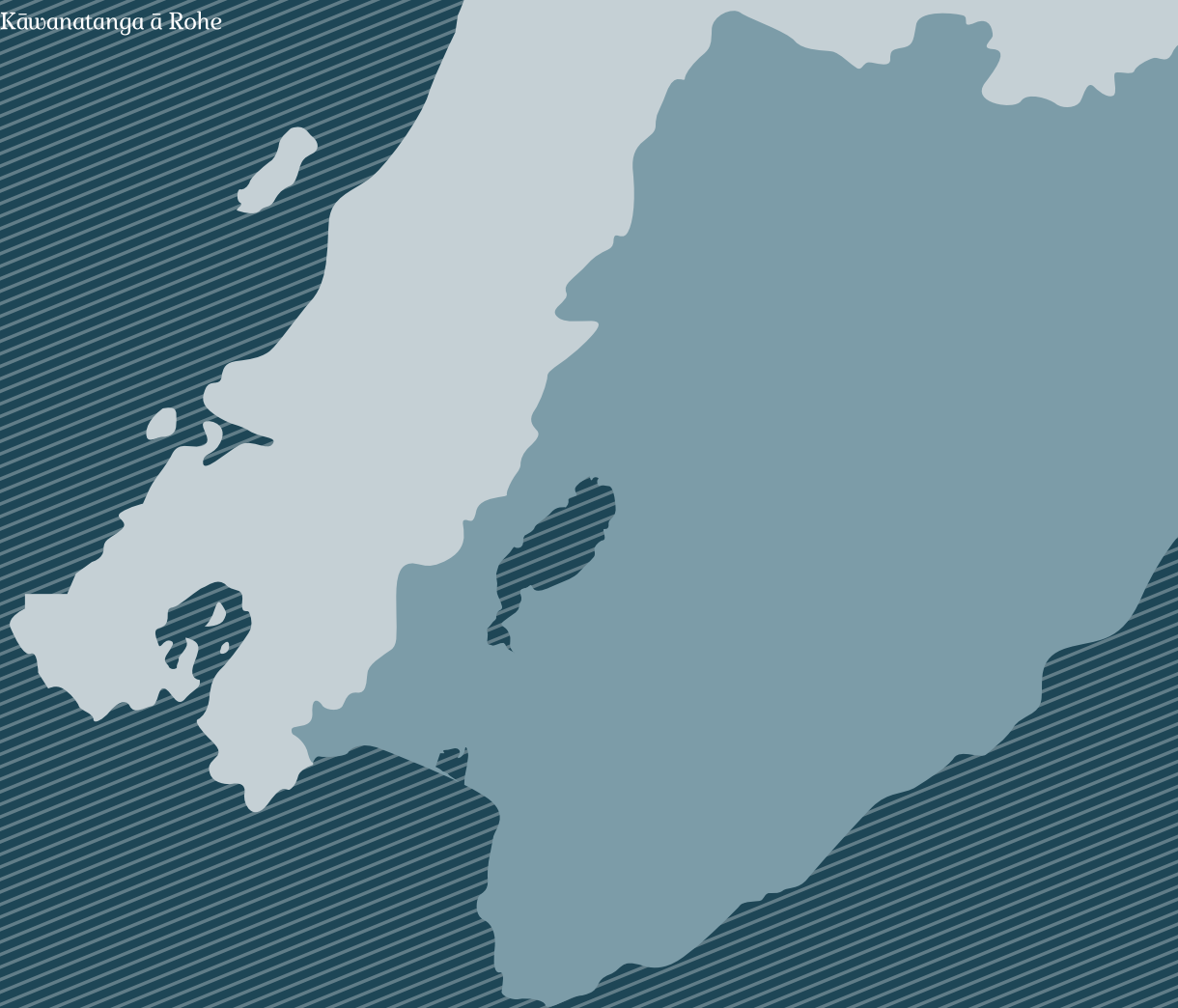




Local Government  
Commission

Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe



# Final proposal for a **Wairarapa District Council**

combining South Wairarapa District Council,  
Carterton District Council and Masterton District Council

July 2017

[www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz)



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# Mihi

E ngā hapū, ngā iwi, ngā uri whakaheke o te pūtiki wharanui o Kahungunu me Rangitāne; tēnā āno te mihi atu kī a koutou, i runga i te kaupapa kei mua i a Te Kōmihana, i a tātou kātoa: kia whai painga kī te rohe nei.

E mihi hūri noa kī a koutou o Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua; Rangitāne o Wairarapa; Rangitāne Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua; Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā.

Kua whakarongo mātou Te Kōmihana ki ngā whakaaro puta mai i tēnā marae, i tēnā hapū, i ngā tāngata atawhai i Wairarapa me taitonga Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua.

Tū tonu mai te kaupapa: ānei o mātou kitenga; o mātou meā whakamārama.

Nāku, nā

---

**Tā Wira Gardiner**  
**Tumuaki, Mana Kāwanatanga-a-Rohe**

We greet you again, the peoples, the descendants of the flax knot of Kahungunu and Rangitāne, in the context of the present matters before the Commission as we together seek benefits for this district.

Greetings also to all those involved in the Treaty settlement process now before Parliament which touches on our activities.

The Local Government Commission has listened with care to the submissions made by everyone, from large organisations to individuals. Our purpose of seeking benefit for the peoples of Wairarapa and southern Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua remains.

These are our findings and our explanations of our thinking.

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**Sir Wira Gardiner**  
**Chair, Local Government Commission**

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# Foreword

## Tēnā koutou

We are pleased to release the Local Government Commission's final proposal for a new Wairarapa District Council.

The Commission has listened to local government leaders, councillors, iwi, business leaders, the rural sector, community leaders and residents from all walks of life throughout the Wairarapa. It has also considered independent expert evidence. We are confident that combining the three existing small councils into one medium-sized local authority will have many advantages for the Wairarapa in capturing opportunities now and meeting the challenges of the future.

Thank you to all the members of the Wairarapa community who have helped us get to this point. We feel privileged to have heard strong and considered views from across the spectrum. It is obvious to us that many of you care passionately about local governance.

Over the last two years, whether you made a submission to the Commission, spoke at a hearing, attended one of our many drop-in centres, information stands or public meetings, took part in one of our telephone surveys, or simply read our materials, we thank you. Your input has been very useful for the Commission's deliberations.

Our view that one combined district council offers considerable benefits to the Wairarapa community is shared by many in the area. Independent research shows that a majority of people in the Wairarapa support combining the three district councils.

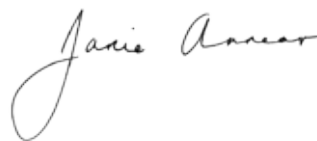
Now that the Commission has released it, the final proposal is in your hands. We encourage the community to exercise its right to ask for a Wairarapa-wide poll. This is your chance to shape the future of your district and your community.

Nā mātou, nā



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**Sir Wira Gardiner**  
**Chair**  
**Local Government**  
**Commission**



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**Janie Annear**  
**Commissioner**  
**Local Government**  
**Commission**



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**Brendan Duffy**  
**Commissioner**  
**Local Government**  
**Commission**

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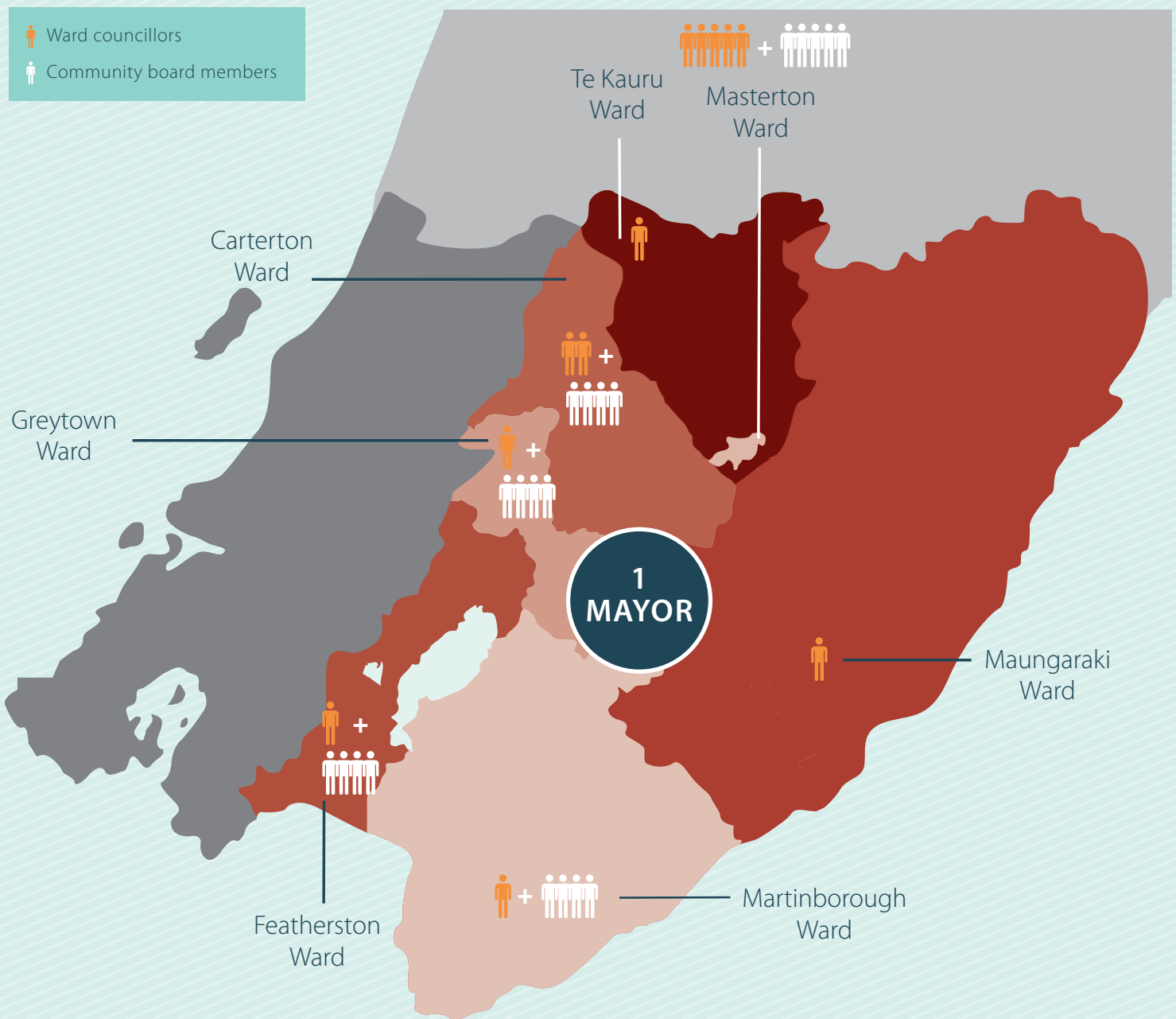


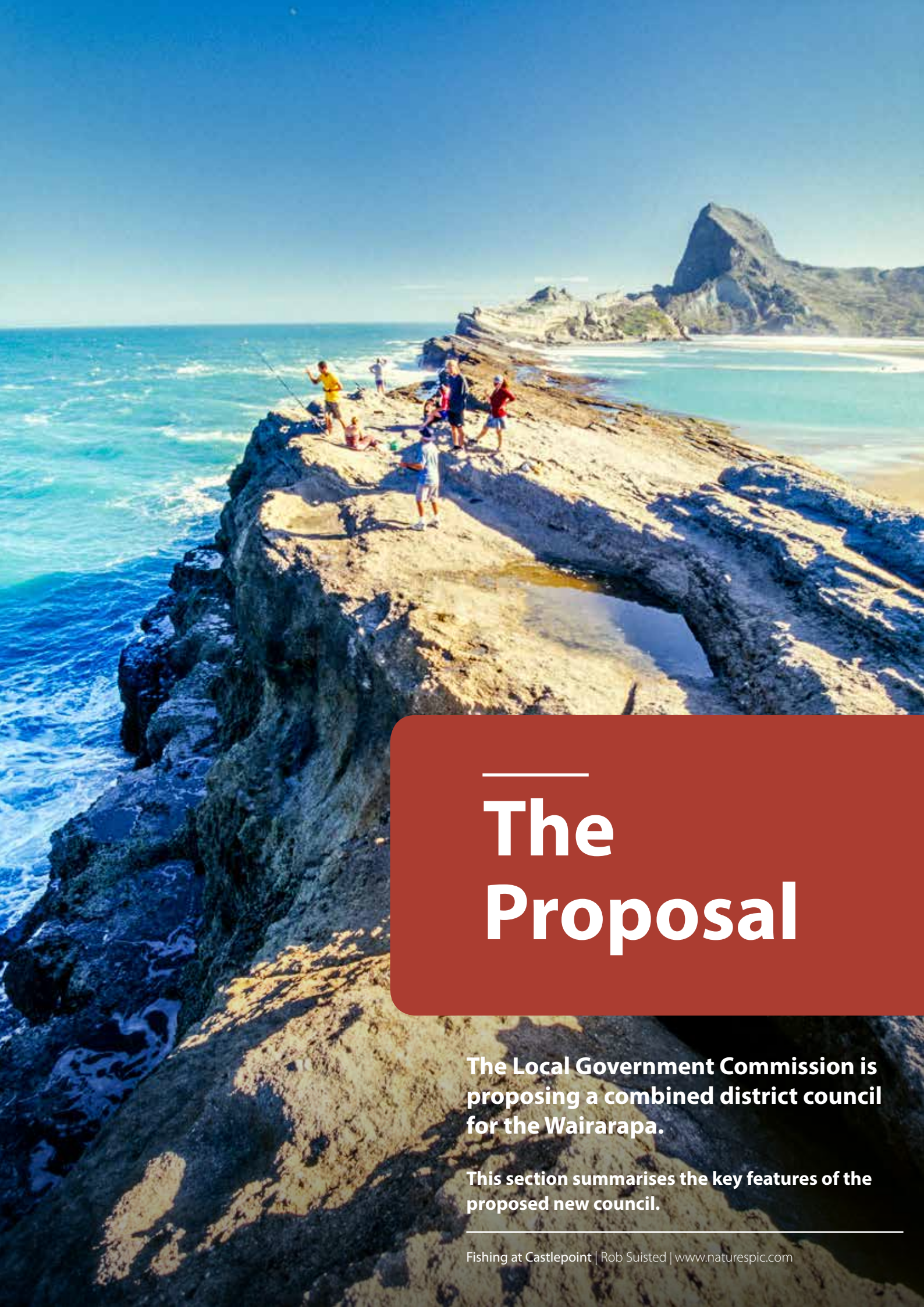
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# Wairarapa District Council at a glance

## Structure and representation

Map 1. Proposed structure and representation





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# The Proposal

**The Local Government Commission is proposing a combined district council for the Wairarapa.**

**This section summarises the key features of the proposed new council.**

# Key features

## One council

The combined district council would be called the Wairarapa District Council. It would replace the South Wairarapa District Council, Carterton District Council and Masterton District Council.

## Regional council would remain

The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) would continue to be the regional council for the Wairarapa. There would be no changes to GWRC's functions, boundaries, or representation. It would, however, be required to have a Wairarapa Committee (see below).

## First election

The first election of the Wairarapa District Council, including its community boards, would be in October 2018 at the earliest. The first-past-the-post electoral system would be used.

## Wards

The Wairarapa District would be divided into seven wards – Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough, Carterton, Masterton, Maungaraki, and Te Kauru.

## Mayor and councillors

The Wairarapa District Council would have a mayor and 12 councillors. The mayor would be elected at large. The councillors would be elected by wards as follows:

### Ward councillors

**Featherston Ward**



**Greytown Ward**



**Martinborough Ward**



**Carterton Ward**



**Masterton Ward**



**Maungaraki Ward**



**Te Kauru Ward**



## Community boards

There would be five community boards, one for each of Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough, Carterton and Masterton wards. The community boards would provide a leadership role in empowering their local communities to determine local issues and advocating for their communities to council.

## Council offices

Area offices would be retained in Martinborough, Carterton and Masterton for at least five years.

The address for service (principal public office) would be Masterton. The Wairarapa District Council could choose to change the address for service.

**The community boards would provide a leadership role in empowering their local communities to determine local issues and advocating for their communities to council.**

## Māori representation

The Wairarapa District Council would have a Māori standing committee.

The committee would provide advice on matters of interest to Māori, advice on resource consents, and monitor a memorandum of partnership between the council and iwi.

The Māori standing committee would be retained until at least the 2022 local government elections. Membership would comprise the mayor, other councillors appointed by the council, and representatives nominated by Rangitāne ō Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.

The Wairarapa District Council would also be required to consider additional measures for involving iwi, hapū, marae and Māori in council decision-making.



## Rural representation

The Wairarapa District Council would have a rural standing committee.

The committee would provide advice on and consider issues affecting the rural sector and rural areas, including making recommendations on coastal reserves management.

The rural standing committee would be retained until at least the 2022 local government elections. Membership would comprise the mayor, councillors from the Te Kauru, Maungaraki, and Martinborough wards, and representatives of rural/land based industries and rural communities.

## Wairarapa Committee of GWRC

The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) would have a Wairarapa Committee.

The committee would help ensure Wairarapa community views were taken into account in regional council decision-making. The committee could consider any issues relevant to the Wairarapa, including flood protection, land management, biosecurity, biodiversity, public transport, and natural resource management.

The Wairarapa Committee would be retained until at least the 2022 local government elections. Membership would comprise four members from GWRC (including the Wairarapa constituency councillor), four members nominated by the Wairarapa District Council, and one member each appointed on the nomination of Rangitāne ō Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.

## Future changes to representation

The normal local authority representation review process would allow the Wairarapa District Council to make changes to representation arrangements at least every six years. However, the Wairarapa District Council could make changes after three years in light of, for example, significant changes in population.

**For more details please see the legal description of the proposal on page 28.**

# Listening to the Wairarapa community

## Reflecting Wairarapa communities' views

The Commission has listened to a wide range of community views over the last two years. We have given consideration to all the ideas and information presented to us. As a result the final proposal includes the following changes from the draft proposal:

- a requirement on the new council to consider a more comprehensive approach to its relationship with iwi, hapū and Māori
- clarifying recommended delegations in the draft community board terms of reference
- minor changes to the terms of reference for the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Wairarapa Committee
- reduced powers/scope of work for the transition body
- explicit expectation for the transition body to consult with interested parties and the community on terms of reference for community boards, the Māori standing committee, and the rural standing committee
- iwi representation on the transition body
- union/worker advisor on the implementation team.

## Changes we cannot make

Some people asked for changes to the proposal that are beyond the powers of the Commission. We cannot make changes such as:

- changing the number of GWRC councillors who represent the Wairarapa
- compelling councils to share more services as an alternative to the proposal
- establishing Māori wards for the new council
- setting the budget for community boards
- setting up council committees that last beyond one term
- permanently ring-fencing debt and assets, or permanently capping rates
- requiring permanent area offices at specific locations
- councils appointing the implementation team (although the Commission will consult on this as standard practice).

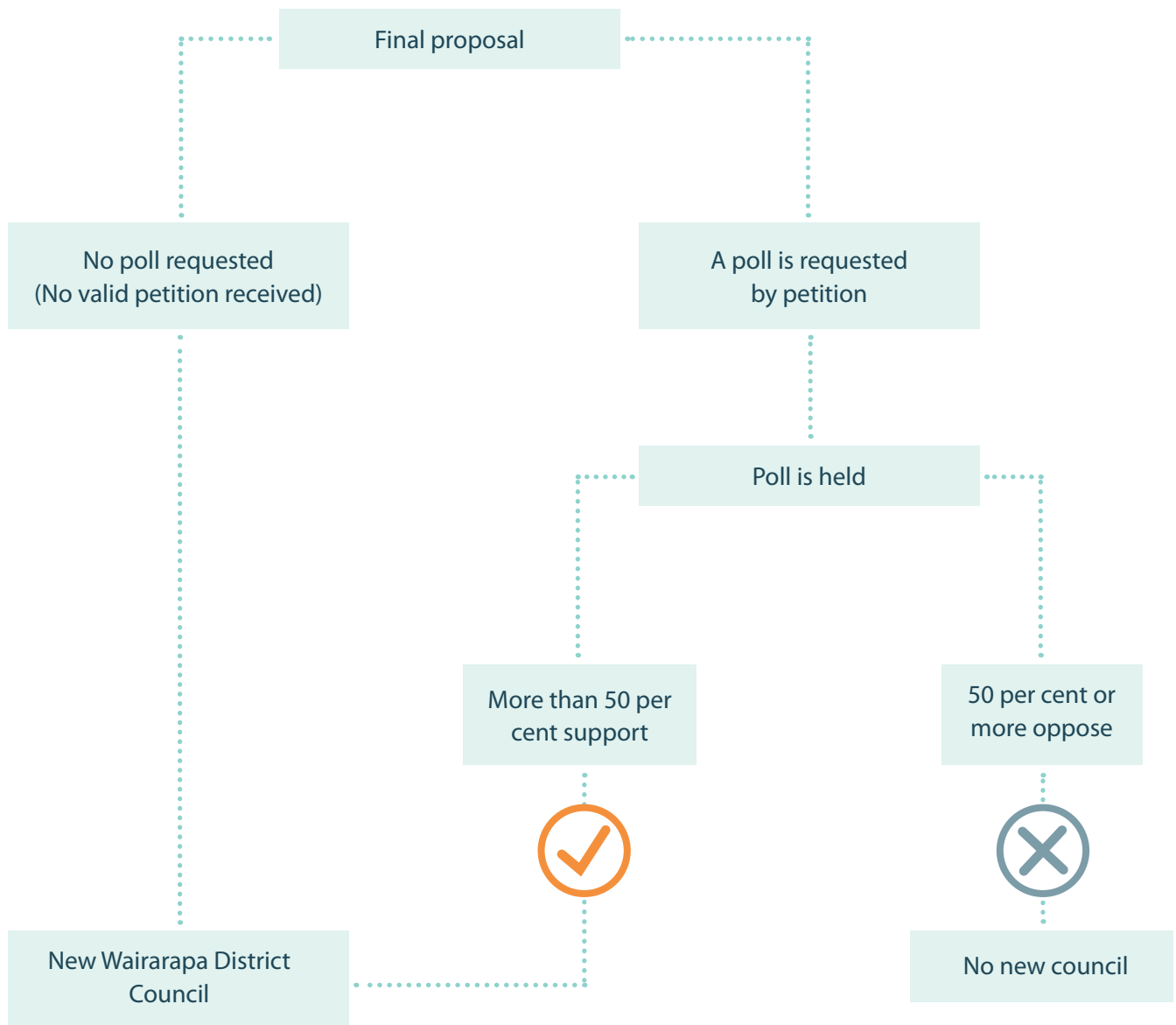
For further information on the results of the Commission's public engagement process see the Wairarapa resources page at [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz)

Here you can find a short overview of the engagement, as well as two more detailed documents:

- **Summary of submissions**
- **UMR Research report - Public perception of the draft proposal**

# What happens next?

It is now up to the people of the Wairarapa to decide whether or not this proposal goes ahead.



See Appendices 3 and 4 on pages 39 and 40 for timeline for next steps and requirements for petition.

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# Why change

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## A prosperous, secure future for the Wairarapa

This final proposal for a single Wairarapa District Council is a proposal, first and foremost, **for the Wairarapa**. The Wairarapa is one economy, one job market, one sporting and arts community, and a nationally recognised identity, notwithstanding the fact it is made up of many smaller communities, each with passionately felt identities.

The Wairarapa as a whole is not well represented by its current council arrangements. Having local government at a Wairarapa scale will create opportunities for the area that are missed or held back by its current three-council arrangements.

This final proposal is also a proposal for the future. In five, 15, 30 or even 50 years, would the Wairarapa community be better placed with three small district councils, or one medium-sized council, to meet the many challenges the area will inevitably face?

### Such challenges include

- supplying essential services including, for example, safe fresh drinking water
- higher regulatory requirements and/or public expectations about the quality of infrastructure and the environment
- the replacement of ageing infrastructure
- the movement of populations and associated infrastructure requirements
- mitigating the effects of climate change
- keeping abreast of technological innovation
- preparing for, or recovering from, natural disaster
- competing nationally and internationally for skilled labour
- developing and maintaining competitive advantage – whether in tourism, the wine industry, agriculture or general business and industry.

The Commission's considered view is that a single combined council with all the advantage this implies – scale, capacity, resilience, economic integration, expertise and combining local representation with a mandate to work in the best interests of the whole of the Wairarapa – would be much better placed to meet such challenges.

### Advantages outweigh the disadvantages

The Commission has set out the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal on page 22. In its view, the advantages significantly outweigh the disadvantages. This is particularly so in:

- governance and decision-making
- the provision of infrastructure, services and regulation
- productivity gains across the Wairarapa economy
- simplified planning.

**This final proposal for a single Wairarapa District Council is a proposal, first and foremost, for the Wairarapa.**

## Local democracy

The Commission considers that it has proposed local government arrangements that would strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of local government for all of the Wairarapa, while ensuring:

- local government supports the Wairarapa's various communities to flourish in their unique way with community boards for Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough, Carterton and Masterston wards
- iwi have a strong voice in local government through, at a minimum, a Māori standing committee and a memorandum of partnership
- rural people and interests have a formal channel to advance their concerns to the new council through a rural standing committee
- there is greater Wairarapa influence on Greater Wellington Regional Council, with four Wairarapa District Council nominees as members of a formal Wairarapa Committee of the regional council.

## Real benefits

In considering the benefits for the Wairarapa community, the Commission is required to look at multiple factors. The proposed changes have real, but hard-to-measure, economic and social benefits. These include:

- **Less red tape**  
The value to the community of a local government structure that, through uniform regulations and simplified council decision-making processes, makes it easier and more cost effective to do business across the Wairarapa.
- **Resilience**  
The value of a Wairarapa-wide organisation that has the staffing and financial scale to prepare and respond effectively and in a co-ordinated way to either physical or social upheaval or disruption, such as a flood or earthquake.

- **Arts, sport, culture and community spirit**

The value of having a Wairarapa-wide approach to fostering, funding, supporting and promoting the events, clubs, organisations, venues and activities that define and nurture a spirit and culture of place – and removing duplication and simplifying the work of sporting and cultural organisations.

- **Economic advantage**

The economic advantages of a coherent Wairarapa-wide economic strategy, and greater ability to influence the regional council and government agencies such as the New Zealand Transport Agency for the benefit of the Wairarapa economy.

- **Better customer service**

The benefits of a local authority that has the scale to avoid delays in customer service or hiring costly consultants when essential staff are on leave or when the workload is unusually heavy.

## Council cost savings

The Commission considers that the effect on council finances is a more minor, but still positive, consideration. Based on expert and council advice, the proposal projects net savings of approximately \$10 million over the first 10 years compared with the existing councils' operating budgets.

For detailed analysis behind the council cost figures please go to the Wairarapa resources page at [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz)

### Compelling case for change

**The advantages of a combined Wairarapa District Council are many and varied. As the Wairarapa looks ahead in decades rather than years, it is the less easily quantified benefits that make the case for change, as presented by this final proposal, compelling.**

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# What it means for you

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We are proposing a Wairarapa District Council, combining the existing South Wairarapa, Carterton, and Masterton district councils.

This section sets out what changes residents and ratepayers in the Wairarapa would be likely to see as a result of amalgamating the three existing district councils.

## Elected members

### First election

The first election of the Wairarapa District Council and community boards would take place in October 2018 at the earliest. The first-past-the-post electoral system would be used.

### Mayor

You would vote for a mayor for Wairarapa District. A mayor would be elected "at large". This means that all residents and non-resident ratepayers in the new Wairarapa District would vote for the mayor.

### Councillors

You would also elect councillors for your area (ward). See page 33 for a map of the proposed wards, and the number of councillors that would be elected for each ward. There would be 12 councillors in total.

### Community board

If you live in Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough, Carterton or Masterton wards, you also would elect community board members. See page 4 for a map of the wards and the number of community board members that would be elected for each urban ward.

See pages 17 to 18 for an explanation of what community boards would do.

### For example...

If you live (or pay rates) in the Featherston Ward you would get the opportunity to vote for:

- one mayor for the whole of the Wairarapa
- one councillor for the Featherston Ward
- four community board members for the Featherston Community Board.

If you live (or pay rates) in the Maungaraki Ward you would get the opportunity to vote for:

- one mayor for the whole of the Wairarapa
- one councillor for the Maungaraki Ward.

## Māori representation

The proposal includes several ways for Rangitāne ō Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Wairarapa hapū to be involved in council decision-making, including a memorandum of partnership for how the council would work with the two iwi.

The Māori standing committee would provide advice and recommendations to the new council. It would also monitor the effectiveness of the memorandum of partnership between the council and the two iwi. Contributing to the naming of reserves and roads would be one task for the committee.

The Commission expects community boards to maintain and improve opportunities for local hapū and marae to contribute to community board decision-making processes.

The proposal requires the new council to consider other additional measures for facilitating Māori involvement in local government decision-making.

## Membership

The Māori standing committee would comprise:

- representatives nominated by Rangitāne ō Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
- the mayor
- other appointed councillors.

## Term

The Māori standing committee would be in place until at least the 2022 local authority elections (the first term of the new council). This is the maximum time the Commission has the power to specify.

## Rural representation

### Rural standing committee

If you live in a rural area or work in a rural industry, you have a special committee of the council to represent your interests.

The rural standing committee would provide advice and recommendations on rural and coastal issues to the Wairarapa District Council. The rural standing committee may also wish to work with the Wairarapa Committee of the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

## Membership

The rural standing committee would comprise:

- councillors from Maungaraki, Te Kauru and Martinborough wards
- the mayor
- Council-appointed representatives from rural communities and rural/land-based industries

## Term

The rural standing committee would be in place until at least the 2022 local authority elections (the first term of the new council). This is the maximum time the Commission has the power to specify.

## Wairarapa's influence on the regional council

### GWRC remains the regional council

The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) would remain as the regional council for the Wairarapa. GWRC would continue to be responsible for flood protection, land management (including erosion control), pest management, biosecurity, biodiversity, public transport, and natural resource management in the Wairarapa.

Your access to current GWRC-provided services would not change as a result of amalgamation.

There would continue to be one councillor for the Wairarapa on GWRC (also called the Wairarapa constituency councillor). Seats on the regional council are determined on a population basis and the number of Wairarapa GWRC councillors cannot be increased by the Commission.

**The purpose of the Wairarapa Committee would be to help ensure Wairarapa community views are taken into account by the regional council.**

### GWRC Wairarapa Committee

GWRC would be required to have a Wairarapa Committee. This committee could consider any of the issues GWRC currently deals with in the Wairarapa (see above).

GWRC supports a Wairarapa Committee and has already set up a pilot committee in advance of any decision made on amalgamation. More information is available at [www.gw.govt.nz/wairarapa-committee/](http://www.gw.govt.nz/wairarapa-committee/)

## Membership of the Wairarapa Committee

The Wairarapa Committee would have 10 members:

- four from GWRC, including the Wairarapa constituency councillor
- four nominated by Wairarapa District Council, at least three must be councillors, and at least one must have knowledge of rural issues.
- one nominated by Rangitāne ō Wairarapa
- one nominated by Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.

## Term of committee

The Wairarapa Committee would have to stay in place until at least the 2022 local authority elections (the first term of the Wairarapa District Council). This is the maximum time the Commission has the power to specify.

## Your rates

### Current arrangements remain

Current rating arrangements would remain in place until the new council considers the choices for using different types of rates and charges across the whole new Wairarapa District. After consultation with the community, if any changes are made, the Wairarapa District Council would adopt a new rating policy.

### No more than five per cent change

If the council adopts a new rating system, your district council rates would not go up (or down) any more than five per cent in any one year as a result of the change in the rating system, at least until the end of June 2024. Your rates could change by more than this five per cent in any one year for other reasons, such as changes to council services, rating valuations, or other normal financial decisions. The new council may decide to continue the rating cap after June 2024 (but the Commission is not legally able to set it permanently in place).

### Initial adjustments

If a new council does decide to adopt a new rating policy then it is likely that some ratepayers could experience an initial upward adjustment in rates. Others could have an initial downward adjustment. However, these adjustments (both ways) would have to be within the five per cent rating cap.

### Wastewater targeted rates would be 'ring-fenced'

If the new council is formed, you would continue to pay wastewater rates only for the scheme you are connected to and not for other schemes, at least until 2024. In 2024, the new council would consider whether to keep the ring-fencing in place. The Commission cannot permanently ring-fence a council's debt or assets.

### Additional borrowing

If any of the three existing councils decide to commit to any additional borrowing before the new Wairarapa District Council is formed, the Commission would consider requiring additional ring-fencing for the area concerned.

**For a detailed analysis of the three councils' rating systems, and their debt, assets and liabilities see the Wairarapa resources page at [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz)**



## Council offices

### Area offices

The existing council offices in Masterton, Carterton and Martinborough would be retained as area offices for the Wairarapa District Council for at least five years after amalgamation. At an area office you would be able to access core council services similar to those that you currently have, such as:

- getting information about council activities and services
- booking council facilities
- applying for a building consent, resource consent, or liquor licence
- registering your dog
- paying your rates
- making complaints.

The new Wairarapa District Council could consider changes to the location of council offices but only after this five-year period, and in consultation with the community.

### Address for service

The address for service (principal public office) for Wairarapa District Council would be Masterton.

The address for service is not the same as a head office. A head office is the council office where most staff work and the elected members meet. The Commission is not specifying the location for a head office for Wairarapa District Council, or the location or numbers of staff at each council office, or where council meetings would be held. These would be decisions for the Wairarapa District Council. There are many approaches that a new council could take to staffing and functions located at particular council offices.

## Council services

### Community facilities

Your council parks, recreational facilities, libraries, and other cultural and community facilities would continue to be available under the proposal. Any future changes would be decided by Wairarapa District Council as part of usual council decision-making.

### Community board plan

Every three years the community board would develop a community board plan covering the future of local facilities and services in its area. You will be able to have your say by participating in this local planning exercise.

### Council services

Council services such as rubbish collection and animal control would continue to be provided. Your community board would have input into the council's decision-making on levels of services provided. For Maungaraki and Te Kauru ward residents, the rural standing committee would have input into decisions affecting you on council services.

## Infrastructure

Infrastructure in the Wairarapa, such as your water supply, stormwater, and sewerage systems, would be managed on a Wairarapa-wide basis. For example your roads would be managed as one network – consistent with how they are used (except for state highways which remain the responsibility of New Zealand Transport Agency).

Longer term a larger Wairarapa District Council would be better able to manage upgrades or new requirements such as changes in central government standards.

## Your projects

### One set of rules

If you are planning a subdivision, a building project, or a major commercial investment, there will be both immediate and longer-term benefits. The Wairarapa Combined District Plan would continue but be interpreted more consistently. The new council would also work towards creating only one set of plans, policies, rules, processes and fees across the Wairarapa.

### One council to deal with

If you are a company, community or sporting group, or other organisation that currently works with the three district councils, you would have to deal with only one council. Applying for funding and working with the council should be easier and cheaper.

### Staff expertise more widely available

The new council would be able to share the expertise of its staff across the whole of the Wairarapa, making sure you have access to the same quality of advice no matter where you live, work, or play in the area. This would also mean fewer delays if the staff member you are dealing with is unavailable as there would be more staff back-up.



# Community boards

Community boards are fundamental to the success of a Wairarapa District Council.

## Five community boards

There would be five community boards with a mix of elected community board members and ward councillors, as below. This is similar to the current arrangements for the existing three South Wairarapa District Council community boards. Having ward councillors on the community boards is intended to provide communication between the community boards and the council, and help better coordinate decision-making responsibilities.

### Community board composition

**Featherston**



**Greytown**



**Martinborough**



**Carterton**



**Masterton**



 Elected community board members |  Ward councillors

## Draft terms of reference

Each community board would be responsible and accountable to its local community for a wide range of local services and functions. See Appendix 1 on page 36 for a draft terms of reference.

These are the draft terms of reference the Commission recommends to the transition board. They should be used as a starting point when the transition board develops a final community boards terms of reference, which will become legally binding on the new council.

These draft terms of reference are an indication of the minimum responsibilities, duties and powers the Commission expects the community boards to have. They are not an exhaustive list. The transition board or the council could add in additional responsibilities, duties or powers.

Relevant stakeholders, including local iwi, marae and hapū, the three existing South Wairarapa community boards and the South Wairarapa Māori Standing Committee would be consulted on the final community board terms of reference.

The following is based on the draft terms of reference:

## Community decision-making

The purpose of the community boards is to provide leadership and empower local communities to make decisions on local issues. The Wairarapa District Council would have responsibility for making decisions on Wairarapa-wide services and strategic issues.

Community boards would be empowered by the council to make most local decisions, with a couple of exceptions:

- if it would be more equitable, effective or efficient for the council to make the decision on a district-wide basis
- where the benefits of integrating decision-making with other areas would outweigh the benefits of more local decision-making.

Infrastructure – such as drinking water, waste water treatment provision, and roading – would always be managed on a district-wide basis by the council. Regulatory functions would also be managed at a district-wide level in order to ensure consistency and accountability.

## Community planning

As well as making local decisions, community boards would be advocates and representatives for their communities and take the lead on community-level planning.

Every three years, each community board would prepare a community board plan. Community board plans would:

- set out priorities and preferences for local activities and levels of service
- implement district-wide plans and strategies
- ensure all initiatives are within the funding allocated by the council.

## Funding

The Wairarapa District Council would provide sufficient resources for the community boards to fulfil their role. This would include appointing a senior manager or managers whose responsibilities include supporting the boards.

Each year, as part of the council's annual plan process, each community board would prepare a submission to the council on proposed expenditure within its community.

## Examples of council and community board responsibilities

	Council responsibilities	Community board responsibilities
<b>Budget</b> 	Long-term plan Annual plan Setting rates Financial management	Request funding to spend in the community board area Spend allocated funding Allocate community-based grants
<b>Regulation</b> 	District Plan Resource consent applications Building consents Bylaws	No regulatory powers Can make submissions to council on local issues e.g. sale and supply of alcohol
<b>Roading</b> 	Planning Funding Asset management	Recommendations to council on road names, local road signage, traffic control, speed restrictions Determining priorities for footpath location and maintenance
<b>Parks &amp; reserves</b> 	Reserve Management Plans	Recommendations on Reserve Management Plans Use and development of local parks and reserves
<b>Facilities, urban reserves, urban amenities, town main streets</b> 	District-wide strategies and policies Use and development of facilities, reserves and amenities of district-wide significance	Use and development of local facilities, urban reserves, urban amenities and town main streets Names for local reserves, structures and commemorative places
<b>Consultation</b> 	Iwi and Māori District-wide organisations District-wide initiatives	Hapū and marae Local community organisations Local special interest groups

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# Better local government

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In this section we set out how the proposal would promote the purpose of local government and facilitate economic performance in the Wairarapa.

The purpose of local government is:

- To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities
- To meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses. Good quality means being efficient, effective and appropriate to current and anticipated future needs<sup>1</sup>.

## Democratic local decision-making

The proposal for a single Wairarapa District Council reflects that in many important ways the Wairarapa is a single community of interest. It is a distinct geographical area, with strong economic and social connections across the three current districts, five main townships and surrounding rural localities.

The Commission has determined that the Wairarapa as a whole is the most appropriate scale for local democratic decision-making and action in relation to the roles and responsibilities undertaken by district councils.

Under current arrangements there is no local government body mandated to make decisions, take action, or speak on behalf of the Wairarapa community as a whole. Each of the three existing district councils has a mandate only to act and speak on behalf of its own district. Making decisions and taking action in a coordinated manner across the whole of the Wairarapa has required a variety of complex ad hoc multi-council arrangements. It can be cumbersome and time-consuming to get the agreement of the three existing councils to enable a joint contract to be let, for example.

A single Wairarapa District Council would be able to make decisions and act on behalf of the Wairarapa as a whole and to represent and promote the area's interests with central government and the wide range of national and regional bodies that councils interact with on behalf of their communities.

The Commission also recognises that there are important communities of interest at the level of towns and localities at smaller scales than the proposed combined district, and indeed smaller than the current three districts. The proposal therefore establishes community boards for each of the five major townships and their surrounds, providing a means for decisions on more local matters to be made at a more local level.

The proposal includes a ward structure to ensure that all parts of the new district are guaranteed representation at the council table.

The proposal includes a requirement for the new council to have a Māori standing committee and consider other additional ways to facilitate Māori, iwi, hapū and marae involvement in council decision-making.

In addition, the proposal establishes a rural standing committee. This committee would facilitate rural community input into council decisions.

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<sup>1</sup> | Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002.

## Effective and efficient local government

The commission has determined that a single Wairarapa District Council would be better placed to deliver efficient and effective local government infrastructure services and regulation now and into the future. It would have economies of scale that the three separate councils do not have – but still be only a middle-sized council by New Zealand standards.

### Staffing

There would be scope for more specialist staff in key areas and training of existing staff to take up these specialist roles. Having more specialist staff would mean less reliance on consultants and better management of contracts when the council does have to employ consultants. The combined staffing pool would make it easier for the council to recruit and retain skilled staff into the future, by providing more attractive career paths.

The new council would have more staff than any one of the individual councils does now. Having a larger pool of people to call on to cover for staff away sick or on leave would improve council productivity and customer service. Response times for building consents or resource consents, for example, should not be affected by staff being away.

Being part of a larger organisation could also improve an individual's job satisfaction because staff can take leave without letting council customers down or returning to an overflowing inbox.

### Infrastructure investment and management

Providing infrastructure, such as drinking water, sewage treatment, drainage, waste facilities and roading, is one of district councils' most important services. The new council organisation would combine the financial and staffing resources of the three existing councils and so would be better able to provide its citizens with good-quality infrastructure into the future.

A combined council would have better capacity to adapt to changing legal requirements affecting infrastructure; such as freshwater quality standards impacting on wastewater infrastructure, or roading/bridge maintenance standards.

It would also be better equipped to respond effectively to unexpected events such as extreme weather events, which will be more frequent with increasing climate change. The new council would have better:

- financial resilience
- staff resilience, such as back-ups for key positions
- physical resilience, by having three area offices.

The larger scale of council operations would also create the scope, over time, for efficiencies to be gained at the operational level from standardising equipment, work practices and programmes, and the potential for more efficient bundling of works contracts. Maintenance and upgrades of roading, for example, could be planned across the whole of the Wairarapa, which would be more efficient. Local roads would be managed as a single network, consistently with how roads are used.

**The Commission has determined that a single Wairarapa District Council would be better placed to deliver efficient and effective local government infrastructure services and regulation now and into the future.**

### Public services

The combined resources of the existing three councils would be available to enable the new council to continue to support the excellent range of community services and facilities currently provided and to respond to changing community expectations over time.

There would be scope to rationalise the administration of services and facilities, with the potential to provide a more diverse range of services and facilities in the future.

Sporting and cultural organisations with a whole-of-Wairarapa focus, and other stakeholders such as external funders, would need to deal with only one council rather than three.

### **Regulatory functions**

In terms of regulatory activities, as in other areas, there are advantages in the greater scale of a single combined council organisation in terms of the council's ability to train, attract and retain the necessary specialist staff.

Over time, a single Wairarapa council would be able to provide a more consistent approach to local regulations, with more standard rules and more consistent interpretation and administration of those rules. This would have benefits for businesses and others who are expected to comply with those regulations.

## **Facilitating economic performance**

As well as the cost savings, efficiencies, and productivity improvements mentioned above, the proposal would also facilitate economic performance in the Wairarapa.

### **Coherent economic strategy for the Wairarapa**

The Wairarapa is a single economy and job market. The business community's view is that the continued lack of commitment from the existing councils to a coherent Wairarapa-wide economic strategy is a significant limitation of the status quo. A single district council is seen as the best opportunity to provide Wairarapa-wide strategies across key economic drivers.

## **The Wairarapa is a single economy and job market.**

Having a single council with a mandate to speak for the whole of the Wairarapa provides the opportunity for more effective input into Wellington regional economic development strategies.

It also would remove the incentive for the Wairarapa councils to compete with each other, lifting councillors' decision-making mandate to match the geographical scope of the Wairarapa.

### **Reduced compliance costs**

Having more standardised local government rules and regulations would simplify compliance for businesses and others active in the economy across the current districts. While there is one combined district plan, it is interpreted by three different councils, inevitably leading to inconsistencies. Consistency and certainty should reduce compliance costs for businesses.

### **Simplified planning**

Having a single council would simplify local government planning and decision-making processes. There would be only one set of plans required under the Local Government Act, and the need to resource only one process to develop and consult on each. It would reduce the time Wairarapa-wide community and business groups need to devote to making submissions to council on these plans.

# Assessing the advantages and disadvantages

In this section we present an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal for Wairarapa residents and ratepayers to consider.

## ADVANTAGES

## DISADVANTAGES

### A single district council

There would be a mandate for the mayor and councillors to make decisions for the Wairarapa as a whole, and a platform for more effective advocacy for the Wairarapa nationally and regionally.

A medium-sized council organisation would have greater economies of scale in its operations than the current small councils, especially in Carterton and South Wairarapa.

Increased council scale would provide scope for specialist staff, reducing the need for, and cost of, consultants.

A larger council would likely be more attractive as an employer with larger teams supporting more diverse experience and career development opportunities.

The new council would have greater financial resilience and be in a better position to cope with unexpected changes and big challenges.

There would be reduced Wairarapa representation on those regional committees and forums that have membership on a per-council basis (e.g. the Regional Transport Committee).

Some staff with important technical skills or local knowledge might seek employment elsewhere rather than face a period of uncertainty during the transition to the new council.

### Representation

Community boards would provide additional local representation in the wards containing the five main towns in the Wairarapa.

The rural standing committee would provide for dedicated rural representation and be an avenue to promote rural perspectives to the council.

Local government relationships with particular interest groups, such as the Wairarapa Youth Council, may be assisted by having to deal with only one council in the Wairarapa.

Provision for a Wairarapa Committee of the Greater Wellington Regional Council would provide a pathway for formalised Wairarapa input into regional council decision-making affecting the Wairarapa, and an opportunity to reset the relationship with the regional council.

There would be fewer councillors than at present, which could mean councillors are less visible and less accessible.

The ward structure based on existing council boundaries may generate tension between ward and district-wide priorities.

With fewer councillors overall, rural areas may have fewer elected representatives than under current arrangements.

The geographic size of the Maungaraki and Martinborough wards may make face-to-face contact with councillors more difficult than currently.



## ADVANTAGES

## DISADVANTAGES

### Council and community board decision-making

The single council would be simpler for Wairarapa-wide groups and businesses to engage with.

There would no longer be the need for multi-council committees, task groups and working parties to deal with cross-boundary issues in the Wairarapa, which would speed up and simplify decision-making.

Including community boards with specific delegations in the proposal would allow for decisions on very local matters to be made closest to the people impacted by those decisions.

The staff time required to support political decision-making within the Wairarapa would be reduced, as decisions would be made once by a single council rather than separately by three councils.

Having a single council would remove the parochialism that is inherent in the three-council model when dealing with Wairarapa-wide decisions.

Community boards would provide a 'training ground' for future councillors.

There is a risk that communities may feel disempowered and engage less with democratic decision-making as community board members would have fewer powers than councillors.

There is a risk that a council focus on whole-of-Wairarapa decision-making would be at the expense of a focus on more local issues.

Community boards would require council financial support to be effective.

The staff time to support community boards would be significant.

The community board structure may cause tension between the council and boards, particularly if there are differences in board effectiveness.

### Facilitating Māori participation

The Māori standing committee would provide a forum to ensure the council facilitates Māori, iwi and hapū involvement in council decision-making.

It would be easier for iwi to provide comment on relevant issues and would reduce the burden of having to form an effective relationship with three councils.

Community boards would have to facilitate hapū and marae involvement in their work.

Current provisions for Māori input into decision-making through appointed voting members of council committees (Masterton) are left to the new council to consider.

There would be fewer councillors than at present, which could mean councillors are less accessible to hapū and marae.

## ADVANTAGES

## DISADVANTAGES

### Provision of infrastructure, services and regulation

A single combined pool of asset management staff would provide an opportunity for improved asset management practices and planning.

The council would be able to manage local roading as a single network – consistent with how the network is used.

There would be the opportunity for more flexible and larger work packages/contracts, the standardisation of equipment and rationalisation of water and wastewater sampling programmes.

Infrastructure and service resilience would improve with greater resources being available to address service interruptions.

Increased scale would provide the opportunity over time to provide a more diverse portfolio of community facilities across the Wairarapa.

There would be a single set of regulatory requirements and processes (e.g. for building consents, resource consents and liquor licences).

Increased council scale means Wairarapa local government would be better able to respond to current and future changes in regulatory requirements.

There is a risk that services and facilities may become centralised on the major centres of population, with smaller communities feeling disadvantaged.

### Council finances

Modest council financial savings are expected from establishing a single council. These are estimated at about \$31 million over 10 years. After estimated transition costs of \$21 million, this would result in net savings of about \$10 million.

The transition costs are expected to slightly outweigh the cost savings from merging the councils for the first two years.

There are risks that transition costs could be higher than estimated, or that financial savings could be lower than estimated.

## ADVANTAGES

## DISADVANTAGES

### Productivity gains

A single set of planning and policy processes for the Wairarapa rather than each council running separate decision-making processes in parallel would be more effective and beneficial for the Wairarapa community.

It would be easier for tourism, sport and culture groups that have a whole-of-Wairarapa focus to work or partner with a single council than with three.

One larger council would result in more effective responses to changes in regulation affecting local authorities (for instance, financial reporting and health and safety).

Having a single building consent authority rather than three would reduce building consent authority compliance costs (for instance relating to accreditation).

There would be more consistent administration of the Wairarapa Combined District Plan.

More standard regulatory rules across the Wairarapa would simplify compliance for businesses and others operating across the Wairarapa.

The transition period could impact negatively on the productivity of the existing councils in the short term.

The new council may take time to bed in and there could be a loss of council productivity while it does.

### Simplified planning

There would be a reduction in Local Government Act plans (annual and long-term plans etc.) from three sets to one set.

There would be common plans for regulatory matters such as sale of alcohol, noise control and animal control.

It would be easier for a single council to develop strategies for the Wairarapa as a whole, as these would no longer require multi-council collaboration through joint committees, task forces etc.

It would be easier for people with interests across more than one of the current districts to participate in the council planning processes.

There would be five community board plans, rather than the current three.

### Area offices

There would continue to be area offices in Martinborough, Carterton, and Masterton for the first five years of the new council providing some initial stability.

The extent of services provided at each area office would be decided by the new council and may change over time.

# Transition to the new council

If the final proposal proceeds (see page 40 for details about a potential poll), a transition process to the new Wairarapa District Council would begin. The formal transition period would end with the election of the new council.

The Commission is required by law to appoint a transition board and an implementation team for the transition. A key role of the transition board would be to appoint an interim chief executive as soon as possible. The board, the team and the interim chief executive (when appointed) would make up the Wairarapa Transition Body.

During the transition period the existing councils and their chief executives would continue to be responsible for carrying out the day-to-day operations of the existing councils until their disestablishment.

The transition body would make few decisions about staffing – most would be made by the interim chief executive once the new council is operational. The interim chief executive would need to make some decisions before this to enable the council to function effectively from its first day.

The transition board of nine voting members would comprise an independent chair, two elected members from each of the three existing councils, and one representative from each iwi. All transition board members would be required to execute their duties in the best interests of the new Wairarapa District Council.

The interim chief executive's job would be to provide leadership for staff and management of systems and resources for the new council in transition and in its early years.

The implementation team would consist of a small team of staff from existing councils, and an iwi advisor and a union/worker advisor. The implementation team would give effect to decisions of, and provide technical and operational advice to the Commission and transition board initially, and then to the interim chief executive.

The costs of the operation of the transition body would be apportioned between the three existing councils.



The transition body would

- provide advice to the Commission as necessary during the transition
- recommend to the Commission the final community board terms of reference/delegations
- recommend for adoption by the new council terms of reference for the Māori standing committee and the rural standing committee.

The Wairarapa Transition Body would have to consult with interested parties and the community on each of these.

**For detailed analysis of the estimated transition costs please go to the Wairarapa resources page at [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz)**



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# Legal Description

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# Legal description of the proposal

## Constitution

1. There will be a Wairarapa District comprising the area of the existing South Wairarapa District, Carterton District and Masterton District, and a new local authority called Wairarapa District Council.
2. The constitution of the Wairarapa District Council will require the dissolution of the following local authorities:
  - 2.1. South Wairarapa District Council
  - 2.2. Carterton District Council
  - 2.3. Masterton District Council.
3. Wairarapa District Council will come into existence no earlier than 1 November 2018.
4. The boundaries of the Wairarapa District shall be boundaries of the existing Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa districts as shown on the map in Schedule A.

## Status

5. Wairarapa District Council will be a territorial authority.

## First election

6. The first election of Wairarapa District Council will be held no earlier than 13 October 2018.
7. The first election of Wairarapa District Council will be held using the first-past-the-post electoral system.

## Area offices and address for service

8. Wairarapa District Council must retain area offices in Martinborough, Carterton and Masterton for at least five years from the date of its establishment.
9. The address for service (principal public office) of Wairarapa District Council will be located in Masterton. The council may change the address for service (principal public office) in the future.

## Representation

10. Wairarapa District will be divided into seven wards. They are:
  - 10.1. Featherston Ward
  - 10.2. Greytown Ward
  - 10.3. Martinborough Ward
  - 10.4. Carterton Ward
  - 10.5. Masterton Ward
  - 10.6. Maungaraki Ward
  - 10.7. Te Kauru Ward.
11. A map of the proposed wards is shown in Schedule A.
12. Wairarapa District Council will comprise a mayor and 12 councillors.
13. The mayor will be elected at large and the councillors from wards, as follows:
  - 13.1. one councillor elected by Featherston Ward
  - 13.2. one councillor elected by Greytown Ward
  - 13.3. one councillor elected by Martinborough Ward
  - 13.4. two councillors elected by Carterton Ward
  - 13.5. five councillors elected by Masterton Ward
  - 13.6. one councillor elected by Maungaraki Ward
  - 13.7. one councillor elected by Te Kauru Ward.

## Community boards

14. The following community boards will be established:
  - 14.1. Featherston
  - 14.2. Greytown
  - 14.3. Martinborough
  - 14.4. Carterton
  - 14.5. Masterton.
15. The boundaries of the community boards will be the same as for the corresponding five wards.
16. Each community board will have the membership set out below:
  - 16.1. Featherston – four elected community board members plus one ward councillor
  - 16.2. Greytown – four elected community board members plus one ward councillor
  - 16.3. Martinborough – four elected community board members plus one ward councillor
  - 16.4. Carterton – four elected community board members plus two ward councillors
  - 16.5. Masterton – five elected community board members plus two ward councillors.
17. The role of each community board will be to carry out the statutory and delegated responsibilities of a community board.
18. A terms of reference for the boards will be developed further as part of the transition process, in consultation with the existing councils and community boards and the Wairarapa community.

## Māori standing committee

19. Wairarapa District Council must constitute and maintain, until at least the 2022 local government elections, a Māori standing committee.
20. The membership of the Māori standing committee shall comprise:
  - 20.1. the mayor
  - 20.2. other councillors appointed by the council
  - 20.3. representatives nominated by Rangitāne ō Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.
21. The role of the committee will be to:
  - 21.1. provide advice to the council on matters of interest to Māori
  - 21.2. provide advice on resource consents
  - 21.3. monitor a memorandum of partnership between the council and iwi.
22. The committee will be an advisory body. This does not prevent the council making delegations to the committee in the future.
23. Details of membership and terms of reference will be developed as part of the transition process, in consultation with Rangitāne ō Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, and the Wairarapa community.
24. The Wairarapa District Council must consider additional measures to facilitate participation by Wairarapa iwi, hapū, marae and Māori in council decision-making processes.

## Rural standing committee

25. Wairarapa District Council must constitute and maintain, until at least the 2022 local government elections, a rural standing committee.
26. The membership of the rural standing committee shall comprise:
  - 26.1. Te Kauru, Maungaraki, and Martinborough ward councillors
  - 26.2. the mayor
  - 26.3. representatives of rural/land based industries and of rural communities appointed by Wairarapa District Council.
27. The role of the committee will be to:
  - 27.1. advise the council in relation to council strategies, policies, plans, and bylaws
  - 27.2. provide a forum for consideration of issues affecting the rural part of the district
  - 27.3. make recommendations on coastal reserves management
  - 27.4. make recommendations on other matters affecting rural communities to council.
28. The committee will be an advisory body. This does not prevent the council making delegations to the committee in the future.
29. Details of membership and terms of reference will be developed further as part of the transition process, in consultation with interested groups and the community.

## Greater Wellington Regional Council

30. There shall continue to be a Greater Wellington Regional Council, which shall be the regional council for the Wellington region as constituted at the time of this proposal.
31. This proposal does not affect the:
  - 31.1. boundaries
  - 31.2. representation arrangements
  - 31.3. areas of interest of iwi and hapū
  - 31.4. statutory obligationsof the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

## Wairarapa Committee of Greater Wellington Regional Council

32. Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) must constitute and maintain a committee called the Wairarapa Committee until at least the 2022 local government elections.
33. The purpose of the Wairarapa Committee is to help ensure Wairarapa community views are taken into account in the exercise by the GWRC of its functions, powers and duties in the Wairarapa District.
34. The Wairarapa Committee will comprise 10 voting members:
  - 34.1. four members from GWRC, including the Wairarapa constituency councillor
  - 34.2. four members appointed on the nomination of the Wairarapa District Council, at least three of whom must be elected members of the Wairarapa District Council, and at least one of whom must have skills and knowledge of rural issues
  - 34.3. one member appointed on the nomination of Rangitāne ō Wairarapa



- 34.4.** one member appointed on the nomination of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.
- 35.** The committee will elect the chair and deputy chair from its members. The chair shall be one of the four members from GWRC and the deputy chair shall be one of the elected members of the Wairarapa District Council.
- 36.** The committee can consider any issues relevant to the Wairarapa, including but not limited to:
- 36.1.** biodiversity
  - 36.2.** biosecurity
  - 36.3.** economic development
  - 36.4.** flood protection
  - 36.5.** land management
  - 36.6.** natural resource management
  - 36.7.** public transport.
- 37.** Subject to legislative limitations on council delegations, GWRC may delegate functions, powers or duties to the committee.
- 38.** The committee may develop and recommend relevant council strategies, policies, plans, and bylaws.
- 39.** GWRC will consider the recommendations and advice of the committee and will provide the committee with a written response as to how these have been considered and dealt with. Where there are any differences between the recommendations of the committee and the decisions of GWRC, the reasons for this will be explained.

## **Council plans and reports**

- 40.** South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton district councils must prepare and adopt their next long-term plans by 30 June 2018, in accordance with the normal cycle.
- 41.** The 2018-2028 long-term plans adopted by the South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton district councils will be deemed to meet the requirement for the Wairarapa District Council to have a long-term plan for 2018-2028.
- 42.** The transition body established under clause 52 must compile a draft annual plan for the period from the commencement date of the new council to 30 June 2019, based on the 2018 long-term plans of South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton district councils and submit the plan for adoption by Wairarapa District Council as soon as possible after its establishment.
- 43.** The Wairarapa District Council may amend or replace elements of those long-term and annual plans in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 44.** The Wairarapa District Council shall develop and adopt a new combined long-term plan by 30 June 2021.
- 45.** The first annual report for Wairarapa District Council shall cover the period from the commencement date of the new council to 30 June 2019.
- 46.** The final annual reports for the existing South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton district councils will cover the period 1 July 2017 to the commencement date of the new council.

## **Financial matters**

- 47.** The rating policies of the South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton district councils will continue to apply until the Wairarapa District Council adopts new rating policies in accordance with the consultation and other requirements in the Local Government Act 2002 and Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

**48.** Any change in rates due to the adoption of new rating policies as a result of the amalgamation of the three former district councils will be limited to no more than five per cent up or down in any one financial year. The five per cent change in any one year does not apply where there are changes to services, rating valuations or other normal financial decisions. This transitional measure expires on 30 June 2024.

**49.** Wairarapa District Council shall maintain existing targeted rates for wastewater services until at least 30 June 2024. The schemes are Homebush, Riversdale, Tinui, Castlepoint, Carterton, and South Wairarapa townships (including Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough and Lake Ferry).

**50.** Wairarapa District Council must use any development contributions (under Part 8 of the Local Government Act 2002) or financial contributions (under the Resource Management Act 1991) held or owed to the affected authorities for the purposes for which they were required by the affected authorities.

## **Transition body**

**51.** A transition body will be constituted to make arrangements for the establishment of Wairarapa District Council.

**52.** The transition body will comprise:

- 52.1.** a transition board
- 52.2.** an interim chief executive (once appointed) and
- 52.3.** an implementation team.

## **Transition board**

**53.** A transition board will be established and will comprise nine voting members as follows:

- 53.1.** an independent chair appointed by the Local Government Commission

**53.2.** two members nominated by South Wairarapa District Council from amongst its elected members

**53.3.** two members nominated by Carterton District Council from amongst its elected members

**53.4.** two members nominated by Masterton District Council from amongst its elected members

**53.5.** one member nominated by Rangitāne ō Wairarapa

**53.6.** one member nominated by Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.

**54.** The role of the transition board in phase 1 will be to:

- 54.1.** make recommendations to the Local Government Commission on matters of policy
- 54.2.** provide advice to the Local Government Commission
- 54.3.** exercise any powers and responsibilities delegated to it by the Local Government Commission
- 54.4.** appoint an interim chief executive for Wairarapa District Council.

**55.** The interim chief executive is authorised to appoint staff, enter into contracts, leases and other agreements, and call the first meeting of the local authority in accordance with the powers and duties in the Local Government Act 2002 Schedule 3, clause 39.

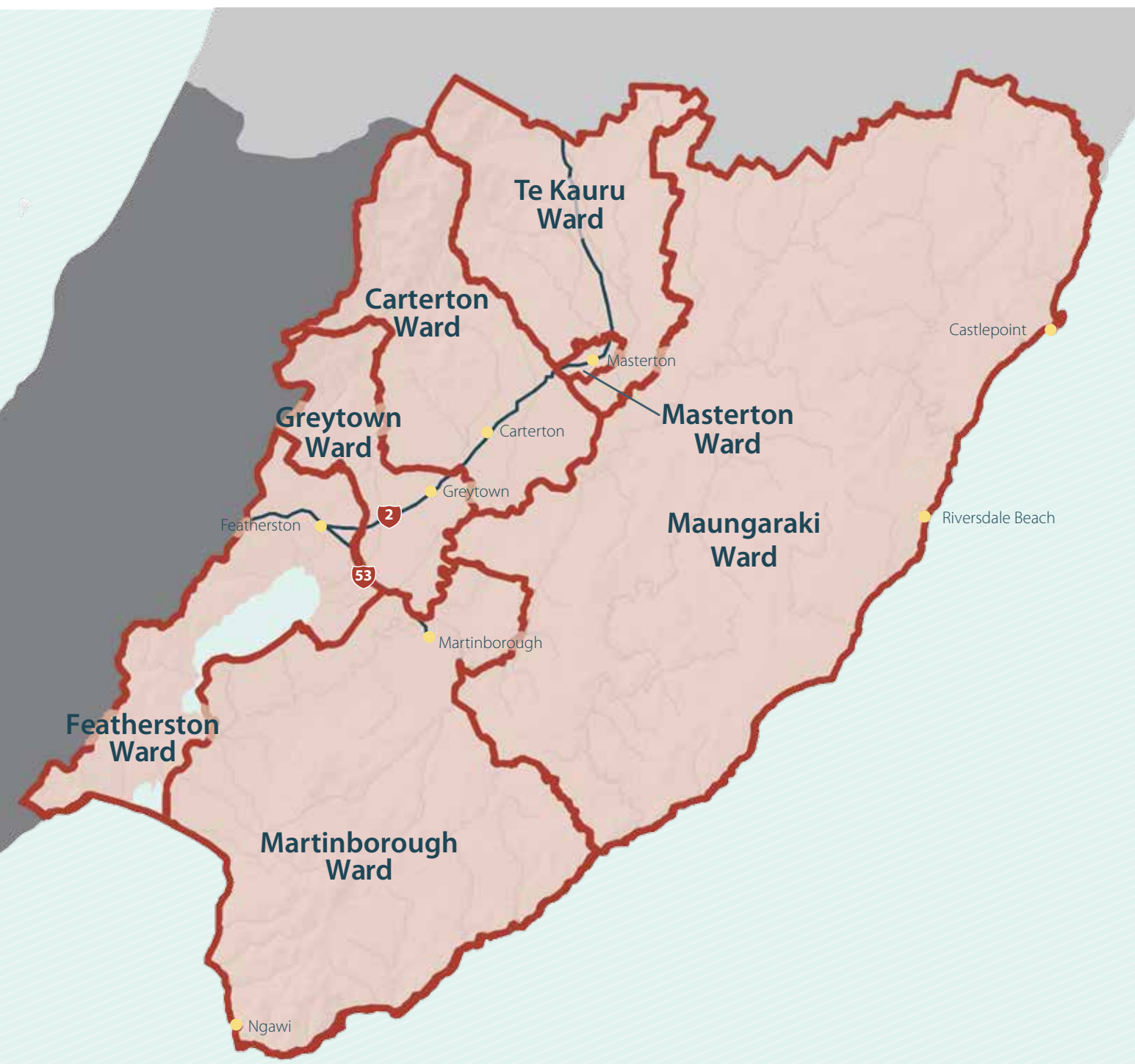
## **Further reorganisation applications**

**56.** No reorganisation applications for the Wairarapa District, relating to matters identified in section 24 of the Local Government Act, may be made before 31 October 2024.

# Schedule A

## Boundaries map

Map 2. Wards and boundaries for proposed new Wairarapa District Council



# Schedule B

## Iwi and hapū in the Wairarapa

The law requires the Commission to list the names and areas of interest of iwi and hapū in the proposed Wairarapa district.

The Commission has drawn on information on the website Te Kāhui Mangai ([www.tkm.govt.nz](http://www.tkm.govt.nz)), based on advice from Te Puni Kōkiri for this purpose, and has taken further advice from the relevant iwi organisations.

Iwi for the district of the new Wairarapa District Council are:

- Ngāti Kahungunu
- Rangitāne (North Island)

The areas of interest of both iwi cover the entire proposed Wairarapa district. Maps of the iwi rohe are available at Te Kāhui Mangai. The hapū with areas of interest in the proposed district are listed below. Details of the hapū areas of interest are not available.

### Ngati Kahungunu<sup>1</sup>

- Ngāi [Ngāti] Te Ao
- Ngāi [Te] Rangiakau
- Ngāi Tahu
- Ngāi Tahu-Makakanui
- Ngāi Tamahau
- Ngāi Taneroa (also known as Ngāi Taneroroa)
- Ngāi Te Aomataura
- Ngāi Tumapuhia-a-Rangi
- Ngāi Tunuiarangi
- Ngāti [Te] Noti
- Ngāti [Te] Rautangata
- Ngāti [Te] Whakamana
- Ngāti [Te] Whatuiapiti
- Ngāti [Te] Whiunga (also known as Whiunga)
- Ngāti Aomatarahi
- Ngāti Hakeke
- Ngāti Hamua
- Ngāti Hikarahui
- Ngāti Hikarara
- Ngāti Hikawera
- Ngāti Hinaariki
- Ngāti Hineararangi
- Ngāti Hinekorako
- Ngāti Hinepare
- Ngāti Hinerangi
- Ngāti Hineraumoa
- Ngāti Hinetauirā
- Ngāti Hinetea
- Ngāti Hineterorangi
- Ngāti Hinewaka
- Ngāti Hopara
- Ngāti Horohanga
- Ngāti Ira Ngāti
- Kahukuraawhitia
- Ngāti Kahukuranui
- Ngāti Kahungunu
- Ngāti Kai
- Ngāti Kaihuitu

- Ngāti Kaiparuparu
- Ngāti Kaitahi
- Ngāti Kaiwahie
- Ngāti Kakawa
- Ngāti Kauhi
- Ngāti Kaumoana
- Ngāti Kawekairangi
- Ngāti Kirikohatu
- Ngāti Komuka
- Ngāti Koura
- Ngāti Maahu
- Ngāti Marere
- Ngāti Maru
- Ngāti Maruinga
- Ngāti Matangihia
- Ngāti Matangiuru
- Ngāti Matehou
- Ngāti Meroiti
- Ngāti Moe
- Ngāti Mopuna
- Ngāti Muretu
- Ngāti Ngapuoterangi
- Ngāti Pa Te Ika
- Ngāti Pakuia
- Ngāti Parakioere
- Ngāti Parera
- Ngāti Pohatu
- Ngāti Pohoi
- Ngāti Puha
- Ngāti Punarewa
- Ngāti Puta
- Ngāti Raekaumoana
- Ngāti Raetea
- Ngāti Rakaihikuroa
- Ngāti Rakaipaaka
- Ngāti Rakairangi
- Ngāti Rakaiwhakairi (also known as Ngāi Rakaiwhakairi)
- Ngāti Rangaranga
- Ngāti Rangitataia
- Ngāti Rangitehewa
- Ngāti Rangiwhakaewa

- Ngāti Raukau
- Ngāti Rongomaiaia
- Ngāti Rua
- Ngāti Ruawahia
- Ngāti Ruawahine
- Ngāti Tahitokoru
- Ngāti Tahuahi
- Ngāti Taitam
- Ngāti Takoto
- Ngāti Tamaiwhakitea
- Ngāti Tangatakau
- Ngāti Tapatu
- Ngāti Tatuki
- Ngāti Tauiao
- Ngāti Te Ahuahu
- Ngāti Te Aokino
- Ngāti Te Hangarakau
- Ngāti Te Hau
- Ngāti Te Hauaitu
- Ngāti Te Hina
- Ngāti Te Hoori
- Ngāti Te Hukairangi
- Ngāti Te Kari
- Ngāti Te Korou
- Ngāti Te Rangitawhanga
- Ngāti Te Rangiwhakaoma
- Ngāti Te Rore
- Ngāti Te Tohinga
- Ngāti Te Tomo
- Ngāti Te Umuiti
- Ngāti Te Whatui
- Ngāti Te Wheke
- Ngāti Tuhakeke
- Ngāti Tukaihara
- Ngāti Tukoko
- Ngāti Tumanawa
- Ngāti Tumanuhiri
- Ngāti Tuohungia
- Ngāti Tupai
- Ngāti Turanga
- Ngāti Tutawake
- Ngāti Tutemiha

- Ngāti Tutohengarangi
- Ngāti Upokoiri
- Ngāti Waipuhoro
- Ngāti Wananga
- Ngāti Whaiwhenua
- Ngāti Whatangarereua
- Ngāti Whiritoroa
- Te Hika o Papauma
- Te Kapua Matatoru
- Te Uma Whanui
- Tu mai te Uru

### Rangitāne (North Island)

- Hineteorangi
- Ngāi Tamahau
- Ngāti Hinetauirā
- Ngāti Mātangiuru
- Ngāti Moe
- Ngāti Taimahu
- Ngāti Tangatakau
- Ngāti Tauiao
- Ngāti Te Atawhā
- Ngāti Te Hina
- Ngāti Te Noti
- Ngāti Te Raetea
- Ngāti Te Whakamana
- Ngāti Te Whātui
- Ngāti Tūkoko
- Ngāti Meroiti

<sup>1</sup> The Commission has been advised that further research and discussions will take place with some of the listed hapū and relevant mandated groups in regards to tribal affiliations. The Commission was also advised that some of the Ngati Kahungunu hapū names listed are also included in the claimant definitions of other large natural groups.



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# Appendices

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# Appendix 1

## Draft terms of reference for Wairarapa community boards

These terms of reference do not form part of the legal description of the final proposal.

These are the draft terms of reference the Local Government Commission recommends to the transition body. They should be used as a starting point when the transition body develops a final community board terms of reference for inclusion in the Order in Council setting out the reorganisation scheme.

The terms of reference included in the reorganisation scheme will be the minimum responsibilities, duties and powers, and will be binding on the new council for six years. They will not be exhaustive and do not preclude the transition body or the council adding additional responsibilities, duties or powers to community boards.

The transition body is to consult with the community to develop the terms of reference and discuss them with the three existing community boards, the South Wairarapa District Council Māori Standing Committee, and local iwi, marae and hapū.

### **Purpose of the Wairarapa community boards**

1. The purpose of the Wairarapa community boards is to provide a leadership role in empowering local communities to determine local issues associated with their areas.
2. For the communities in their area they are:
  - advocates and representatives
  - leaders in the development of plans and decision-making on the use and development of local amenities, facilities and services
  - decision-makers on issues that are local to their areas under delegation from the Wairarapa District Council, except where

- › it is more equitable, effective or efficient for that decision-making to be done on a district-wide basis, or
- › where the benefits of integrating and aligning with other areas outweigh the benefits of keeping decision-making local.

### **Support and resourcing**

3. The community boards will be resourced by the Wairarapa District Council to effectively fulfil their role. This includes the appointment of a senior manager or managers to lead officer support of the community board.

### **Responsibilities, duties and powers**

4. All responsibilities, duties and powers exercised by a community board must be consistent with any relevant strategies, plans, policies, standards, budgets or resolutions adopted by the Wairarapa District Council, whether or not they are specifically referred to.
5. As well as those set out in the Local Government Act 2002, the responsibilities, duties and powers of the boards are to:

#### **Planning**

- Prepare and recommend to the Wairarapa District Council a submission for expenditure within the community as part of the annual plan and long-term plan processes, in accordance with the community board plan.
- Prepare and decide on a community board plan every three years. This plan will implement district-wide plans and strategies as appropriate, and set out activities that are unique to the area, including local improvements and developments, within the allocated funding.

### **Community input and perspective**

- Maintain and improve opportunities for local hapū and marae to contribute to community board decision-making processes.
- Communicate with the diverse range of community organisations and special interest groups within the community board area.
- Provide to the Wairarapa District Council the perspectives of the communities within the community board area on relevant local matters (including sale and supply of alcohol).

### **Grants**

- Decide on the allocation of community-based grant funds, bequests or similar.
- Decide on applications for community gardens.

### **Local facilities, urban reserves, urban amenities, and town main streets**

- Prepare and decide on plans (including development plans, implementation plans and local area improvement plans) for local place-shaping and local facilities in accordance with the community board plan and allocated funding.

### **Local parks and reserves**

- Make recommendations to the Wairarapa District Council on reserve management plans.
- Prepare and decide on plans (including development plans and implementation plans) for local parks and reserves in accordance with the relevant reserve management plan, community board plan and allocated funding.

### **Roading**

- Make recommendations to the Wairarapa District Council on:
  - › naming roads and rights of way, in consultation with local hapū, marae and iwi
  - › traffic control and signage on local roads
  - › changes to speed restrictions on local roads
  - › permanent road stopping or diminishing.
- Assist the chief executive in making decisions on temporary road closure applications when there are objections.
- Decide priorities for footpath maintenance and location of new footpaths.

### **Naming local reserves, structures and commemorative places**

- Decide on names of local reserves, structures and commemorative places, in consultation with local hapū, marae, and iwi.

### **Emergency management**

- Support development and promotion of individual and community civil defence emergency planning.
- Support community recovery efforts after an event.

### **Training and development for community board members**

- Decide on priorities for training.
- Expend annual allocated funding for training.

# Appendix 2

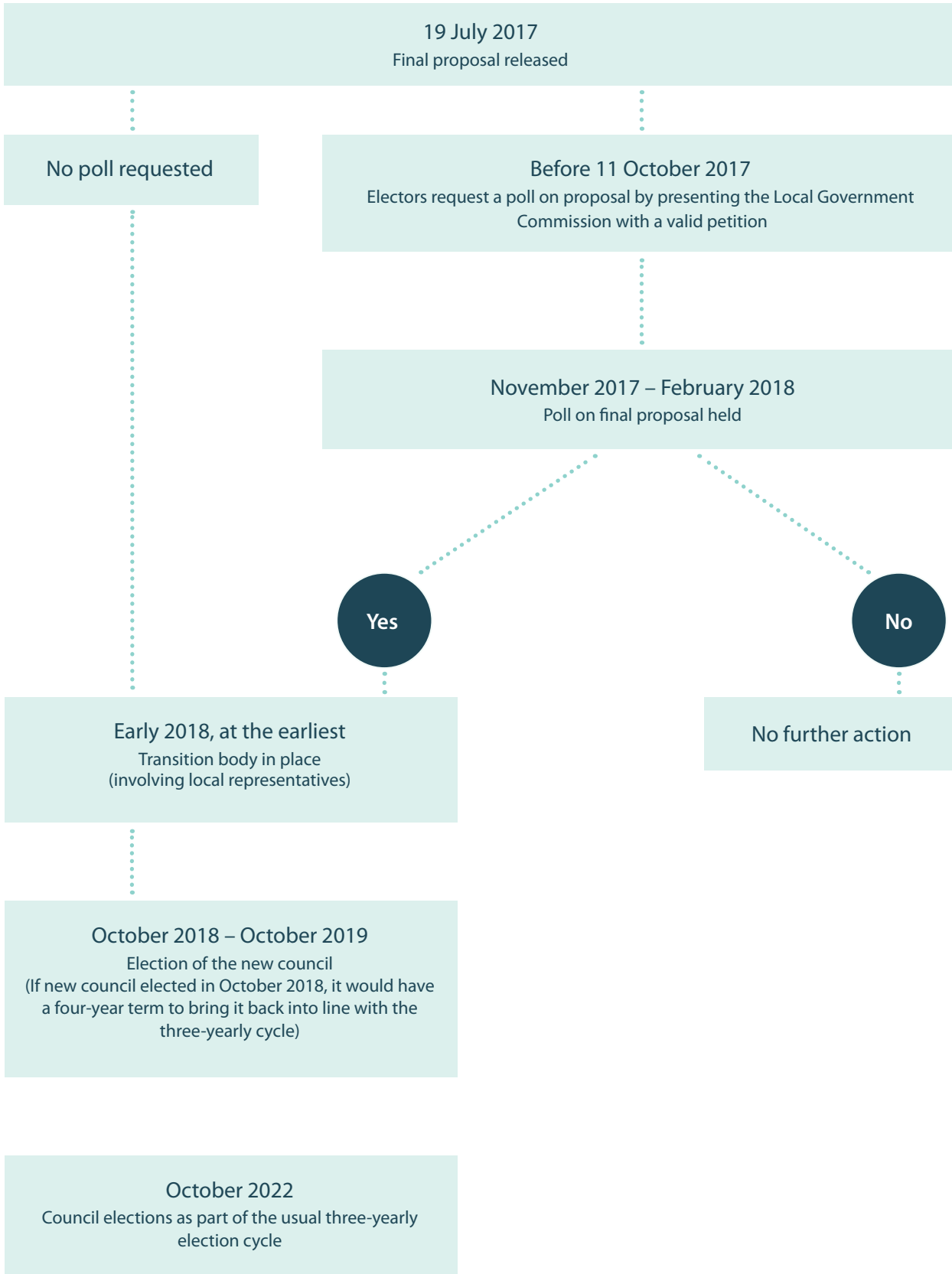
## Reorganisation timeline

- 
- May-June 2013** • The Local Government Commission (the Commission) receives an application from South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton district councils for a single unitary authority for the Wairarapa; and an application from the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) for a unitary council for the Wellington region including the Wairarapa.
  - Dec 2014** • The Commission issues a draft proposal for a Wellington region-wide unitary council.
  - June 2015** • Following extensive community consultation, the Commission determines not to proceed to a final proposal for a Wellington-wide unitary authority. A majority opposes the proposal but about 40 per cent wants some form of change.
  - Aug 2015-Aug 2016** • The Commission works with Wairarapa councils, GWRC and consultants to develop governance options for the Wairarapa and seeks public input on these: in response to a Commission questionnaire, 65 per cent support a combined council in some form, and 23 per cent prefer the status quo.
  - July 2016** • A UMR telephone survey indicates 52 per cent of respondents prefer combining the three Wairarapa councils, 34 per cent want no change, 12 per cent support a unitary council and two per cent are unsure.
  - March 2017** • The Commission issues a draft proposal for a Wairarapa District Council and seeks submissions on it; 824 submissions oppose the proposal, 356 support it and 11 neither support nor oppose it.
  - May 2017** • A UMR survey of 1000 people shows that 60 per cent support a combined Wairarapa District Council, 27 per cent oppose it and 13 per cent are unsure.
  - May-June 2017** • The Commission hears from 55 submitters in person, representing themselves, councils or organisations.
  - July 2017** • Commission issues final proposal for Wairarapa District Council.



# Appendix 3

## Timeline for next steps



# Appendix 4

## Requirements for petition

Affected electors may request a poll, under clause 24(1) of Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002, to determine whether or not the final proposal is to proceed to become a reorganisation scheme.

To request a poll, 10 per cent of electors (residents and non-resident ratepayers) in any one of the existing territorial authority districts in the affected area must sign a petition. The affected area is South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton districts.

The petition must be received by the Local Government Commission no later than 11 October 2017.

Here is what the petition must contain:

### To the Local Government Commission

Organiser of the petition: [full name]

**1. This petition demands a poll to determine whether or not the final proposal issued on 19 July 2017 by the Local Government Commission as indicated below should proceed and become a reorganisation scheme.**

The main features of the proposal are:

- establishment of a new Wairarapa District Council, combining the existing South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton districts and dissolving the existing three district councils
- maintaining Greater Wellington Regional Council as the regional council for the Wairarapa
- the Wairarapa District Council would have
  - › a mayor elected at large, 12 councillors elected by voters from each of seven wards
  - › five community boards, for Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough, Carterton and Masterton wards with 21 elected members in total.

**2. Following are the names, addresses and signatures of affected electors who demand a poll.**

Full name	Address (not a post office box)	Signature	Date
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### 3. Contact details

Address for service of organiser of petition

Telephone:

Email:

Address:

Contact person: [name and designation if applicable]

Each person who signs this petition must state, against his or her signature, their name and the detailed address in relation to which he or she is an affected elector; that is, their residential address, or the address for which they pay rates in the district.

If a poll is called, the area for voting in the poll will be all of the Wairarapa (including the areas encompassed by South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton districts).

This information summarises relevant parts of the Local Government Act 2002. For more details please go to the Wairarapa resources page at [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz)

**The cost of the poll is estimated at \$100,000. This cost would be met by the existing three district councils, and allocated between them on the basis of the number of electors on the electoral roll in each district.**



Grazing cattle, South Wairarapa | Rob Suisted | [www.naturespic.com](http://www.naturespic.com)



Local Government  
Commission

Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

PO Box 5362  
Wellington 6140  
[info@lgc.govt.nz](mailto:info@lgc.govt.nz)