



Representation Commission
Via Email: representation.commission@elections.govt.nz

7 April 2025

Tēnā koe

Porirua City Council Objection to Kenepuru and Kapiti Electorate Boundaries and Names

Porirua City Council welcomes the opportunity to object to the Representation Commission's recent proposal for boundaries and names of the proposed Kenepuru and Kapiti Electorates.

We object to the proposal for the following reasons:

Proposed Boundaries not aligned with local government ward areas

The current proposed boundary between the Kenepuru and Kapiti Electorates mostly align with the boundaries of the Porirua City Council general wards (Onepoto and Pāuatahanui), however they differ in one area:

The suburb of Papakōwhai is within our Pāuatahanui General Ward, however in the Commission's proposed boundaries, Papakōwhai is the only suburb from the Pāuatahanui General Ward that is included in the proposed Kapiti Electorate. Please find attached a map of the Porirua City Council general ward boundaries, overlaid with the Commission's proposed boundaries for the Kenepuru and Kapiti Electorates.

This does not align with the communities of interest that we identified as part of our 2021 representation review, that was subsequently upheld by the Local Government Commission.¹

We believe that this difference will create significant electoral confusion for electors in Papakōwhai, as they will be the only residents of Porirua City whose City Council Ward does not align with their Electorate.

We know from experience that voters in North Linden, in the Wellington City Council area, suffer similar confusion at present, as they are the only area of Wellington City included in the current Mana Electorate.

We object to this boundary and ask that the Commission modify its proposal to include Papakōwhai in the Kapiti Electorate. We acknowledge that if moved to the proposed Kapiti Electorate, the population of Papakōwhai (being 2,300 people) will result in the proposed Kapiti Electorate exceeding the North Island quota.² We therefore recommend that the Commission examine the northern boundary of the proposed Kapiti Electorate.

¹ *Determination of representation arrangements to apply for the election of the Porirua City Council to be held on 8 October 2022*, Local Government Commission | Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe, 6 April 2022.

² Based upon the StatsNZ SA2 population of Papakōwhai of 2,300, if Papakōwhai was moved from the Kapiti to the Kenepuru Electorates as proposed, Kapiti would be +5.78% above the North Island quota, and Kenepuru would be -1.75% below the North Island quota.

Proposed Names for Kapiti and Kenepuru Electorates

We object to the names chosen for the proposed electorates for the following reasons:

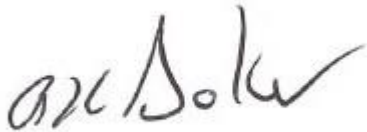
Kapiti does not reflect the electorate that is proposed to be made up of half of Porirua City. We suggest the current name of Mana is already well known, and more accurately reflects the area.

The name Kenepuru, being the name of one suburb of the proposed electorate, does not reflect the diverse nature of the proposed electorate's area.

We suggest the name of *Rangituhi*. Rangituhi is of significance to Ngāti Toa. It is a central geographic feature that can be seen from most of the proposed electorate.

We look forward to the Commission's final report and are happy to answer any questions that the Commission may have.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anita Baker'.

Mayor Anita Baker
Mayor
Koromatua

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Walker'.

Wendy Walker
Chief Executive
Tumuaki

Appendix One: Map of Porirua City Council general ward boundaries, overlaid with the Commission’s proposed boundaries for the Kenepuru and Kapiti Electorates.

