

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Rural Advisory Panel will be held on:

Date: Friday, 2 August 2024
Time: 12.30pm
Meeting Room: Level 26, Room 1
Venue: 135 Albert Street
Auckland

Ngā Hui a te Rōpū Kaitohutohu Take ā-Taiwhenua / Rural Advisory Panel

OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson	Cr Andy Baker	Auckland Council
Deputy Chairperson	Alan Cole	Franklin Local Board, Auckland Council
Members	Mike Bramley	Dairy New Zealand
	Jesse Brennan	Federated Farmers of NZ
	Philip Elworthy	NZ Forest Owners Association
	Trish Fordyce	National Forest Growers Levy Trust
	Tim Holdgate	Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council
	Steve Levet	Rural Contractors New Zealand
	Andrew McKenzie	Beef and Lamb New Zealand
	Brian Mason	Land Owners and Contractors Association (Wellsford)
	Annaliese Morgan	Young Farmers
	Linda Potauaine	Waitākere Ranges Local Board, Auckland Council
	Leanne Roberts	Horticulture NZ
	Cr Greg Sayers	Auckland Council
	Wayne Scott	Aggregate and Quarry Association
	Cushla Smith	Fonterra Shareholders Council
	Geoff Smith	Equine Industry
	Keith Vallabh	Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association
	Glenn Wilcox	Māori representative

(Quorum 10 members)

Phoebe Chiquet-Kaan
Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere / Governance
Advisor

29 July 2024

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Note: The reports contained within this agenda are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Members require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

Terms of Reference

(Excerpt – full terms of reference available as a separate document)

The terms of reference set out the purpose, role and protocols of the Auckland Council Rural Advisory Panel for the 2019-2022 term of the council. Panel members must abide by the Code of Conduct for Members of Auckland Council Advisory Panels.

Purpose

As one of council's engagement mechanisms with the rural sector in Auckland, the Rural Advisory Panel provides advice to the council within the remit of the Auckland Plan on the following areas:

- council policies, plans and strategies relevant to rural issues
- regional and strategic matters relevant to rural issues
- any matter of particular interest or concern to rural communities.

Outcomes

The panel's advice will contribute to improving the outcomes of the rural sector as set out in the Auckland Plan. The panel will provide advice through its agreed work programme.

Work programme

The panel must develop a work programme for the term. The agendas should be focused and aligned with the Auckland Plan and the long-term plan.

Submissions

The panel cannot make formal submissions to Auckland Council on council strategies, policies and plans, for example, the annual plan. However, the panel may be asked for informal feedback during a consultative process.

In its advisory role to the council, the panel may have input into submissions made by the council to external organisations but does not make independent submissions, except as agreed with the council.

This does not prevent individual members being party to submissions outside their role as panel members.

Review

The form and functioning of the panel may be reviewed prior to or after, the end of the year 2022.

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1 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies

Apology from Philip Elworthy, NZ Forest Owners Association, for absence.

2 Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga | Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

3 Te Whakaū i ngā Āmiki | Confirmation of Minutes

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) whakaū / confirm the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on [Friday, 3 May 2024](#), as a true and correct record.

4 Ngā Pakihi Autaia | Extraordinary Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
 - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
 - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

Chair's update

File No.: CP2024/10692

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To tūtohi / receive an update from the Chairperson, Cr Andy Baker.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. The chairperson will provide an update of relevance to the rural sector.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) tūtohi / receive the update from the chairperson.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Author	Phoebe Chiquet-Kaan - Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere / Governance Advisor
Authoriser	Warren Maclennan - Manager Regional, North, West and Islands Planning

Status Update on Action Decisions from the Rural Advisory Panel 3 May 2024

File No.: CP2024/05435

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To update the Rural Advisory Panel on action decisions made at the last meeting.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. The information provided below is a status update on action decisions only that were made at the Rural Advisory Panel meeting on 3 May 2024:

Resolution Number	Item	Status
RUR/2024/13	Enhancing Environmental Criteria to Prioritise Regional Unsealed Road Improvements	The Natural Environment Strategy team provided a memorandum to the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee in time for Long Term Plan considerations.
RUR/2024/14	Healthy Waters regular update	At the May Rural Advisory Panel meeting, members provided feedback on the initial definition scope for rural settlements

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note the status of decisions made at the 3 May 2024 meeting.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Phoebe Chiquet-Kaan - Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere / Governance Advisor Warren Maclennan - Manager Regional, North, West and Islands Planning
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Essential Freshwater update

File No.: CP2024/10252

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose of the report

1. To provide an update on the current government's review of the freshwater instruments within the former *Essential Freshwater* programme and a brief overview of Auckland Council's implementation during the review period.

Whakarāpopototanga matua

Executive summary

2. The prior *Essential Freshwater* programme encompassed several regulatory instruments that came into effect from 3 September 2020. Key regulatory instruments of relevance to this update include the:
 - National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM)
 - National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 (NES-F)
 - Resource Management (Freshwater Farm Planning) Regulations 2023 (FWFP)
 - Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020 (stock exclusion).
 - Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes Amendment Regulations 2020
3. With the Government's current regulatory review and reform programme, it is not clear where the national direction will land in relation to the NPS-FM and FWFP regulations. Given the breadth and scale of regulatory reforms being worked through, there is potential for changing timeframes and continued uncertainty through to 2025. Despite this uncertainty, some work will need to continue as needed, including where current legislation still requires council to implement specific regulations.

Guidance documents / reports published

4. Since the Rural Advisory Panel's last meeting, and as a result of the government still working through potential changes across multiple Essential Freshwater instruments, council staff are only aware of two relevant publications from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and no relevant publications from the Ministry of Primary Industries, as follows:
 - MfE - [Contaminant Loss Risk Index Tool: Technical document](#) (published 14 June 2024). This document supports the implementation of the Risk Index Tool. It describes the science underpinning the Risk Index Tool framework.
 - MfE – [Responding to the Overseer model redevelopment review: A guide for councils](#) (published 19 April 2024). This guide replaces the Responding to the Overseer review guidance published in July 2023.

Regulatory and planning updates

National reforms of freshwater instruments

5. Central government is working through, or have indicated an intent to work through, a wide remit of legislative review and repeal over their first term in office. This includes some changes to most of the instruments within the Essential Freshwater package, including the NPSFM, NES-F, FWFP and stock exclusion regulations. We anticipate uncertainty around the national direction of freshwater policy to remain through into mid-late 2025 at the earliest.

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6. On 27 June 2024 Auckland Council submitted on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill (the Amendment Bill). The Amendment Bill represented the first tranche of changes to the freshwater instruments. This included:
 - a) excluding Te Mana o Te Wai and the hierarchy of obligations within the NPSFM from resource consent application and resource consent decision-making processes
 - b) aligning the consenting pathway for coal mining with other extractive activities in natural inland wetlands and significant natural areas
 - c) deferring local authority obligations under the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity to identify new significant natural areas and include them in district plans for three years
 - d) removing stock exclusion requirements for low sloped land
 - e) repealing intensive winter grazing regulations within the NES-F
 - f) amendments to speed up processes for central government to prepare or amend national direction.

Auckland Council's submission on the Amendment Bill can be found as Attachment A.

7. As discussed in the May report, the government has initiated a review of the FWFP regulations. The review process has been separated into two workstreams: one reviewing pathways for industry assurance programmes and another reviewing the regulatory system. Auckland council has representation on the latter regulatory system review reference group. Council anticipate the Minister will receive initial advice on the amendments in quarter four of the 2024 calendar year. However, as an interim step, the government have indicated their intention to introduce legislation to remove the current regional council freshwater farm plan roll-out phasing.

NPS-FM implementation in the Auckland region

8. In March 2024 the NPS-FM Political Working Group endorsed a revised programme timeline that delays the notification of a freshwater plan change to around late 2026 or early 2027. This timing allows for consultation on a draft plan change that gives effect to the revised NPS-FM and is based on the government's expectation that the NPS-FM revision would be completed within two years. The plan change timing is subject to change depending on the timing and scale of change to the NPS-FM.
9. Recent work in the NPS-FM programme has focused on the council's approach to delivering the action planning requirements of the NPS-FM, and the development of issues and options reports relating to different areas of freshwater management.
10. Action plans can set out non-regulatory actions that complement a freshwater plan change to achieve the NPS-FM environmental outcomes and target attribute states. Action plans could include directing changes to internal council processes, such as compliance monitoring and enforcement capability and capacity. They could also include a wide range of other approaches, such as environmental monitoring and modelling, research, grants, advice, guidance, partnership agreements, asset management planning etc. It is intended that action plans will be developed at the same time as the freshwater plan change to the Unitary Plan. They will be developed across the council group and will include a framework to improve how actions are prioritised and coordinated.
11. The recommendations from the issues and options reports will feed into subsequent stages of engagement with mana whenua and stakeholders, and into plan change and action plan drafting.

12. Issues and options reports of particular relevance to the Rural Advisory Panel will include the reports on agricultural discharges, riparian management, onsite wastewater, land disturbance, and horticulture.
13. The next stage of stakeholder engagement on NPS-FM is currently planned for late 2024. This timing will be reassessed as more is learnt of the government's NPS-FM revision programme and on progress with the issues and options reports.

Freshwater farm plan regulations (FWFP)

14. With the review of the FWFP regulations still in process, most of council's FWFP implementation work remains on hold except for work on the catchment context, challenges, and values (CCCV) function.
15. Industry, central government, and the regional sector have all expressed support for farm plans to be based on the catchment level context. Various industry and regional sector positions communicated through the regulatory system review process have so far excluded any changes to the CCCV function or council's role in making CCCV available to farm plan writers. Therefore, staff are using the extra time provided by the regulatory review process to progress the CCCV implementation workstream. This includes the deferred submission of a business case for internal funding consideration in August 2024 to build a platform for communicating CCCV to rural interests.
16. Staff are also working with counterparts from Northland Regional Council to identify opportunities for aligning CCCV context and engagement where possible. Staff are currently planning joint mana whenua engagement focused on CCCV content and approach with the first hui expected to take place over August.

Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes

17. From 3 September 2024, landowners with a water take consent to take more than 10L/s and less than 20L/s will be required to comply with the Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes Amendment Regulations 2020. This means, measuring their water use every 15 minutes, storing their records, and electronically submitting their records to their council every day.
18. Council staff contacted all consent holders whose records indicate that they are impacted by these regulations in March 2024. Council staff continue to receive queries from consent holders and are currently ensuring that consent details are correct to enable compliance with these regulations. The next step is to issue reminders and engage with those we have not heard from.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) whiwhi / receive the Natural Environment Strategy staff update on central government's review of the freshwater instruments making up the former government's *Essential Freshwater* programme
- b) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note that council will need to continue implementation or temporarily pause some of the regulatory instruments within the former *Essential Freshwater* programme while government's revised priorities and work programme are being confirmed.

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Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A⇒	Resource Management Amendment Bill 1 submission	

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Andrew Bird - Senior Analyst Natural Environment Strategy Dave Allen - Manager Natural Environment Strategy
Authorisers	Louise Mason - General Manager Policy Warren Maclellan - Manager Regional, North, West and Islands Planning

Dairy Nitrogen Cap Reporting Regulatory Update

File No.: CP2024/10592

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose of the report

1. To inform the Rural Advisory Panel about Auckland Council's recent decision regarding the regulatory compliance approach to Nitrogen Cap regulations.

Whakarāpopototanga matua

Executive summary

2. In July 2021, the Synthetic Nitrogen Fertiliser Cap regulations, commonly referred to as NCap, came into legal effect with the aim of reducing nitrogen runoff into waterways from farming activities.
3. Subsequently, the Environmental Monitoring Unit began preparing for and implementing the new regulations.
4. The initial stages of implementation focused on engaging and communicating with the broader sector and industry, ensuring that the Council played its part in keeping stakeholders well-informed about the regulations.
5. Under the NCap rules, dairy farmers are required to submit detailed records of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser application on their farm to Auckland Council's Environmental Monitoring Unit by 31 July of each year.
6. The first records were required to be submitted by 31 July 2022.
7. Auckland Council's initial compliance approach focussed on education and providing support to farmers where needed.
8. In April 2024, the government announced plans to enhance the Freshwater Farm Plan and broader freshwater regulations through legislative reforms, aiming to make them more practical and cost-effective for farmers.
9. The Minister has directed a 'light touch' approach to the current regulations, with the anticipation of the upcoming changes.
10. There is currently uncertainty from central government regarding the specifics of these regulatory changes.
11. Consequently, the Environmental Monitoring Unit has decided to pause the implementation of the NCap regulations until further notice.

Ngā tūtohunga

Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note the revised compliance approach to the NCap regulations.
- b) tono / request that the information is distributed to industry stakeholders and farmers for their awareness.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Author	Robert Laulala – Manager Environmental Monitoring
Authorisers	Robert Irvine - General Manager Licensing and Compliance Warren Maclennan - Manager Regional, North, West and Islands Planning

Water quality projects in rural catchments

File No.: CP2024/09979

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose of the report

1. To update the Rural Advisory Panel on activities to improve water quality in rural Auckland delivered by the Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience department.

Whakarāpopototanga matua

Executive summary

2. The Wai Ora Partnerships team within the Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience department works with local boards, community organisations, and property owners to deliver projects that improve the mauri of waterways across Tāmaki Makaurau.
3. In addition, the team contributes to wider Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience department programmes through engagement, planning, and identifying strategic direction that can be operationalised by other teams within the department. This includes the Rural Prioritisation programme which some members of the Rural Advisory Panel provided feedback on in June 2024. This input has been included as drafting continues.
4. In the 2023 / 2024 financial year, the team delivered close to \$3.65 million in regionally funded projects in rural local board areas. Some examples of programmes delivered are the Waterway Protection Fund, Mahurangi programme and Catchment Group Enabling programme. This work is delivered in partnership with landowners, central government agencies, mana whenua, and community organisations. This regional funding complements water quality work programmes that are funded by local boards from their locally driven initiatives budgets such as the Papakura Stream restoration programme.
5. There is a regional budget of approximately \$3.2 million for continuation of these types of activities in rural areas in the 2024 / 2025 financial year. A full list of planned projects is included as Attachment A. This report highlights two key workstreams that have delivered noticeable benefits to rural waterways: The Fonterra Wetland Partnership Programme and Hill Guard programme. This work is funded through general rates, the water quality targeted rate, industry, and government. Further summary information on both programmes is provided below.

Fonterra Wetland Partnership Programme

6. The Fonterra Wetland Partnership Programme aims to reduce nitrogen entering the receiving environment. The programme is co-funded equally between Fonterra and Auckland Council water quality targeted rate, with a total budget of \$1 million for the 2023 / 2024 and 2024 / 2025 financial years.
7. The programmes focuses on the reversion (via fencing and planting) of 'wet paddock area' into thriving wetlands to treat nitrogen. Protecting and increasing planting in these areas enables natural processes in the plants, water, and soil that reduces nitrogen run-off. The Freshwater Management Tool was used to identify high risk catchments to target the programme. The wetland footprints were then assessed using the tool, to understand the predicted nitrogen catchment loads. The wetlands were then prioritised for funding based on their modelled treatment.
8. In total 19 wetlands in the Wairoa and Manukau Harbour catchments were allocated funding in 2023 and 2024, with 12ha of wetland expected to be protected and planted by July 2025. Modelling shows that this should result in a total of 3,000kg of nitrogen being treated, therefore reducing the impact of nitrogen on receiving environments such as waterways and ecosystems.

Hill Guard programme

9. The Hill Guard programme is co-funded between the Ministry for Primary Industries and Auckland Council. It focuses on funding and incentivising land interventions to target hill country erosion.
10. The total annual budget for Auckland is \$610,000, from 2023 to 2027, funded by the following annual contributions; Ministry for Primary Industries (\$150,000), Auckland Council (\$320,000), and land-owner contributions (\$140,000).
11. The first stage of this project involved a prioritisation framework to select a high priority test catchment. This prioritisation used geospatial analysis to investigate where soil loss is occurring from hill country erosion. The prioritisation also incorporated factors such as risk to the receiving environment and where opportunities for mitigation interventions were.
12. The Awhitu area in Franklin has been selected as the pilot region. The interventions, including fencing, afforestation and Kanuka space planting, will begin in November 2024. The aim of this pilot programme is to test the programme’s value and to deliver outcome-directed work to target erosion.
13. The pilot programme will fund 10 erosion control plans, resulting in approximately three kilometres of fencing, planting of 37,000 native plants to protect 45ha of eroding land through kanuka space planting or afforestation.

Next steps

14. Staff will present updates on the Hoteo Sediment project and Rural Settlements flood resilience initiative at the panel’s November 2024 meeting.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) whiwhi / receive the information on Healthy Waters activities in rural Auckland.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A⇒	Healthy Waters Operational Rural-based water quality programmes	

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Elizabeth Johnson – Principal, Wai Ora Strategic Programmes Maddison Jones – Senior Specialist, Wai Ora Partnerships
Authorisers	Parul Sood - Deputy Director Resilience and Infrastructure Warren Maclennan - Manager Regional, North, West and Islands Planning

Refreshing the Regional Pest Management Plan

File No.: CP2024/05533

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose of the report

1. To provide information on the development of the Regional Pest Management Plan 2030-2040 and to seek guidance on how to tailor upcoming early public engagement to suit the needs and interests of rural communities.

Whakarāpopototanga matua

Executive summary

2. Regional Pest Management Plans (RPMPs) are statutory plans that are created by all regional councils under the Biosecurity Act 1993, using rules and powers under the Act to coordinate pest management in the region.
3. Auckland Council has an existing Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030, which covers a wide range of pest (and pathogen) species (over 300 species in total), including weeds, mammals such as possums and feral pigs, turtles, birds, kauri dieback disease, wasps and marine pests.
4. Auckland's current RPMP is for the period 2020-2030. Several new pests, such as exotic caulerpa seaweed, freshwater gold clam and new weed species have emerged since the current plan was drafted. Auckland's changing climate, and evolving community perspectives, are altering patterns of risk and social views on some existing pests.
5. Biosecurity Act processes for creating RPMPs are lengthy, so it is necessary to begin reviewing the plan now, to ensure a new, fit-for-purpose RPMP is in effect when the current RPMP lapses in 2030.
6. As part of the preliminary information gathering phase, an initial phase of public engagement in November 2024 will test public views on a few high-profile new pests, and existing species where more understanding is needed of Aucklanders' current views. Key topics will include:
 - cat management, with a particular focus on threatened indigenous wildlife protection
 - pest-free islands, peninsulas and the regional journey towards Predator Free 2050
 - a clean anchor rule to help prevent the spread of exotic caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests
 - freshwater pests, including freshwater gold clam
 - pest management for climate resilience.
7. Council staff would like to deepen its understanding of the perspectives held by rural communities regarding these and other pest management issues.
8. For example, staff are aware that the rural community may have particular interests in these topics, such as:
 - cat management – toxoplasmosis, for which cats are the definitive host, places a substantial economic burden on the sheep farming sector, and consequently management of feral cats is of interest to many farmers
 - freshwater gold clam – the clam can rapidly clog irrigation and other water infrastructure

- pest management for climate resilience – council is targeting 30 species of pest plants for eradication from the region, several of which are primarily agricultural weeds. Extreme weather events, such as the Auckland anniversary weekend floods, pose a high risk of further spreading these weeds, thereby jeopardising eradication success.
9. In addition, members of rural communities are also involved in conservation activities, and are regular users of public open spaces and the region's natural environment, and will have views on how the environment should be managed.

Next steps

10. The council is seeking feedback from the Rural Advisory Panel about how the RPMP may be of interest to or affect Auckland's rural communities.
11. The council is also seeking guidance from the panel on how we best adapt our early engagement approach to suit the needs of rural Aucklanders.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendations

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) whiwhi / receive the update on the Regional Pest Management 2030-2040 review
- b) whakarite / provide feedback on how the RPMP may be of interest to or affect rural communities, and how we may best tailor our early engagement approach to suit the needs of rural communities.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A⇒	Regional Pest Management Plan Review: Beginning the process of creating a new RPMP by 2030 - Presentation	

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Author	Dr Imogen Bassett – Biosecurity Principal Advisor
Authorisers	Taryn Crewe - Acting Director Community Warren Maclennan - Manager Regional, North, West and Islands Planning

Joint Review of Auckland Transport and Auckland Council Traffic-Related Bylaws

File No.: CP2024/10489

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To inform the Rural Advisory Panel on the review of Auckland Transport (AT) and Auckland Council (AC) traffic-related bylaws.
2. To provide an opportunity for the panel to give their views on the development of options and proposed improvements to the Bylaws in August 2024.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

3. Both AT and AC have powers to make traffic-related rules in Auckland.
4. The current rules are set out in the AT Traffic Bylaw 2012, AC Traffic Bylaw 2015 and AC Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013 (vehicles on beaches). AT's rules apply to the Auckland transport system, while AC's rules apply to council land, such as parks and beaches.
5. AT and AC are working together to review the Bylaws and to identify any room for improvement.
6. The outcome of an investigation completed in July 2024 recommended that AT and AC could consider consolidating the many Bylaws to one traffic-related bylaw.
7. We have prepared a findings report and are ready to seek views from interested advisory panels in August 2024 to inform the development of options and proposed improvements to the Bylaws.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) whakarite / provide feedback on the joint review of the traffic related bylaw (see specific questions the panel may want to consider in paragraph 13 of the attachment).

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A⇒	Memorandum: Joint review of Auckland Transport and Auckland Council traffic-related bylaws	
B⇒	Auckland Transport and Auckland Council Joint review of traffic related Bylaws - Presentation	

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Andrew McGill, Group Manager Transport Network, Planning and Policy, Auckland Transport Paul Wilson, Senior Policy Manager, Regulatory Practice, Policy, Planning and Governance, Auckland Council
Authoriser	Warren Maclennan - Manager Regional, North, West and Islands Planning

Representation Review - Initial Proposal

File No.: CP2024/10280

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose of the report

1. To seek feedback from the Rural Advisory Panel on the Representation Review Initial Proposal.

Whakarāpopototanga matua

Executive summary

2. The council's Representation Review Initial Proposal has been notified for public submissions. Consultation runs from 8 July to 4pm on 8 August 2024.
3. The initial proposal includes:
 - ward boundary changes – particularly for some central Auckland wards and for North Shore and Albany wards to align ward and local board boundaries.
 - changes to subdivisions – a new subdivision within the Rodney Local Board area and changes to subdivisions in the Howick Local Board area alongside two additional board members.
 - minor local board boundary changes to better align community areas and reserves.
4. As part of the consultation on the representation review, communities are being asked for their views on how they can be better represented through local boards and the governing body.
5. Following public consultation and hearings, a final proposal will be developed and adopted in time for the 2025 elections.

Ngā tūtohunga

Recommendation/s

That the Rural Advisory Panel:

- a) whakarite / provide feedback on the representation review initial proposal for the 2025 elections
- b) whakarite / provide feedback on how rural communities can be better represented through local boards and the governing body

Horopaki

Context

6. Auckland Council's representation arrangements must be reviewed this year. The outcome will apply at the 2025 elections and the 2028 elections (unless the council decides to conduct another review for the 2028 elections).
7. Consideration of both the representation review and the optional local board reorganisation was carried out through the Joint Governance Working Party, which comprises both Governing Body and local board members. Recommendations were reported to the May and June Governing Body meetings for decisions.
8. At its 30 May 2024 meeting, the Governing Body decided not to progress with a local board reorganisation proposal for 2025 but changes may be considered in the future.

9. At its 27 June 2024 meeting, the Governing Body adopted the initial proposal for representation arrangements for the 2025 local elections in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001. This was publicly notified for submissions on Monday 8 July and will close on Thursday 8 August 2024.
10. Public consultation has included engagement with mana whenua and mataawaka, three public webinars including one focused on North Auckland and Rodney, drop-in information sessions in areas of most change and working with community partners to reach diverse communities.
11. The initial proposal (attachment A) details the changes outlined below:

Ward boundary / representation changes

12. Governing Body arrangements include 20 councillors elected from current wards with the following changes (see attachment A 'initial proposal' for maps):
 - i) all ward boundaries will be aligned with local board boundaries, including in the isthmus, except for the Eden Terrace area; this is currently in the Waitemata Local Board area but in the Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa ward and will remain as such to comply with the 10 per cent rule (outlined below)
 - ii) the boundary between the Albany and North Shore wards will move so that the Bayview area is included in the North Shore Ward and the boundary aligns with the local board boundary along Sunset Road
 - iii) where there is a minor boundary change for a local board the relevant ward boundary will be aligned with the new local board boundary unless stated otherwise.
13. These changes result in all wards complying with the 10 per cent rule except for the North Shore Ward which has a variance of 13.70 per cent. The decision to not comply is based on recognising the Sunset Road ridge as a historically strong community boundary. The variance could be made to comply with the 10 per cent rule by including all of Unsworth Heights in the North Shore Ward however this would join the Unsworth Heights community north of the Sunset Road ridge with communities south of the Sunset Road ridge. It would also lead to misalignment of the ward boundary with the local board boundary. The council is required to align ward boundaries with local board boundaries as far as is practicable.

Local Board representation changes

14. The current representation arrangements for local boards are retained except for the following changes (see the attached draft initial proposal for maps):
 - i) the subdivisions in the Rodney Local Board will be:
 - A) North Rural, 2 members
 - B) South Rural, 2 members
 - C) Warkworth, 2 members
 - D) Kumeū, 2 members
 - E) Dairy Flat, 1 member
 - ii) the total number of members on the Howick Local Board will increase from 9 members to 11 members. The subdivisions will be:
 - A) Howick, 3 members (no change)
 - B) Pakuranga, 3 members (no change)
 - C) Botany, 2 members (changed area)
 - D) Flat Bush, 3 members (new subdivision)

15. These changes result in subdivisions in all local boards complying with the 10 per cent rule except for the following local boards. The attached draft initial proposal sets out the reasons for the decisions on non-compliance:
- i) Hibiscus and Bays Local Board
 - ii) Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board
 - iii) Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board
 - iv) Franklin Local Board

Local board minor boundary changes

16. Boundary between Upper Harbour and Devonport-Takapuna local boards:
- i) all of Saunders Reserve will be in the Upper Harbour Local Board area.
17. Boundary between Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour local boards:
- i) the boundary will run along Sunset Road where it currently runs behind houses
 - ii) a parcel of land in the vicinity of Kereru Reserve will become part of the Upper Harbour Local Board area
 - iii) the residential area of Bayview that is north of Glendhu Road will go to the Kaipātiki Local Board area
18. Boundary between Puketāpapa and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki local boards:
- i) all of Taumanu Reserve to lie within the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area.

Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu Analysis and advice

19. At its February 2024 meeting, the Rural Advisory Panel indicated its support for rural representation and noted that in some of the more rural local boards, there was a sense that rural representation could be improved.
20. The council needs to take into consideration the following legal requirements:
- Fairness of representation which means that each elected representative should serve a similar number of people, with no more than 10 per cent difference across different areas within a local board.
 - Effective representation of communities of interest which has three dimensions: perceptual – a sense of belonging; functional – service provision; and political - representation.
21. The Governing Body resolved to consult on proposed new subdivision arrangements within the Rodney Local Board area. This would allow the council to address issues with fairness of representation that have been caused by growth in certain areas. The Wellsford subdivision does not have sufficient population to be compliant.
22. The Rodney Local Board considered a total of six options for addressing the non-compliance of subdivisions. The board resolved its support for two rural subdivisions: rural north (which incorporates the current Wellsford subdivision) and rural south.
23. The Franklin Local Board area also has issues with fairness of representation as the Waiuku subdivision does not have the population to be compliant. However, the local board determined that moving the boundaries to gain population from the Pukekohe subdivision would compromise communities of interest. The council proposes to keep the subdivisions as they are and to apply for non-compliance in this instance.
24. As part of the consultation, communities are also asked if they have any other feedback about how they can be better represented through local boards and the governing body.

Ngā koringa ā-muri Next steps

25. Submissions close at 4pm on 8 August 2024.
26. Hearings will take place during early September where submitters may speak to their feedback.
27. At its September meeting, the Governing Body will consider and adopt the representation review final proposal. This will be notified to the public and any objections or appeals can be made to the final proposal from 3 October to 3 November.
28. Changes will be made for the 2025 local elections.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A⇒	Representation Review Initial Proposal	
B⇒	Representation Review Feedback Form	

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

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