



# COMBINED COMMUNITY BOARD

*Te hui tahi a ngā Poari Hapori*

**Tuesday, 6 May, 2025**

***Tūrei, 6 Haratua 2025***

**Tōtara Room, Whakatāne District Council  
14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne  
Commencing at 4:00 pm**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 1 May 2025**

[whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	Membership .....	4
2	Apologies .....	4
3	Confirmation of Minutes .....	5
3.1	Minutes – Combined Community Board 10 September 2024 .....	5
4	Introduction to the Newly Appointed General Managers .....	10
5	Presentations and Reports .....	11
5.1	Local Waters Done Well - Presentation .....	11
5.2	Governance Services Report - May 2025 .....	23
5.3	Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer .....	26
6	Updates from Each Community Board .....	41

## 1 Membership

### 1 Membership

Membership includes all Community Board Members

#### **Murupara Community Board:**

Mere Honeycombe (Chairperson), Irma Prentice (Deputy Chairperson), Mansahn Kereopa, Sheena Jones, Jesse Morgan-Ranui, Alison Silcock, and Councillor Ngapera Rangiaho

#### **Rangitāiki Community Board:**

Leeann Waaka (Chairperson), Ross Gardiner (Deputy Chairperson), Heemi Brown, Pete Falwasser, Peter Flowerday, Clive McIndoe, and Councillor Gavin Dennis

#### **Tāneatua Community Board:**

Moana Stensness (Chairperson), Talei Bryant (Deputy Chairperson), Natasha George, Luke Ruiterman, Honey Thrupp, Michael Tuwairua, and Councillor Andrew Iles

#### **Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board:**

Carolyn Hamill (Chairperson), Linda Bonne (Deputy Chairperson), Christopher Howard, Doug McLean, Mark Marshall-Inman, Ozgur Iseri and Councillor Toni Boynton.

Mere Honeycombe chairperson for Murupara Community Board will be chairing the meeting.

### 2 Apologies


Apologies received at the time of compiling the agenda include:

- RCB - L Waaka
- RCB - R Gardiner
- TCB - T Bryant
- Early departure for Councillor Dennis

### 3 Confirmation of Minutes

## 3 Confirmation of Minutes

### 3.1 Minutes – Combined Community Board 10 September 2024

 <p><b>WHAKATĀNE</b> District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	<b>COMBINED COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA, WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 14 COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATANE ON TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM</b>
	Present:	Chairperson - Member C Hamill (WOCB) Mayor V Luca  <i>Murupara Community Board (MCB)</i> M Honeycombe, S Jones, J Morgan-Ranui, A Silcock, I Prentice and Councillor Rangiaho <i>Rangitāiki Community Board (RCB)</i> L Waaka, C McIndoe, P Flowerday, Councillor Dennis, H Brown, Councillor James and <i>via Teams</i> R Gardiner <i>Tāneatua Community Board (TCB)</i> T Bryant, N George and Councillor Iles, <i>Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board (WOCB)</i> C Hamill, D McLean, M Inman, L Bonne, Deputy Mayor Immink and Councillors T Boynton and J Pullar
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), K Summerhays (Senior Community Development Advisor), G Moore-Jones (Strategic Advisor), V Richards (Strategic Coordinator – Community Planning), T Rua (Project Manager), A Prince (Community Development Coordinator), D Ganley (Senior Policy Planner), C Viljoen (Manager Governance Services), S Duffy (Senior Governance Support Advisor), A Dass (Governance Support Advisor) and L Edwards (Governance Support Coordinator)
	Visitors:	
	Apologies:	TCB Members D Yalden and L Ruiterman, RCB Member P Falwasser, WOCB Member O Jahn, MCB Member M Edmonds Late arrive L Bonne (WOCB) Early departure Councillor Dennis and P Flowerday

The meeting commenced at 4:00pm with the Chairperson welcoming all present.

#### 1. KARAKIA and WHAKAWHANAUNGATANGA

After the opening Karakia, meeting attendees introduced themselves.

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Moved Chairperson Hamill / Seconded Councillor Iles

### **3.1 Minutes – Combined Community Board 10 September 2024 (Cont.)**

#### **RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Combined Community board accept the following apologies:

- Board Members, D Yalden, L Ruiterman, P Falwasser, O Jahn, and M Edmonds
- Late arrival Member L Bonne
- Early departure Councillor Dennis and Member P Flowerday

#### **CARRIED**

### **3. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/TRIBUTES**

Members congratulated Steven Perdia as the new Chief Executive and welcomed Jesse Morgan-Ranui as the newest member of the Murupara Community Board.

Deputy Mayor Immink and Member M Inman were acknowledged for their time and effort presenting at the LGNZ Super Local conference, noting they received a standing ovation.

### **4. Conflicts of interest**

Nil.

### **5. Confirmation of Minutes**

Refer to page 5-8 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Boynton / Seconded Member S Jones

#### **RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the minutes of the Combined Community board meeting held on 12 March 2024 be confirmed as true and correct record.

#### **CARRIED**

### **6. Reporting**

#### **6.1. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy**

Refer to pages 9-65 of the agenda.

Ms Summerhays spoke to the PowerPoint presentation and highlighted several slides of particular interest. She explained the background to the policy development, its alignment with the Te Toi Waka Whakareki strategy, and that action plans would follow.

A project group had been established, research of migrant and ethnic communities had been commissioned and there were well-represented focus groups. Ms Summerhays noted however, that the rural community was not well represented and encouraged the meeting to get this sector involved.

It was reported that consultation would occur from 14 October to 10 November 2024, and it was intended the policy be adopted by the end of the year. It was queried if the timeframes could be delayed, for more information to be provided to the Community Boards.



### **3.1 Minutes – Combined Community Board 10 September 2024 (Cont.)**

**Attendance:** Member L Bonne entered the meeting at 4:22 pm.

#### **6.2. Climate Change Pathway and Tree Planting**

Refer also to page 66 of the agenda and pages 66 a-c of the tabled items.

**Attendance:** Ms Summerhays and Ms Prince left the meeting at 4:27 pm.

Speaking to a PowerPoint presentation, Mr Moore-Jones (Strategic Advisor) noted that the Climate Change Strategy was adopted in July 2024 and that the implementation plan was now in development. He said everyone had a part to play and the implementation plan would address the understanding gap; to help people understand what actions they could take. Of the 229 actions, 41 were identified as community led priorities.

In conclusion Mr Moore-Jones referenced the draft Whakatāne District Tree Strategy – which outlined a framework for managing, protecting, and growing the district's tree population. The Community Boards would be invited to the planting of Kauri tree at Peace Park.

**Attendance:** G Moore-Jones left the meeting at 4:47 pm.

#### **6.3. Operative District Plan – ePlan**

Ms Ganley explained that the Operative District Plan had changing from a paper-based system to an integrated online system, which included the relevant maps, and links to the rules and zones that effected the selected property. She explained how to access the online tool and gave a demonstration of several features.

It was suggested a video relating to 'real-life' scenarios would be beneficial.

**Attendance:** Councillor Iles left the meeting at 4:52 pm and re-entered the meeting at 4:55 pm. Ms Ganley left the meeting at 5:08 pm.

#### **6.4. Governance Services September 2024 Update**

Manager Governance Services highlighted several items from report.

**Attendance:** Member Gardiner left at the meeting at 5:18 am.

A discussion ensued about community board discretionary funding and the following points were noted:

- Many members did not have devices, and issue of limited internet access, if processing of funding applications went electronic.
- When reviewing funding applications the following suggestions were noted: conflicts of interests to be declared, other fundraising activities undertaken by the applicant, query how the applicant would promote the Board if successful, quotes provided and from local suppliers, planning of event sufficient and did the applicant attend to present to the meeting.
- It was suggested a video to help applicants would be beneficial.
- It was noted more applications were being received from schools and these caused uncertainty; including school funding versus departmental funding and, being a targeted rate, the benefit must go back to the community.
- It was fine to 'agree to disagree'.

### **3.1 Minutes – Combined Community Board 10 September 2024 (Cont.)**

- Importance of setting precedents however each application was reviewed on its own merits.
- Uncertainty of areas Boards covered impeded some potential applicants.
- Community Grants were processed and filtered by dedicated Council staff, with the Committee then using a scoring system to allocate funding.

## **7. Community Board Reporting**

The Chairperson invited those members who attended the Local Government Super Local conference to give an overview of their experiences. Following this, each Board updated the meeting on their activities.

### **7.1. Murupara Community Board**

Refer to page 70a of the tabled items.

MCB Chairperson Honeycombe spoke about the Board's vision, the areas under the Boards umbrella, and introduced members present, including the Board's newest member Jesse Morgan-Ranui. She reported that the Whakatāne Youth Council was hosted at the Murupara Youth Space, and it was great to help the youth to connect. Vicky Richards was acknowledged for all the support provided to the Board in producing their Strategic Plan and Chairperson Honeycombe concluded reporting of the allocation of Board's discretionary funds.

**Attendance:** Member Inman left the meeting at 5:49 pm and returned to the meeting at 5:52 pm. Member Brown left the meeting at 5:55 pm.

### **7.2. Rangitāiki Community Board**

Refer to page 70b of the tabled items.

RCB Chairperson Waaka gave an overview of the projects Board members had been involved with, and supported, in relation to their four Pou (pillars). Ms Waaka recommended more support for Community Board members, particularly those new to the Local Government space. She questioned if there was a 'check-in survey' to measure, assess, and then identify what further support was required.

It was felt there was no point of contact for Rangitahi as a whole.

**Attendance:** Member Flowerday left the meeting at 6:03 pm.

### **7.3. Tāneatua Community Board**

Councillor Iles advised that the TCB Strategic Plan have been reviewed, refreshed, and updated and that work had commenced on the community plan.

Councillor Iles acknowledged the passing of Basil Simpson and reported the Board had donated money for the memorial seat located at Nukuhou Salt Marsh Reserve. He advised that meetings were hosted throughout the ward, and he thanked the council for the earthquake strengthening of Nukuhou Hall. He mentioned the work resurfacing the Tāneatua netball courts and installation of new hoops, and the cleanup at the cemetery.

In conclusion Councillor Iles acknowledged the issues concerning Pekatahi Bridge and also acknowledged the success of local Olympians and Rugby 7s.



**3.1 Minutes – Combined Community Board 10 September 2024 (Cont.)**

**7.4. Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board**

Member Bonne listed the projects the WOCB had been involved with and reported members had recently attended the Indian celebration 'Onam', hosted by the Kerala community. She mentioned some of the successful discretionary grant applications and advised that a steering group had been established for the Whakaari memorial, and that the Board had allocated seed funding.

Youth council representatives had been attending meetings, and board was aligning and networking with their communities.

**Attendance:** Councillor Iles left the meeting at 6:13 pm and returned to the meeting at 6:16 pm.

The Governance Services team were thanked for organising the Combined Community Board meeting.

**THE MEETING CLOSED WITH A KARAKIA FROM CHAIRPERSON HAMILL AT 6:18 PM.**

<b>Confirmed at the meeting dated:</b>
CHAIRPERSON

#### **4 Introduction to the Newly Appointed General Managers**

## **4 Introduction to the Newly Appointed General Managers**

Chief Executive, Steven Perdia will introduce himself to members and will also introduce the newest members to the completed Executive Team structure:

- Hone Patrick, who has joined the Whakatāne District Council Executive Team as Kaihautū-Director Strategic Māori Partnerships.
- Alexandra Pickles as the newly appointed General Manager of Community Experience.
- Leny Woolsey, newly appointed General Manager of Strategy and Growth.

**5 Presentations and Reports**

**5 Presentations and Reports**

**5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation**

General Manager Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure, David Bewley and Consultant, Andrew Dalziel will speak to the attached presentation.

5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)

# Local Water Done Well Presentation to Community Boards

6 May 2025



[whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)

Better Together Toitū te Kotahitanga



5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)

# What is Local Water Done Well?



- Government has introduced its new legislation known as Local Water Done Well, which replaces the previous government's water reform programme (known as 3 Waters).
- New regulatory requirements, coupled with new structural and financing tools, will lead to significant changes in service provision over time, including the adoption of new service delivery models.
- Council needs to make a decision about how water services will be delivered to our community.
- Once determined, we need to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan by early Sept 2025.





5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)



# Water Services Delivery Plan

## Purpose;

- One-off, transitional document
- Cover drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater
- Strategic decision-making tool for Council to consider current and future delivery of water services
- Sets out how we will deliver a high-quality, financially sustainable service in the long-term
- Includes how much we need to invest, how we plan to finance, and how we plan to deliver services through our preferred delivery model
- Covers a min 10-year timeframe, with option up to 30 years



5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)

# Options being considered



After initially considering a range of options, elected members agreed on a shortlist of two options for further investigation:

- Option 1 - Forming a Multi-Council-Controlled Organisation (Multi-CCO) to deliver water services in conjunction with other councils who are willing to join up (this is our preferred option)
- Option 2 - A standalone business unit that will deliver water services from within the Council (alternative option)





5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)

# Multi-Council-Controlled Organisation



- Financial modelling indicates the Multi-CCO water organisation option is likely to provide the most efficient and effective long-term solution.
- Can access additional borrowing capacity and can achieve greater efficiencies and economies of scale.
- Customers could pay up to \$3,120 - \$3,300 per annum within 10 years, depending on the mix of councils involved. This figure could be much cheaper depending on the approach taken to pricing.
- As a Ti Tiriti partner, we believe that Iwi should play a strong role in water management. We're exploring how to meaningfully integrate Iwi participation into our preferred option.



5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)

# Multi-Council-Controlled Organisation



- Over time, the rates we charge for three water services will cease as the new joint water services organisation takes over. If we pursue this option, it will take some time to transfer billing for water services to the new entity.
- Council will have more financial flexibility, including lower council debt and a greater ability to borrow to fund non-water activities.
- We expect levels of service to improve under this option but the focus over the next ten years is on achieving compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Charges for water services are likely to be lower under this option than for Option 2.



5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)

# Standalone business unit within Council

- Water charges would be ringfenced and targeted. They will need to be separated from general rates, billed separately and subject to central government monitoring of financial and water quality standards.
- Will cost more each year than the preferred option. While the average cost per connection looks similar over the next ten years (\$3,330 by 2034) after that, a joint water services organisation becomes noticeably cheaper.
- We (and therefore ratepayers) would continue to own, manage and deliver three water services on our own.
- Council will continue to make decisions – with community input as is the case now. However, decisions will also be subject to regulatory oversight, including from the Water Services Authority (Taumata Arowai) and the Commerce Commission.

5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)

# Standalone business unit within Council

- Council would use existing mechanisms for iwi involvement in water management.
- Meets legal requirements but risks being unaffordable to ratepayers. Could mean less funding being available for other activities provided by Council because of the debt limits.

5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)

# Engagement & Consultation



- Education campaign
- Engagement with key stakeholders – other Councils, Community Boards, Mana Whenua & Regulators
- Formal consultation 17 May – 18 June 2025
- Community drop-in sessions now completed



5.1 Local Waters Done Well - Presentation (Cont.)

# Next Steps



- Sunday 18 May 18 - submission period ends.
- Thursday 5 June – Hearings / oral submissions heard
- Thursday 26 June – Summary of consultation / Elected members agree preferred option on Waters Services Delivery
- Wednesday 3 September – Council needs to provide a Water Services Delivery Plan to the Department of Internal Affairs



# Questions?





## 5.2 Governance Services Report - May 2025

### 5.2 Governance Services Report - May 2025



To: **Combined Community Board**

Date: **Tuesday, 6 May 2025**

Author: **C Viljoen / Manager Governance Services**

Authoriser: **E Hatch / GM People and Partnerships**

Reference: **A2857907**

#### 1. Reason for the report - **Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata**

This report provides an update to the Combined Community Board on activities within the Governance Services team, including the adoption of the updated Standing Orders 2025 and the planning for the Local Elections 2025.

#### 2. Recommendation - **Tohutohu akiaki**

THAT the Governance Services Report – May 2025 be **received**.

#### 3. Subjects – **Kaupapa**

This section contains information that the Governance Services wish to update the Members.

##### 3.1. Pecuniary Interest Forms

Members are obliged to provide annual returns, which are to be included on the registers, and to subsequently advise of any errors or omissions in those returns.

The Governance Services Team have sent reminders to those members who still have outstanding forms – **I cannot stress enough the importance** of these forms to be filled out and returned with the required timeframes.

A reminder that is an offence where members fail to comply with their obligations.

##### 3.2. Standing Orders

The Governance Services team has reviewed the Council's Standing Orders in alignment with the latest legislative changes and best practices. The updated Standing Orders were adopted by the Council on 20 March 2025.

Key changes included:

- Incorporation of recent legislative changes, such as the ability for members attending via audiovisual link to be counted as part of the quorum.
- Use of plain English to improve readability and accessibility.
- Strengthening the principles underpinning the rules to provide clearer guidance for meeting conduct.

The updated Standing Orders has since been made available on Council's [website](#) .

## 5.2 Governance Services Report - May 2025 (Cont.)

The latest Community Board Standing Orders will be presented to the Boards for adoption after the Local Body Elections.

### 3.3. Whakatāne District Council meetings

One evaluation relating to the Governance Services Team is a non-financial performance metrics to ensure compliance with statutory requirements. This includes adherence to the timely release of meeting agendas and the percentage of council and standing committee meetings that are live-streamed. Our strategic priority is to enhance the safety, well-being, and vibrancy of our communities. Below are the statistics supporting this measure and our achievements to date. Reporting to this non-financial performance measure is presented to the Finance and Performance Committee on a quarterly basis.

Democracy					
Key Performance Indicator	Annual Target	Q1 Result	Q2 Result	Q3 Result	Year to Date (quarter end)
Percentage of meeting and committee agendas made available to the public within statutory timeframes	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	92.86%	97.62%
Percentage of Council meetings publicly livestreamed	90.00%	91.00%	100.00%	100.00%	95.50%

The scheduled Council, Committee, and Community Board meetings continue to be supported by myself (Chirese Viljoen / Manager Governance Services), Susan Duffy (Senior Governance Support Advisor) and Alex Dass (Governance Support Advisor), with Louise Edwards (Governance Services Coordinator) providing valuable administrative support. Louise also offers logistical support for the Council's informal briefings, which are open to the public unless there are reasonable grounds for exclusion. The team often handles numerous meetings in the same week and consistently excels in managing all the necessary tasks before, during, and after each meeting.

### 3.4. Local Body Elections 2025

The planning for the Local Elections 2025 is well underway. The project aims to ensure compliance with the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government Act 2002, while incorporating recent legislative changes and facilitating the Māori wards referendum. Key activities include:

1. Educating the community on how to enrol and vote.
2. Encouraging community members to run for Council.

## 5.2 Governance Services Report - May 2025 (Cont.)

3. Preparing election-related reports for Council.
4. Developing and implementing a comprehensive communications strategy.

The Māori wards poll will be held alongside the 2025 local elections. This poll will determine whether Māori wards will continue to be part of the Whakatāne District Council for the 2028 and 2031 local elections. The Council is committed to providing factual and unbiased information about the poll to ensure that the community is well-informed. The outcome of this poll will have significant implications for the representation of Māori communities in the district.

To date the Governance Services team, alongside the PSG and the Electoral officer have:

- Made declarations as Election Officers, with some yet to be declared as electoral officials.
- Identified locations, and contacted the business owners, for placement of 'Orange Voting Bins'.
- Ensured the Council Website is update with Election Information, including the timetable.
- Release of the Election Protocols for staff and Elected Members.

The following tasks are in progress:

- Preparation of the candidate handbooks.
- Order of names to Council for decision.
- Communications and engagement strategy approval.
- Preparation for civics education and candidate briefings.

Following this report, I am pleased to introduce Mr Dale Ofoske from Election Services to the members present. Election Services are contracted to Council as our Electoral Official. Mr Ofoske will be presenting an update on the Local Body Elections, which will include an important segment on protocols for Elected Members during the pre-election period.

### **Role of the Electoral Officer and Deputy Electoral Officer**

The Electoral Officer is responsible for overseeing the entire election process, ensuring that it is conducted fairly, transparently, and in accordance with the relevant legislation. This includes managing the nomination process, preparing the electoral roll, conducting the voting process, and declaring the results. The Electoral Officer also ensures that all election-related activities comply with the Local Electoral Act 2001 and any other relevant regulations.

The Deputy Electoral Officer assists the Electoral Officer in carrying out these duties and steps in to perform the Electoral Officer's responsibilities if the Electoral Officer is unable to do so. The Deputy Electoral Officer plays a crucial role in supporting the logistical and administrative aspects of the election process.

For the 2025 local elections, Dale Ofoske from Election Services has been appointed as the Electoral Officer, and Chirese Viljoen serves as the Deputy Electoral Officer.

**5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer**

**5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer**

Electoral Officer, Dale Ofsoske will speak to the attached presentation.



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



# 2025 TRIENNIAL ELECTION

COMMUNITY BOARD BRIEFING 6 MAY 2025

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer





5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer (Cont.)



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## COVERING

- Background
- Timetable
- Electoral principles
- Māori Ward Poll
- Legislation changes
- Order of candidate names
- Chief executive's role
- Elected member protocols
- Candidate reminders





WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



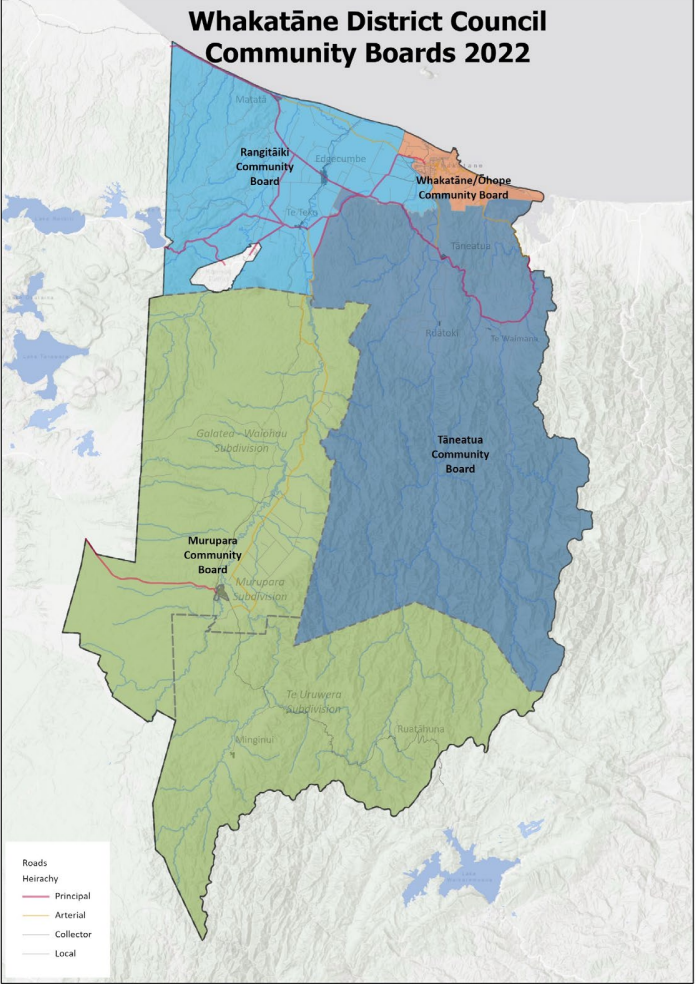
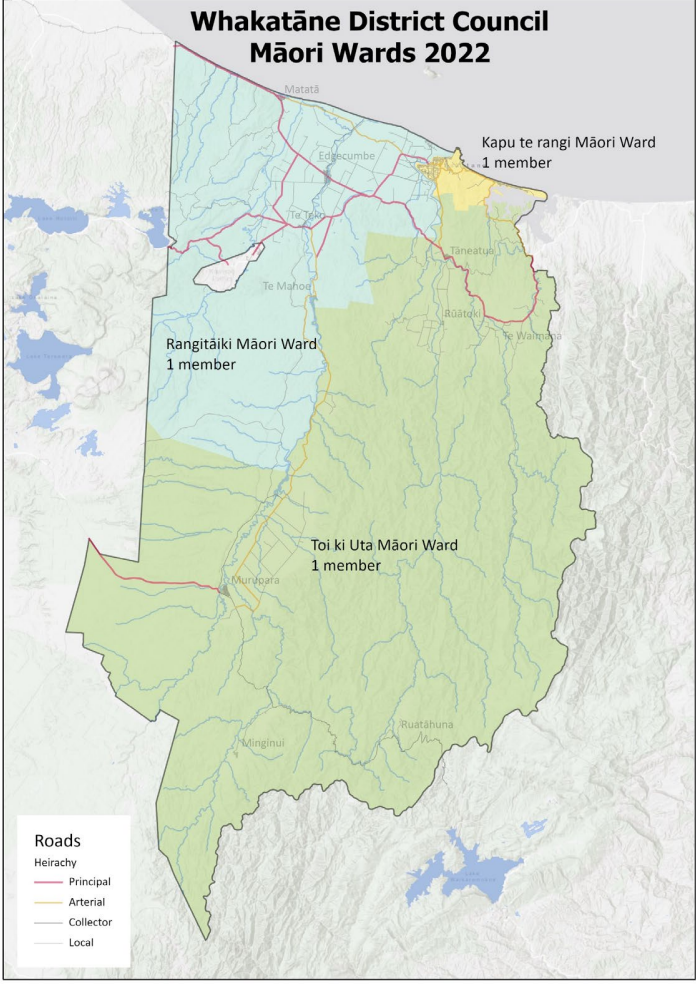
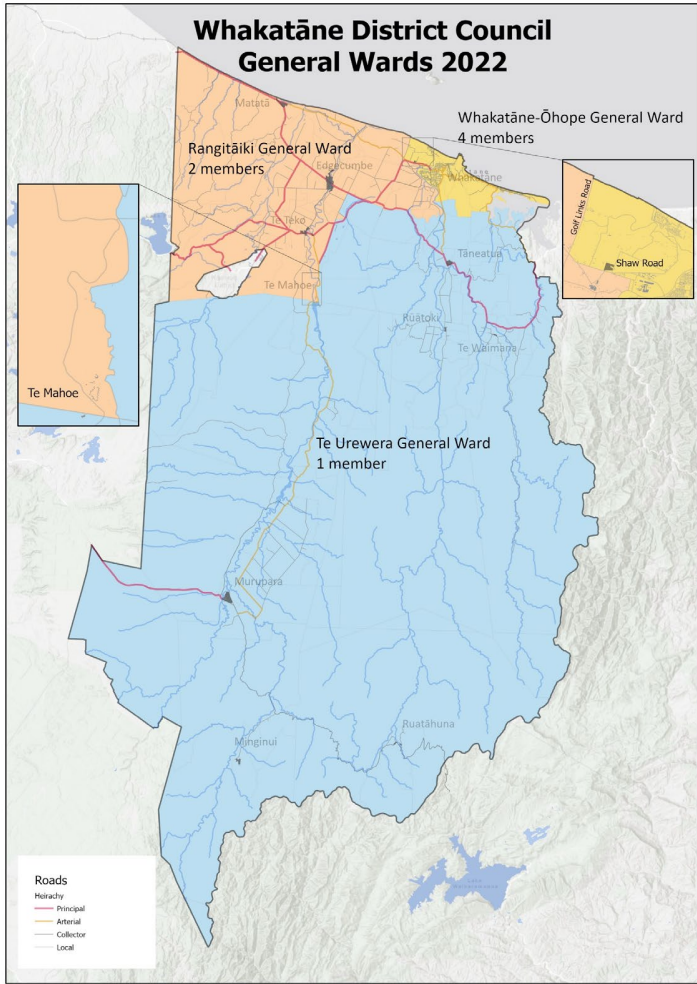
## BACKGROUND

- Triennial election to occur **Saturday 11 October 2025**
- Elections for:
  - Mayor
  - 10 councillors
    - Rangitāiki General Ward (2)
    - Whakatāne-Ōhope General Ward (4)
    - Te Urewera General Ward (1)
    - Rangitāiki Māori Ward (1)
    - Kāpū-te-rangi Māori Ward (1)
    - Toi ki Uta Māori Ward (1)
- Māori Ward Poll
- FPP (First Past the Post) electoral system
- 24 Community board members
  - Rangitāiki Community Board (6)
  - Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board (6)
  - Tāneatua Community Board (6)
  - Murupara Community Board (6)
    - Galatea-Waiōhau subdivision (2)
    - Murupara subdivision (3)
    - Te Urewera subdivision (1)
- Approximately 27,000 electors (+4.3% since 2022)
- Electoral officer Dale Ofoske from Election Services
- Deputy electoral officer Chirese Viljoen from Council





WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL





WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## TIMETABLE

- Nominations open: Friday 4 July
- Pre-election period: Friday 11 July – Saturday 11 October
- Nominations close: noon Friday 1 August
- Election signs display period (8 weeks): Saturday 16 August – noon Saturday 11 October
  - removed by Tuesday 14 October
- Voting period: Tuesday 9 September – noon Saturday 11 October
- Appoint scrutineers: by noon Friday 10 October
- Progress results: Saturday 11 October PM
- Preliminary results: Sunday 12 October
- Final results: by Friday 17 October
- Members go out of office/take office: Saturday 18 October
- Return of election donations & expenses forms: 12 December

5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer (Cont.)



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## ELECTORAL PRINCIPLES

- Representative and substantial electoral participation
- Fair and effective representation
- Reasonable and equal opportunity to:
  - nominate a candidate
  - accept a nomination
  - cast informed vote
- Public confidence in, and public understanding of, processes through:
  - regular election cycle
  - elections managed independently
  - protection of freedom of choice and secrecy of the vote
  - transparent electoral systems and voting methods
  - procedures that produce certainty in outcomes
- Local authorities and electoral officers must take into account principles in making decisions

5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer (Cont.)



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## MĀORI WARD POLL

- Where local authority established Māori wards/constituencies
  - since 2020
  - without undertaking poll
  - not dis-establish by 6 September 2024
- Must undertake poll with 2025 local elections
- Poll binding for two elections (2028, 2031)
- Likely question:
  - I vote to keep the Māori wards; or
  - I vote to remove the Māori wards
- Poll must use FPP electoral system
- Council must remain neutral on matter – can only promote process
- BOPRC not required to undertake poll on Māori constituencies (separate legislation)
- Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024





WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- Legislative changes 30 July 2024
  - longer voting pack delivery period (6 to 14 days)
  - longer voting period (22.5 to 32.5 days)
- Largely to reflect slow postal delivery service
- Means process starts earlier (4 July)
- Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024



5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer (Cont.)



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAMES

- Ability for local authorities to determine order candidate names on voting document
  - Alphabetical
  - Pseudo-Random
  - Random
- Resolution to be made Thursday 8 May meeting
- If no decision, defaults alphabetical
- Resolved random in 2022





5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer (Cont.)



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ROLE

- Requirement under Local Government Act for chief executive to:
  - 'Facilitate and foster representative and substantial elector participation'
- Achieved through effective communications/education strategy to:
  - Increase number and diversity of candidates
  - Increase voter participation
  - Include information about the Council, what it does, its relevance to the community and importance of participation
- Council's candidate information booklet (key information)
- Council's communication campaign
- Council placing more vote boxes in community (e.g. supermarkets) over voting period
- Reinforced by electoral principle: implement representative and substantial electoral participation



5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer (Cont.)



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## ELECTED MEMBER PROTOCOLS

- Pre-election period = 3 months before election day (11 July to 11 October)
- Certain protocols need observing, as elected members wearing two hats:
  - continue to govern and make decisions as elected members
  - as candidates campaigning for re-election
- Elected members to clearly differentiate between Council business and campaigning
- Council should not make any significant decisions in pre-election period
- Business as usual must continue

5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer (Cont.)



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## ELECTED MEMBER PROTOCOLS

- Council resources and technology provided to elected members
  - must only be used for Council purposes
  - must **not** be used for campaign purposes
  - examples include Council's mobile phones, computers, logo, website, Facebook page, communications, emails, premises, vehicles, copiers, use of support staff
- Council must not promote, or be seen to promote, prospects of any candidate, including current members in pre-election period
- Refer LGNZ/Taituara Good Practice Guidance (reviewed by OAG and DIA)



5.3 Local Elections 2025 Presentation - Electoral Officer (Cont.)



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## CANDIDATE REMINDERS

- Specific Council-owned sites for election hoardings
  - available 8-weeks before election day
    - from Saturday 16 August to noon, Saturday 11 October
    - must be removed 3-days after election day (Tuesday 14 October)
- All advertising material to be authorized (by candidate or agent)
  - must show contact details (physical address now not required)
- Limit to campaign expenditure (based on population of area)
  - e.g. Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board if pop 20,000-39,999 = \$20,000
  - limit includes GST
  - expenditure to include both before and during applicable 3-month period
  - keep all receipts (produce if required)



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



# 2025 TRIENNIAL ELECTION

COMMUNITY BOARD BRIEFING 6 MAY 2025

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer



**6 Updates from Each Community Board**

## **6 Updates from Each Community Board**

A representative from each Board will provide an update on the Board's recent activities and ongoing projects.

Members if you can please select an individual to provide this update prior to the meeting.