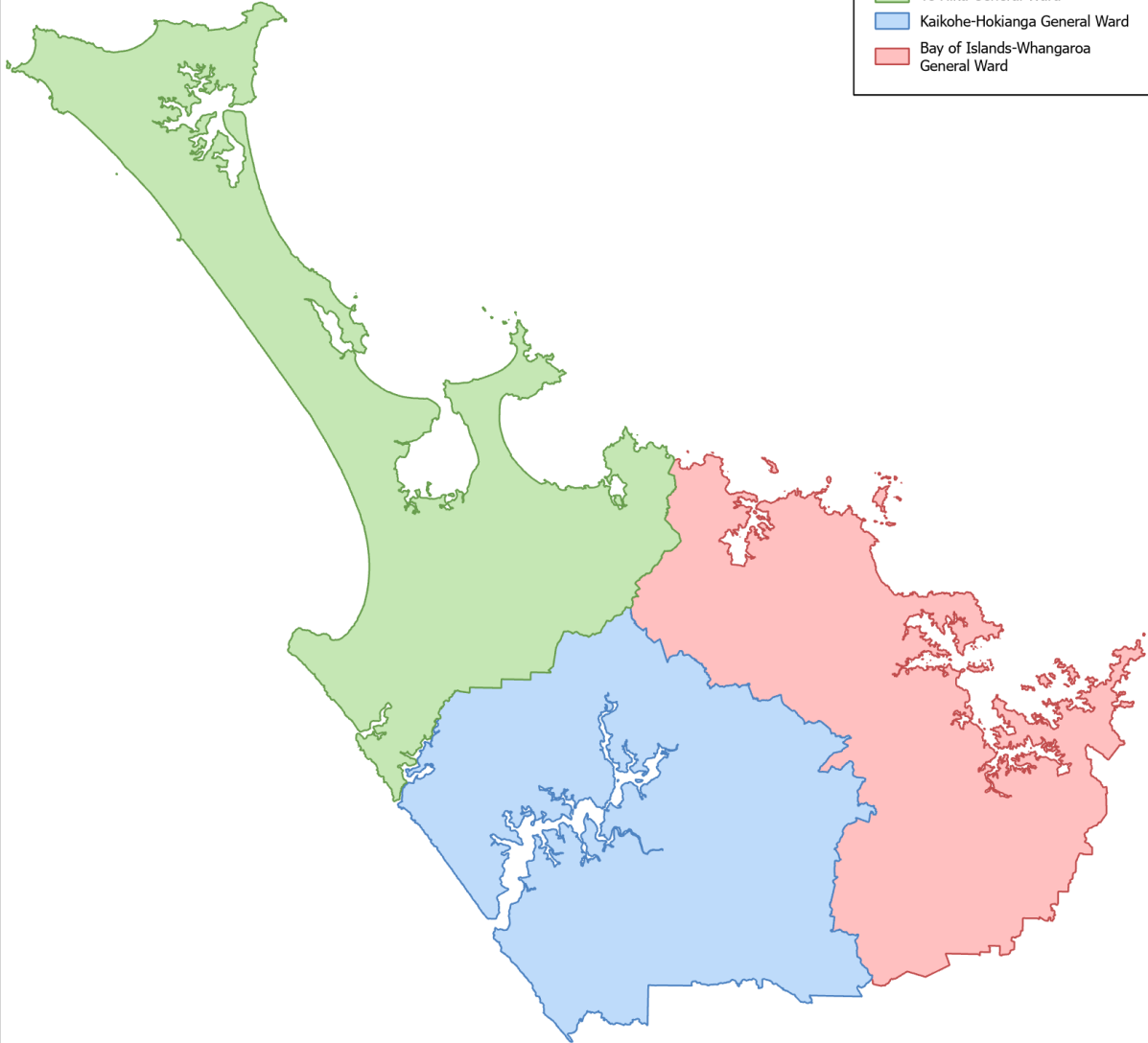
REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024

General Wards

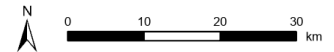


Legend

- Te Hiku General Ward
- Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward
- Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward



**DISCLAIMER:**  
While the Far North District Council strives to keep the data in this service current, it may not be the most recent or most accurate data available. No reliance on the information contained on this map by any person is permitted. FNDC will not be liable for any omissions or errors of information contained on this map. FNDC recommends that persons seek specific advice on individual properties from FNDC and other specialist organisations which may hold more up to date or accurate information.



Created: 28/04/2024



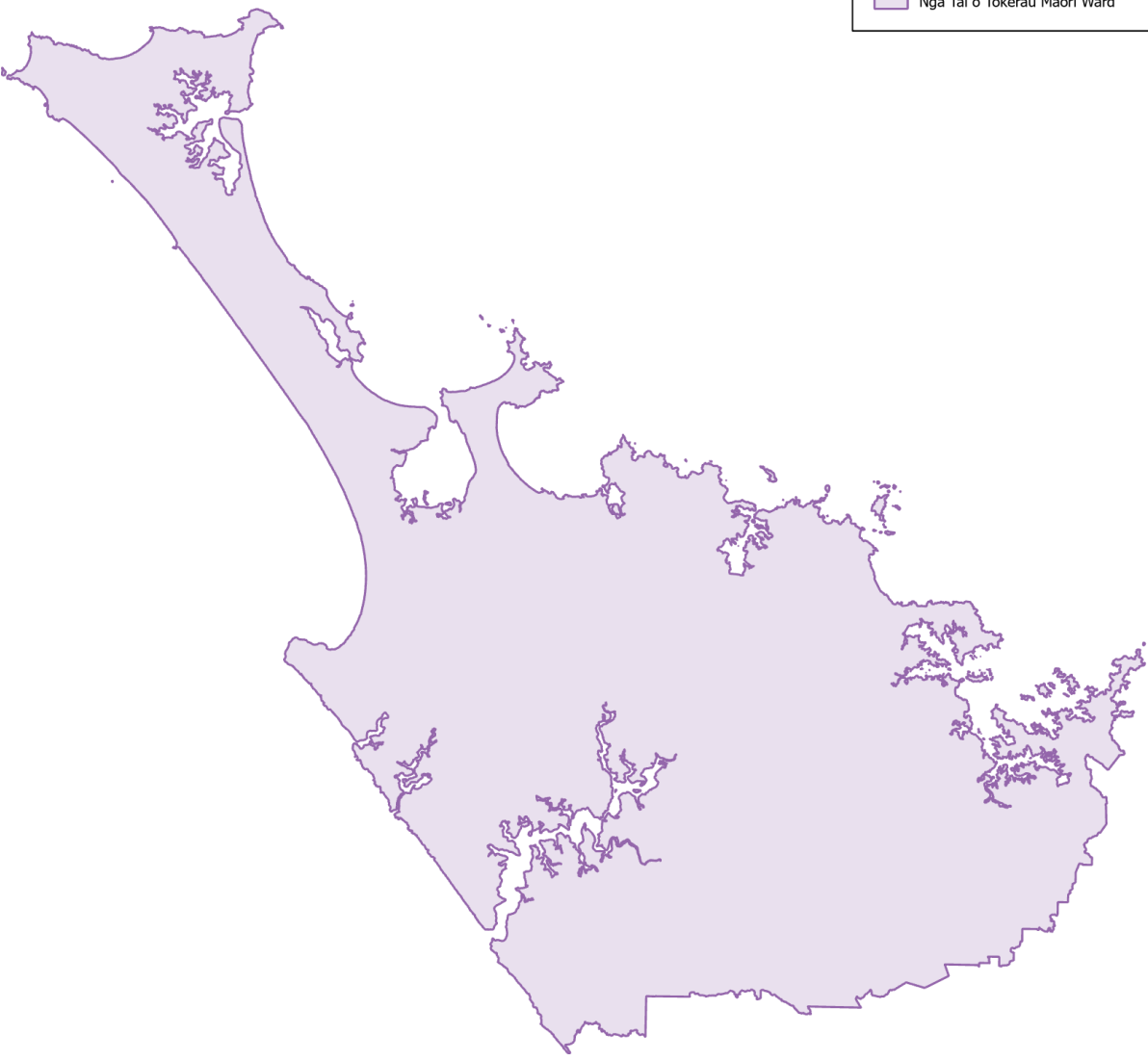
REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024

Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward

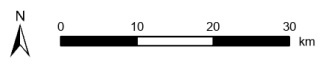


Legend

 Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward



**DISCLAIMER:**  
While the Far North District Council strives to keep the data in this service current, it may not be the most recent or most accurate data available. No reliance on the information contained on this map by any person is permitted. FNDC will not be liable for any omissions or errors of information contained on this map. FNDC recommends that persons seek specific advice on individual properties from FNDC and other specialist organisations which may hold more up to date or accurate information.



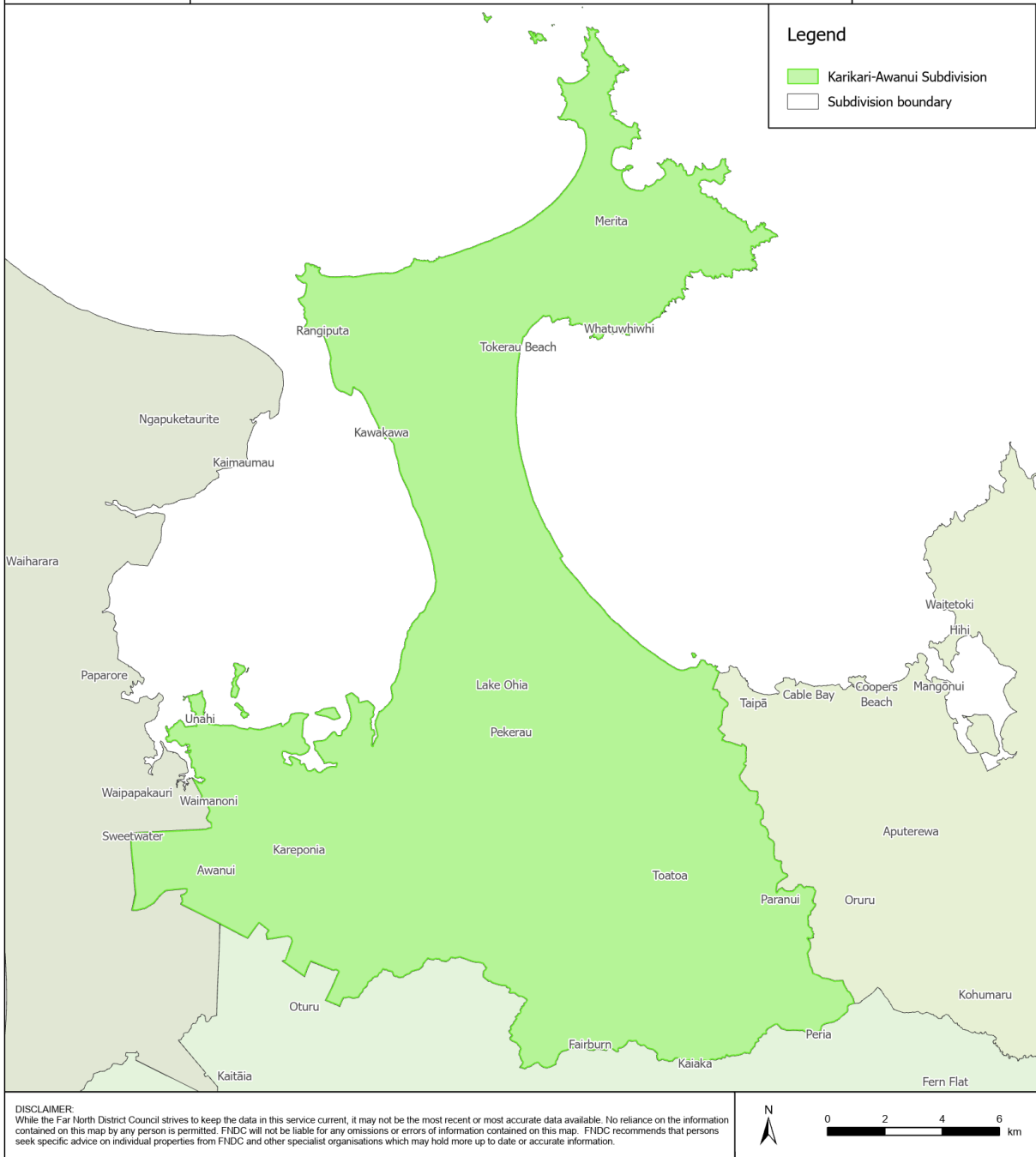
Created: 28/04/2024



REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024



Karikari-Awanui Subdivision



**DISCLAIMER:**  
While the Far North District Council strives to keep the data in this service current, it may not be the most recent or most accurate data available. No reliance on the information contained on this map by any person is permitted. FNDC will not be liable for any omissions or errors of information contained on this map. FNDC recommends that persons seek specific advice on individual properties from FNDC and other specialist organisations which may hold more up to date or accurate information.

Created: 29/04/2024