

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN KĀPITI – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

kapiticoast.govt.nz/reform





**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM AS
MANY RESIDENTS
AS POSSIBLE**

Introduction

This discussion document has been released by the Kāpiti Coast District Council to help find out how residents want their district to be governed in the future. This document seeks to stimulate discussion and identify whether you want changes to how local government operates in Kāpiti and what you broadly want that change to look like.

There are many ways that local government could be structured in the wider area. However in order to have a reasonably focussed debate we have identified four options that represent different degrees of change. Option 1 contains 2 sub-options. There is the opportunity for you to discuss other options if you choose.

Our four options range from keeping the current councils in place but making formal arrangements to share services across councils in the region, through to amalgamating all councils in the region into one unitary¹ authority – an Auckland-style ‘super city’.

Unless you are directly involved in some way, local government – what it does and how it works – can be a mystery to many people. Because we want to hear from as many residents as possible, and because everyone

is affected in one way or another by the services provided by local government, we have described the four options at a fairly high level, without too much detail. We have also consciously decided not to express either a preferred option or any views on the advantages and disadvantages of each option – we are asking the public to do that for us at this stage.

It is not our role to tell other parts of the region how they should be governed. However, while the people of Kāpiti are the focus of this discussion paper, we have described how the rest of the region might look under each of our four options. This is because any changes to elsewhere in the region will inevitably have an effect on local government in our part of the region.

¹ A Unitary Authority is a type of council that has a single tier and is responsible for all local government functions within its area – i.e. both regional council and local council roles are combined into one authority.

Overview – Four Options

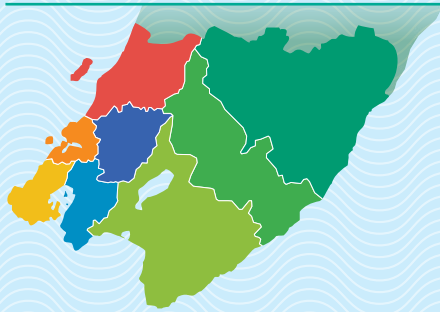
Kāpiti Coast District Council will consult on these options and on whether there is an appetite for reform as the first step in this reform discussion. Consultation starts on 25 June and runs until 20 July 2012.

At the same time we are also taking part in an independent public survey on the options, with other councils in the region.

Depending on your feedback and more detailed analysis of the options, in August we will have choices about what to do next:

- If the feedback is clear that there is little appetite for structural change, Kāpiti's Mayor and Councillors could decide to do no more than prepare a submission to the Local Government Commission on any other proposals which councils in the region may make; OR
- If it is clear that residents want change, Council could identify a preferred option and put that to the Local Government Commission, ideally in conjunction with other councils in the region. That would not be the end of public consultation – the Local Government Commission is required to consult with the public on any proposed changes.

The four options



OPTION 1A – shared services or collaborative model. No change to existing boundaries for councils, but we would agree to formally share or bring together the management of certain services.

The focus would be on cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale.

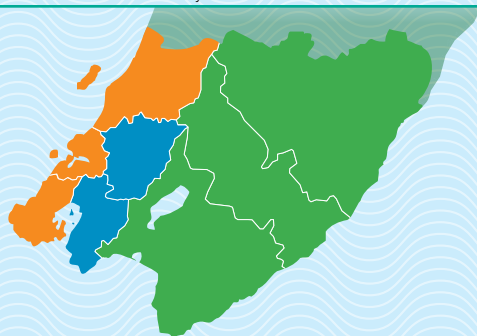
The Greater Wellington Regional Council would continue to exist.

OPTION 1B – Kāpiti Coast becomes a stand alone authority, called a unitary authority¹, retaining the existing four community boards. We would still agree with the other councils to formally share or bring together the management of certain services.

The new authority would continue with the current functions of our Council and assume the powers and functions of the Regional Council, including the provision of local bus services and management of the rivers. Co-operation on cross-boundary issues such as rail services and economic development would also be strengthened.

The rates that are currently paid by Kāpiti rate payers to the Regional Council would be paid to the new unitary authority to meet the costs of the extra work.

¹ A Unitary Authority is a type of council that has a single tier and is responsible for all local government functions within its area – i.e. both regional council and local council roles are combined into one authority.



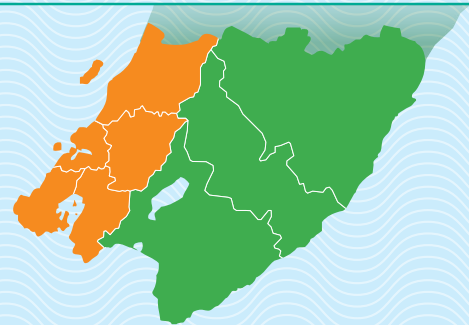
OPTION 2 – merge all existing councils into three unitary councils:

Wellington Capital and Coast Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua City and Kāpiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

Hutt Valley Council – combining Hutt and Upper Hutt cities into another unitary authority.

Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into a third unitary authority.

Greater Wellington Regional Council would be abolished and its services absorbed and in some cases jointly managed by the three new unitary authorities.

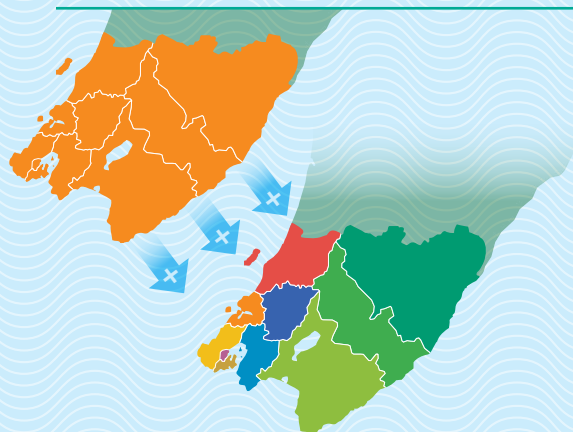


OPTION 3 – merge all existing councils into two unitary councils:

Wellington Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua, Hutt and Upper Hutt cities and Kāpiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into another unitary authority.

Again, the Regional Council would be abolished.



OPTION 4 – merge all existing councils into one council for the whole region, with 10 local boards elected to look after 'local' services. As with the new Auckland Council, this new single council would be the only entity that could set and collect rates, and would make the major decisions for the entire region.

Again, the Regional Council would be abolished.



Why is this discussion happening now?

The last time any major changes were made to the structure of local government across New Zealand was 1989. More recently, we have seen major changes implemented to how Auckland is governed, following the Government's decision to establish a Royal Commission on Auckland Governance. A number of councils, including the Auckland Regional Council, were merged to form a single Auckland Council – a unitary authority representing around 1.5 million people.

The Wellington area's Mayors and the Chairperson of Greater Wellington Regional Council, who meet regularly as the Wellington Mayoral Forum, have been considering the issue of governance for the past two years. As part of this work the Forum commissioned a study in 2011 on options for reforming local government in Wellington. With little public interest being shown in the matter at the time, the Forum decided to focus on investigating shared services across the region on matters such as water, waste, civil defence, economic development and the funding of key regional amenities.

Another reason for having this discussion now is that the Government has just announced a proposed series of reforms in the local government sector as part of its broader agenda for public sector reform in New Zealand. At the heart of these reforms is a response to the tough global economic environment and its impact on New Zealand, and consequently a drive for the public sector to provide better services with fewer resources in an effort to keep costs and public debt down.

The Government says these aims may be achieved through what it calls 'streamlined council reorganisation procedures' – put simply, speeding up and making more likely the amalgamation of local government entities in a given area. The Government considers that the amalgamation of councils is one way to reduce costs and provide better services.

The Government's proposals would remove the automatic right of the public to hold a poll on

whether or not amalgamation should proceed. Instead, 10% or more of voters in the affected area would have to sign a petition requesting a poll to be held. Even if a poll was held, the threshold for proceeding with reform would be lowered, with only a majority of the *total* area affected needed to approve the reform proposal, rather than the current majority in *each* affected area (i.e. a majority in each of Kāpiti, Porirua, Lower Hutt etc). In the past, amalgamation proposals have tended to fail because at least one of the affected areas has had a majority opposed to amalgamation – the latest example was the proposed merger of Tasman and Nelson councils in April 2012.

The Government has signalled that the Local Government Commission should have a preference for proposals that lead to efficiencies – which may favour proposals for bigger entities. It has also signalled a preference for proposals that streamline planning processes – which is likely to favour the abolition of regional councils and allocating their responsibilities to local councils, which would become unitary authorities. The current criteria, which require reform proposals to deliver overall better local government, look like they will remain in place.

The Government has stated that it aims to legislate for these changes by the end of 2012. This means they are clearly hopeful that some change can occur by the October 2013 local body elections.



How do things currently work in our region?

At the moment there are nine councils in the Wellington region – eight territorial local authorities (including Kāpiti Coast District Council) and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The eight local councils range in size from Carterton District Council – with one of the largest geographical areas and the smallest population (7,600 people) – through to Wellington City Council with just over 200,000 residents. In terms of size, Kāpiti Coast District ranks 23rd out of the 78 local authorities in the country with 48,000 residents. Wellington City is the third largest local authority after Auckland and Christchurch. Hutt City ranks seventh.

Jurisdiction	Population ²	Revenue \$	Operating Expense \$	Equity \$	Liabilities \$
Carterton	7,650	14,695,325	13,190,651	145,675,893	4,419,494
South Wairarapa	9,430	15,368,558	14,818,986	362,639,524	11,707,936
Masterton	23,500	36,377,147	32,918,936	669,497,810	37,240,684
Upper Hutt City	41,500	40,337,000	41,817,000	576,191,000	28,079,000
Kāpiti Coast	48,000	55,118,000	54,791,000	737,766,000	91,841,000
Porirua	52,700	63,645,000	66,960,000	1,083,993,000	63,209,000
Hutt City	103,000	127,189,000	126,138,000	1,151,909,000	122,757,000
Wellington	200,100	416,086,000	400,039,000	6,196,356,000	487,401,000
Regional Council	487,680	443,125,000	207,057,000	939,446,000	462,489,000

Kāpiti Coast District has a strong tradition of active community boards which make decisions about some local matters and provide input to the Council. Some other councils also have community boards.

As well as looking to the future and positioning their areas to meet the challenges of the future, local councils are responsible for the delivery of local services required by their communities. In most cases this includes waste collection, water (waste water, fresh water and storm water), maintaining the local roading network, parking enforcement, recreational facilities such as parks, sportsfields, swimming pools and stadiums, libraries, planning and consenting (e.g. District Plan rules outlining the rules for what can be built and where, and issuing resource and building consents), public space development and open space management such as visitor attractions.

Most councils also regulate and control dogs and other animals, liquor licences and food premises. In some cases councils also fund or provide services such as events, tourism promotion and economic development initiatives.

The Regional Council provides services that extend across local boundaries – it funds and manages public transport services and planning, builds and maintains flood protection works, is responsible for harbour safety, controls

pest plants and animals, monitors and regulates the use of the natural environment including waterways, air and land, and carries out land management to prevent soil erosion. The Regional Council also manages regional parks and reserves and supplies bulk drinking water to the four cities.

These lists are not exhaustive – they are intended to give you a sense of what a local council does compared with the responsibilities of a regional authority.

Within that broad separation of responsibilities, there are several examples of services being shared – either between local councils or in partnership with the regional council. In Wellington for example, economic development is currently funded by Greater Wellington Regional Council and managed in partnership with all the local councils in the region. Hutt, Upper Hutt and Wellington city all use a company called Capacity to manage the water network in their cities. Porirua and Upper Hutt are currently considering a proposal to join the ownership of Capacity.

² Population estimates to 2012, Statistics New Zealand

Implications of removing regional councils

Options one B, two, three and four in this paper involve abolishing the Regional Council and having the new councils absorb, and in some cases possibly share, the functions it currently carries out.

Many of these functions may be able to be absorbed and operated by any new unitary authorities proposed. For some functions, such as public transport and water, it may make sense to share the funding provision of services across the boundaries of the new unitary authorities. There are three basic ways that these functions could be shared:

- Council Controlled Organisations (CCO) – A CCO can be established by councils to jointly manage services across council areas. Capacity, which manages the water network for Hutt, Upper Hutt and Wellington city councils, is an existing example of this structure. The councils involved become owners and shareholders in the CCO, jointly have full appointment rights to its board, and set annual financial and performance expectations for the CCO. Each council can decide its own desired levels of funding and service according to its needs, priorities and financial circumstances.
- Joint committee – a committee can be established to jointly manage services across council areas, rather than through a separate organisation like a CCO. The committee is usually made up of Councillors appointed from the participating councils, and operating under delegated powers agreed by each council. The key difference from a CCO is that your elected representatives retain more direct day-to-day oversight of services, and staff remain employed by the local councils rather than devolving this role to a separate board and organisation.
- Contract for services – there are two ways a contract-for-services approach could work. In one instance, one council can employ staff and contract to the other councils to deliver a service on their behalf. For example, council A may contract to councils B, C and D to manage waste. Under this system, staff remain employed by a local council rather than a separate arms-length organisation. Alternatively, councils could jointly contract a private provider to undertake services on their behalf.



In practice, there may be a mix of these approaches taken depending on the nature of the service and the identified needs and priorities of the region. For example the new unitary councils under options one B, two and three in this paper could take on more responsibility for public transport in their areas, but have a joint committee to ensure that cross-boundary public transport issues are managed in liaison with central government agencies.



Things to think about when considering the options

On the right is a list of factors that you may wish to consider when deciding if you want changes to local government in the region and which option you broadly support the most. Not all of these factors will necessarily lead you to the same preferred option – it is up to you to decide which of these (or other) factors are most important to you in coming to your conclusions:

-
- **How much change is required** – does the existing local authority system in the Wellington region work pretty well, or do you think it needs to change? If it does need to change, should it have a complete overhaul or some minor modification?
-
- **Cost, efficiency and rates** – which option would keep your rates down the most, or alternatively provide the best value for money? Bear in mind that each council charges different rates according to its needs, residents' and commercial property values and the ability of its community to pay. Your rates are likely to change under any proposed amalgamation.
-
- **Effectiveness** – which option would be the most effective? This can mean different things to different people – for example looking after your sportsfields or libraries, positioning your area for a successful future, or working with and lobbying the Government and other key organisations.
-
- **Local identity** – which option best reflects your sense of identity? Do you see yourself governed in terms of your neighbourhood, your immediate city, or part of a bigger community?
-
- **Democracy and representation** – do you prefer localised representation for your area on all matters to do with local government, or are you comfortable having less direct representation and being part of a bigger community?
-
- **Layers of local government** – the Local Government Commission is likely to be given a steer by the Government to prefer changes that remove layers of governance.
-
- **Viability** – for options 1B, 2 and 3 (see submission form), how would the newly merged councils manage absorbing the functions currently run by the Regional Council?

What are the four options?

We have developed four options for you to consider.

These options range from keeping the current boundaries and representative arrangements in place but making formal arrangements to share services across councils in the region, through to amalgamating all councils in the Wellington region into one unitary authority – a ‘super city’. There are many more options, but these are the options we think best represent a range of potential changes that could be made to how local government in the wider Wellington region is structured.

The options are described at a fairly broad level at this stage, so the public can engage on the discussion without getting bogged down in too much detail. If a preferred option (or options) emerges, we would develop that into a more detailed proposal for consideration.

We have also decided not to lay out what we consider to be the advantages or disadvantages of each option, nor have we signalled a preferred option as Kāpiti Coast District Council has not yet debated what its preferred option might be. We have taken this approach because we want to understand where the public sits on this issue as part of informing a preferred position.

At the end of the section outlining the options, we have included information on how you can make your submission.



WELLINGTON

LOWER
HUTT

UPPER
HUTT

PORIRUA

KĀPITI
COAST

SOUTH
WAIRARAPA

CARTERTON

MASTERTON

Option 1A: Shared services

This option would see most or all of the nine councils remaining in place, including the Regional Council. You would still have your local council as you know it.

Overview of councils under Option 1A and 1B³

Jurisdiction	Population ⁴	Revenue \$	Operating Expense \$	Equity \$	Liabilities \$
Carterton	7,650	14,695,325	13,190,651	145,675,893	4,419,494
South Wairarapa	9,430	15,368,558	14,818,986	362,639,524	11,707,936
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Regional Council	487,680	443,125,000	207,057,000	939,446,000	462,489,000

The key difference between this option and the existing local government arrangements for the region is that councils would enter into more shared-service arrangements with each other in an effort to provide more effective and efficient services. At the moment, there are examples of shared services across the region – water, waste, economic development, civil defence and possibly funding of regional amenities – but the bulk of services are provided individually by each Council.

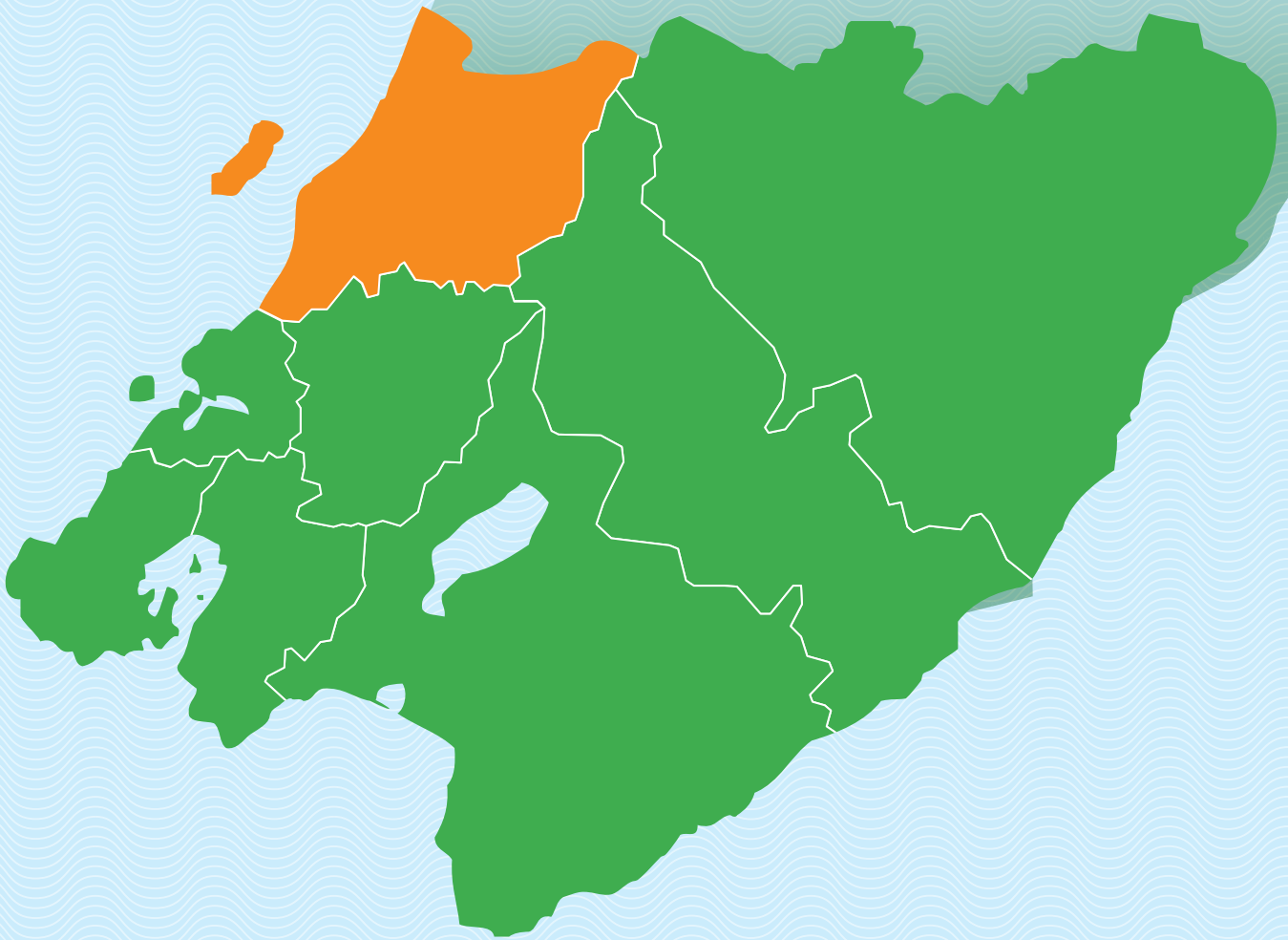
Shared services could involve ‘back office’ functions such as finance, information technology and human resources, or front line services such as roading maintenance, water, waste, parks, recreational facilities and libraries.

Councils would retain responsibility and representation for their existing local areas, the right to tailor the level of service to its community, and the general powers of competence allowed under local government legislation.

This option would not require a change proposal to be presented to the Local Government Commission. If the public’s preference was for this model over other models, including the status quo, councils would have to agree to move to formalising this shared services or collaborative model, based on a mandate from the public that this is the direction you want your council to move towards.

³ Income, OPEX and equity figures based on 2010/11 annual reports

⁴ Population estimates to 2012, Statistics New Zealand



Option 1B: Kāpiti Coast stands alone as a unitary authority

This option would see a new council formed for the Kāpiti Coast which would do the work of both the local and regional councils. The number of councillors would stay about the same and community boards would be retained. This option could be implemented regardless of what happens elsewhere in the Wellington region.

There are two key differences between this option and the current arrangement:

- The new council would enter into more shared service arrangements with other councils in an effort to provide more effective and efficient services. Shared services could involve “back office” functions such as finance, IT or human resources, or front line services like roading maintenance, water maintenance, waste management, parks, recreational facilities and libraries
- The existing Regional Council would no longer have any involvement with the Kāpiti Coast. Its functions would be taken over by the new council. Rates currently paid to the Regional Council would be paid to the new Kāpiti Coast Council to cover the additional work taken over from the Regional Council such as management of the major rivers, pest control and public transport

A decision in Kāpiti to “go it alone” would have little effect on the rest of the region because Kāpiti has far fewer cross-boundary issues than any of the other councils. Its water catchments are self-contained and apart from rail services, its public transport services by and large cover only the district itself. State highways and the forest parks do cross the district’s boundaries but these are managed for the most part by central government departments, not other councils so those relationships would not change.

Given the cross-boundary nature of our commuter rail system, there would still have to be some form of shared governance arrangement put in place such as a council controlled organisation or a joint committee of councillors.

Overview of the new Kāpiti Coast Council

Jurisdiction	Population ⁵	Equity \$	Liabilities \$	RPC \$ ⁶	EPC \$ ⁷
Kāpiti Coast Council	48,000	737,766,000	91,841,000	1148	1141

Under this option only the new Kāpiti Coast Council, as a unitary authority, would have the power to decide and allocate rates. It would oversee strategic matters, much in the same way that arrangements now work in Auckland, Gisborne, Marlborough, Tasman and Nelson.

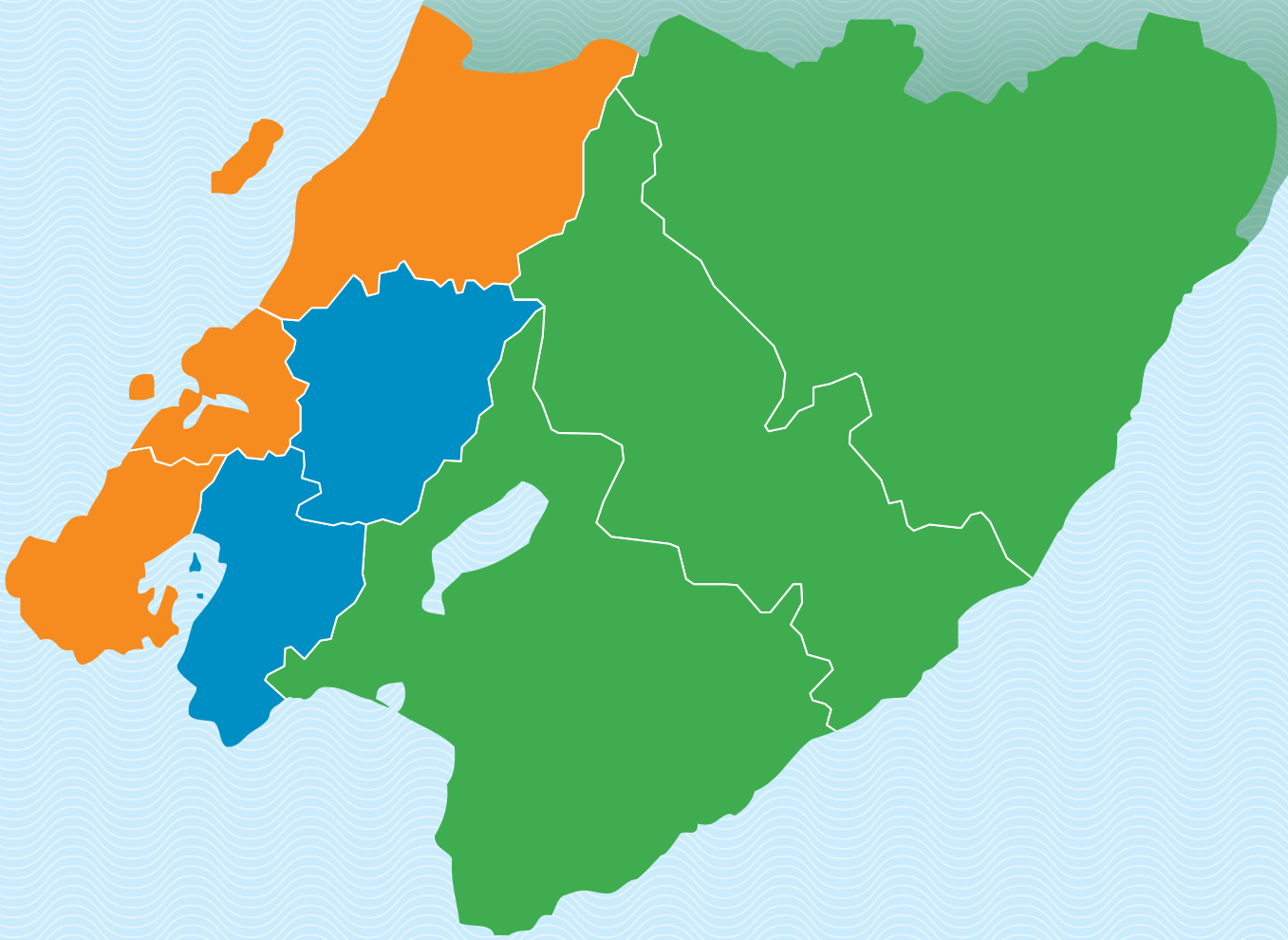
Representation on the new council would probably continue as now with a council of 11 elected members:

1. Five councillors elected at large
2. 1 councillor elected from each of the Ōtaki, Waikanae and Raumati/Paekākāriki wards
3. 2 councillors elected from the Paraparamu ward.

The Mayor of the proposed new Kāpiti Coast Council would be elected at large, giving a total of 11 members.

Local (community) boards would continue as at present with members elected to oversee ‘local’ services, but they would not have the authority to set or collect rates.

⁵ Based on population estimates to 2012, Statistics New Zealand
⁶ Estimated revenue per capita
⁷ Estimated expense per capita



Option 2: Nine councils are reduced to three

This option would see the nine existing councils in the region replaced by three unitary councils:

- **Wellington Capital and Coast Council** – combining Wellington City, Porirua City and Kāpiti Coast District into one unitary authority
- **Hutt Valley Council** – combining Hutt and Upper Hutt cities into another unitary authority
- **Wairarapa Council** – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton Districts into a third unitary authority.

The Regional Council would be abolished, and its services absorbed, and in some cases jointly managed, by the three new councils which would become unitary authorities – which means they are responsible for both local and regional council services in their area.

Overview of councils under Option 2⁸

Jurisdiction	Population ⁹	Equity \$	Liabilities \$	RPC \$ ¹⁰	EPC \$ ¹¹
Wairarapa	40,580	1,177,813,227	53,368,114	1637	1501
Hutt	144,500	1,728,100,000	150,836,000	719	1162
Wellington	302,600	8,018,115,000	642,451,000	1767	1724

The new Wellington Capital and Coast and Hutt Valley councils would be respectively the third and fourth equal (with Hamilton City) largest local or unitary authorities in New Zealand.

As well as the reduction in the number of councils in the region, and the fact that wherever you live in the region you would be part of a new and larger local government area, a key difference from the current local government arrangements is that the Regional Council would not exist under this model.

Its functions would be taken over by each of the three new councils, and in some cases the three new councils may have to make arrangements to jointly operate some services, such as public transport and water supply.

In the case of funding and overseeing public transport arrangements, many aspects of these services may be able to be overseen by each council, however given the trans-boundary nature of our public transport system there would still have to be some form of shared arrangements, such as a council controlled organisation, a joint committee of councillors across the three entities, or a lead council – as outlined earlier in this document.

More analysis is needed to understand how much representation each area should have

under these three new councils. As a guide, on a per-capita basis and assuming 15 councillors (including the Mayor) for each council, the following number of councillors would be elected by voters in each area for the three new unitary authorities:

- **Wellington Capital and Coast Council** – Wellington City (9), Porirua City (2–3), Kāpiti Coast District (2–3), plus a Mayor
- **Hutt Valley Council** – Hutt City (10) and Upper Hutt City (4), plus a Mayor
- **Wairarapa Council** – Masterton (8), South Wairarapa (3) and Carterton (3), plus a Mayor.

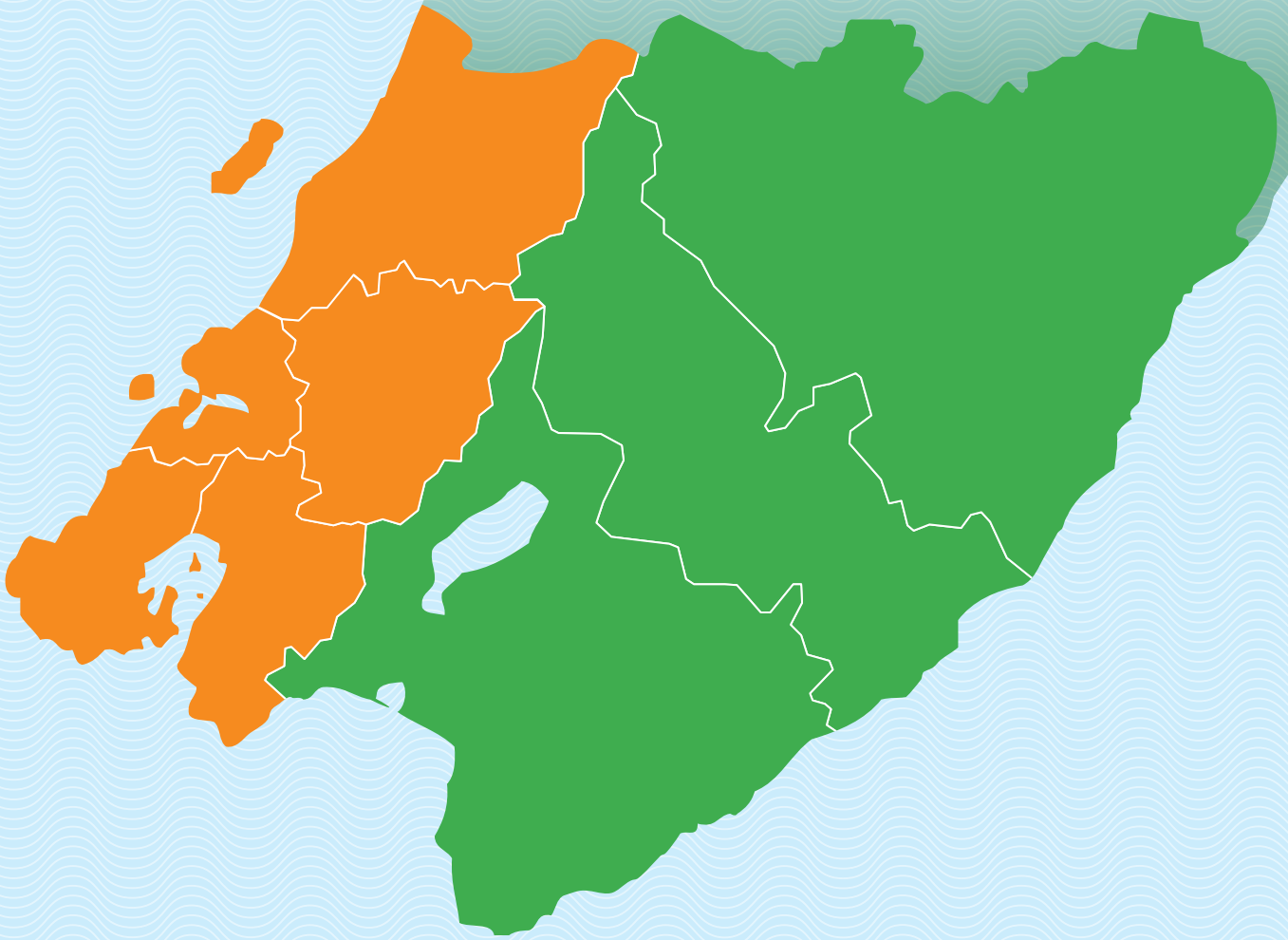
Consideration would have to be given as to whether community board structures would be needed, if the public wanted councils to merge as per this option but also wanted another layer of local community representation. In Kāpiti, we currently have four community boards – Paekākāriki, Paraparaumu/Raumati, Waikanae and Ōtaki – to represent local area interests. These bodies have no powers to charge rates, nor do they have any regulatory or policy authority.

⁸ Income, OPEX and equity figures based on 2010/11 annual reports

⁹ Population estimates to 2012, Statistics New Zealand

¹⁰ Estimated revenue per capita

¹¹ Estimated expense per capita



Option 3: Nine councils are reduced to two

This option would see the nine existing councils in the region replaced by two unitary councils:

- **Wellington Council** – combining Wellington, Porirua, Hutt and Upper Hutt cities and Kāpiti Coast District into one unitary council
- **Wairarapa Council** – combining all of the councils in the Wairarapa – South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton districts – into another unitary council.

Overview of councils under Option 3¹²

Jurisdiction	Population ¹³	Equity \$	Liabilities \$	RPC \$ ¹⁴	EPC \$ ¹⁵
Wairarapa	40,580	1,177,813,227	53,368,114	1637	1501
Wellington	447,100	9,746,215,000	793,287,000	1570	1542

The new Wellington Council would be the second largest local authority in New Zealand, behind Auckland Council, and ahead of Christchurch City Council (367,000).

As with option 1B and option 2, the Regional Council would be abolished and its services absorbed, and in some cases jointly managed, by the two new councils which would become unitary authorities. Option 2 provides more information on how this might be managed in practice.

The key difference between this option and option 2 is that all of the councils on the western side of the Rimutaka Hills (broadly speaking the 'urban' councils) would be merged into one council, rather than two councils.

As with option 2, more analysis is needed to understand how much representation each

area should have under these two new unitary councils, and whether some form of more local representation, such as a community board, would be wanted.

As a guide, on a per-capita basis and assuming 15 councillors (including the Mayor), the following number of councillors would be elected by voters in each area for the two new unitary authorities:

- Wellington Council – Wellington City (6), Porirua City (2), Kāpiti Coast (2), Hutt City (3) and Upper Hutt City (1), plus a Mayor
- Wairarapa – Masterton (8), South Wairarapa (3) and Carterton (3), plus a Mayor.

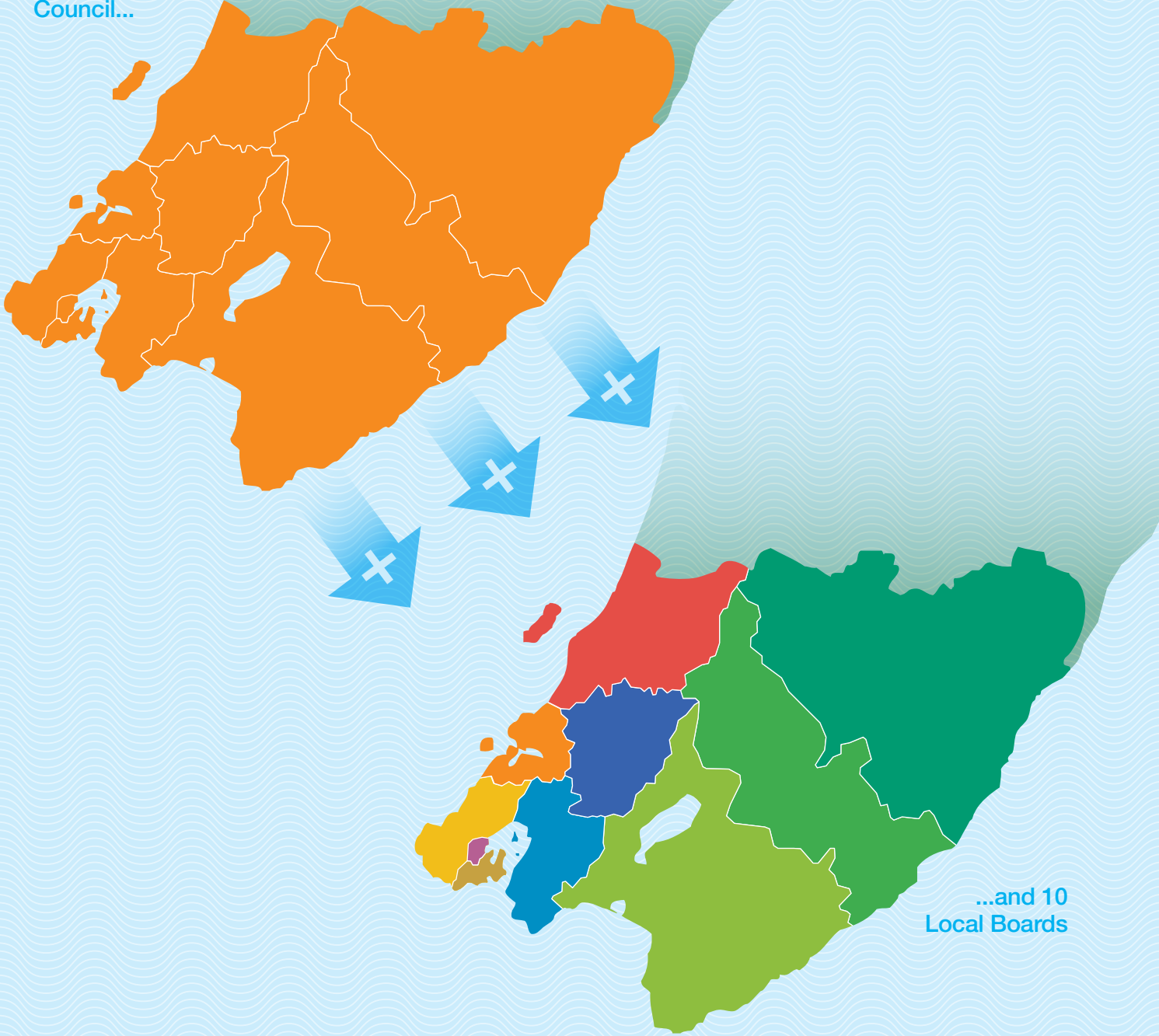
¹² Income, OPEX and equity figures based on 2010/11 annual reports

¹³ Population Estimates to 2012, Statistics New Zealand

¹⁴ Estimated revenue per capita

¹⁵ Estimated expense per capita

One
Wellington
Council...



...and 10
Local Boards

Option 4: Nine councils become one plus 10 (a ‘Super City’)

This option is that as broadly proposed by a group of councillors from the Greater Wellington Regional Council, before that Council subsequently agreed to establish an independent panel to examine local government in the Wellington region. The full description of this option can be obtained by contacting Greater Wellington Regional Council.

It involves a new two-tier system of local government for the region. A new council (the ‘Wellington Council’) would be established as a unitary authority to govern the whole of the Wellington region, with 10 Local Boards established. The 10 Local Boards would reflect the existing local authorities in the region. However the group of regional councillors propose splitting the Wellington City area (with 200,000 people) into three Local Boards. Lower Hutt, with just over 100,000 people, would remain intact.

Overview of the new Wellington Council for the whole region¹⁶

Jurisdiction	Population	Equity \$	Liabilities \$	RPC \$ ¹⁷	EPC \$ ¹⁸
Wellington Council	487,680	10,924,028,227	846,655,114	1576	1539
Local Boards	Details to be determined				

Under this option only the new Wellington Council, as a unitary authority, would have the power to decide and allocate rates. It would oversee strategic matters, much in the same way to how arrangements now work in Auckland. As with the Wellington Council outlined in option 3, the new Wellington Council under this option, with 487,000 residents, would be the second largest authority in the country behind Auckland (1.5 million).

The proposal as outlined by the Greater Wellington Regional Council group indicates that the following representation would occur with a new Wellington Council of 11 elected members:

- Wairarapa, Porirua and Kāpiti – 1 representative each
- Hutt City and Upper Hutt – 3 representatives combined
- Wellington City – 4 representatives

The Mayor of the proposed new Wellington Council would be elected at large, giving a total of 11 members.

Councillors would be elected on to the 10 Local Boards to oversee ‘local’ services, but would not have the authority to set or collect rates. What constitutes a local service, rather than a regional service, would need to be worked through.

In Auckland, the 21 Local Boards have decision-making responsibility for such things as the use of local recreation facilities, community funding and grants, local environmental initiatives, Business Improvement District programmes, and setting fees and charges for a number of local activities. Howick, the largest Local Board with a population of 130,000, has a budget of around \$30 million. Links to each Local Board’s draft 2012/13 Plan is available through the Auckland Council website www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Local boards would also have elected representatives, which is likely to mean approximately 150 elected members serving on the 10 boards (based on the number of elected representatives in place on local councils, which are proposed to be reformed into the Local Boards).

Rates would be a matter of policy for the new Wellington Council to determine – including on what basis rates would be charged. The legislation creating the new Auckland super city stated that residential rates would be decided on capital value. Whichever system is put in place, as with options two and three, clearly there will be ‘winners’ and ‘losers’ with any new rating system.

¹⁶ Income, OPEX and equity figures based on 2010/11 annual reports and excludes GWRC figures

¹⁷ Estimated revenue per capita

¹⁸ Estimated expense per capita

Have your say

We encourage you to have your say and make a submission on whether you think changes are needed to the local government scene in the Wellington region. If you do want change, tell us why and which of the four options you prefer. You may also decide there is a better option than the four we have outlined here.

How to make your submission:

- ▶ Visit our website – kapiticoast.govt.nz/reform – and fill out the online form; OR
- ▶ Use the pull-out submission form enclosed, write your comments on the centre pages, then fold, fasten and send via Freepost (you don't need a stamp); OR
- ▶ Get a copy of the full Local Government Reform in Kāpiti booklet from the Service Centres at Kāpiti Lights, Waikanae Library or Ōtaki Library, or from your local library, or phone us on 296 4700 and we'll post one to you; OR
- ▶ Email us your thoughts at reform@kapiticoast.govt.nz OR
- ▶ Write to us at:
Kāpiti Coast District Council
Private Bag 60601
Paraparaumu 5254
Attention: Governance Reform

What happens next?

Submissions close on 20 July 2012. When we have received all the submissions, we will analyse them and make the results public.

We will also hold a telephone survey to gauge your views on this issue (because of the Government's tight timeframes for this process, there will be no hearings of submissions by Kāpiti Coast Councillors).

Council staff will then produce a report to Kāpiti Coast District Councillors in August 2012 recommending any next steps. Depending on your feedback and more detailed analysis of the options, we should have two choices about what to do next:

- If the feedback is clear that there is little appetite for structural change, Kāpiti's Mayor and Councillors could decide to do no more than prepare a submission to the Local Government Commission on any other proposals which councils in the region may make; OR
- If it is clear that residents want change, Council could identify a preferred option and put that to the Local Government Commission, ideally in conjunction with other councils in the region. That would not be the end of public consultation – the Local Government Commission is required to consult with the public on any proposed changes.







**WE WANT YOU
TO HAVE YOUR
SAY ABOUT THE
FUTURE OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
IN KĀPITI AND HOW
YOU THINK IT SHOULD
BE GOVERNED. IS
CHANGE NEEDED?
HAVE YOUR SAY.**

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?



Kāpiti Coast District Council
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