Community feedback on proposed representation arrangements

20 October 2021
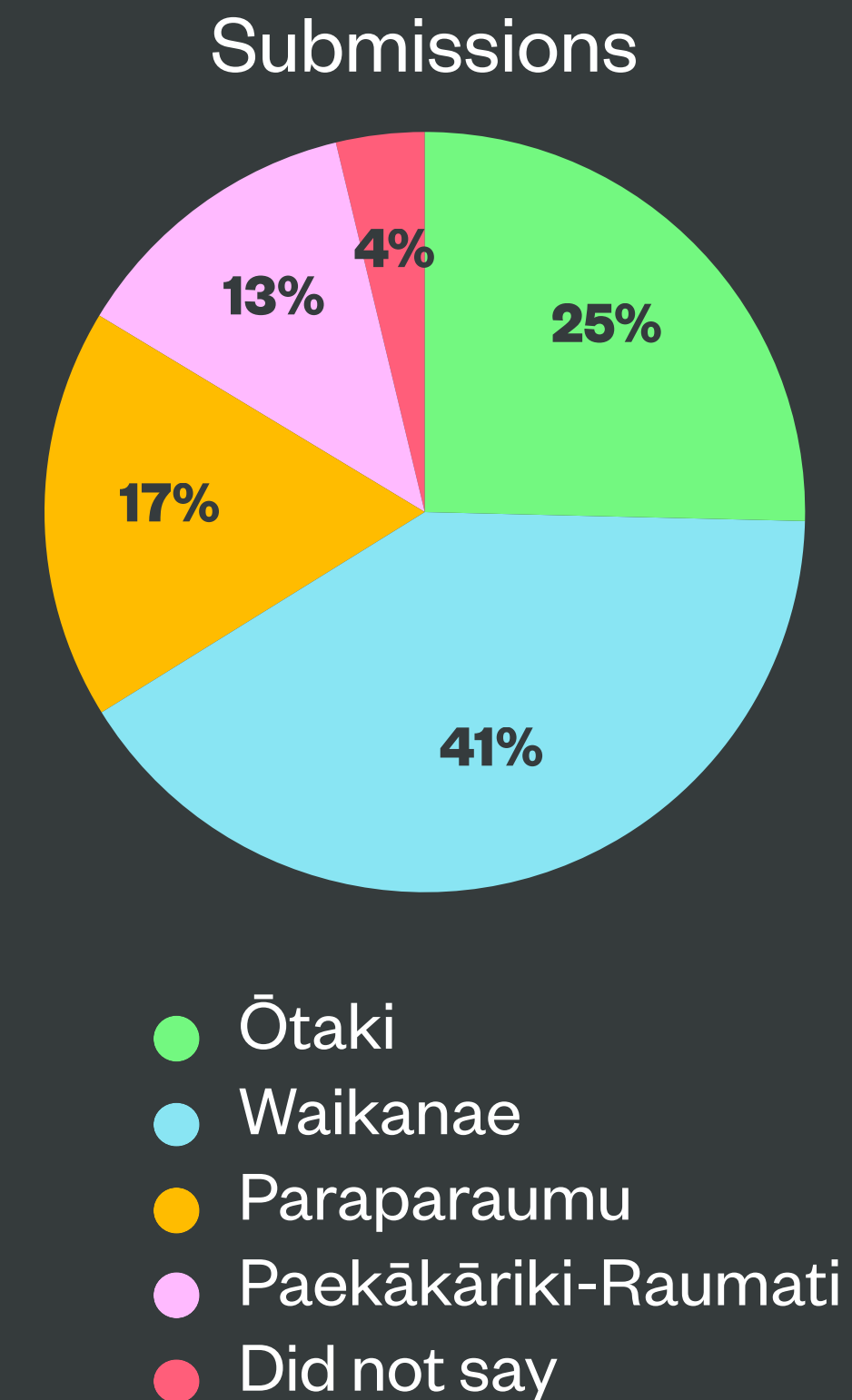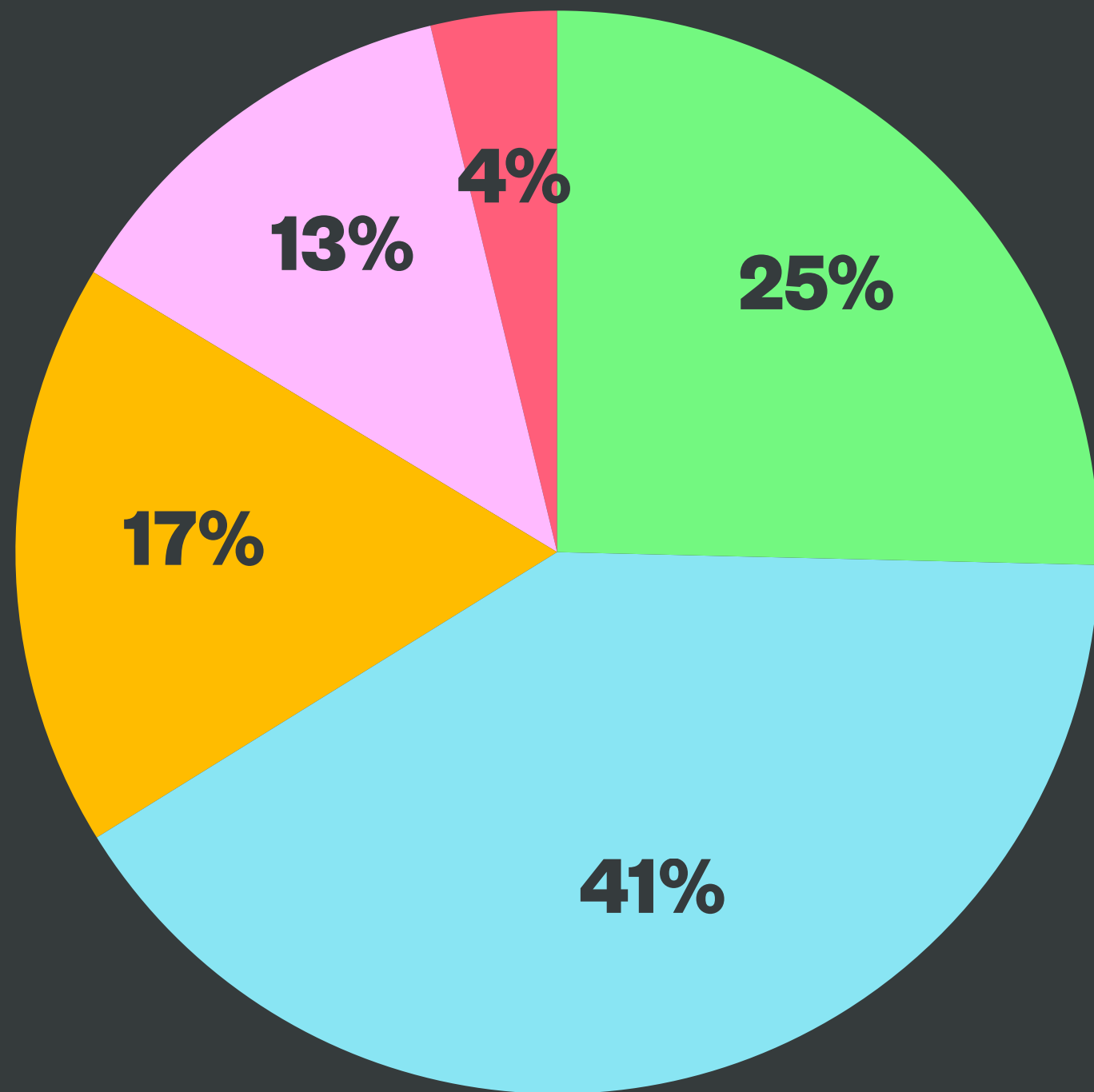
Empathy

About this presentation

- A summary of feedback on the proposed arrangements
- Adds to our understanding of the community perspective — one of several important considerations when shaping rep. arrangements
- Overarching themes, answers to specific questions, key take-aways for iterating the arrangements
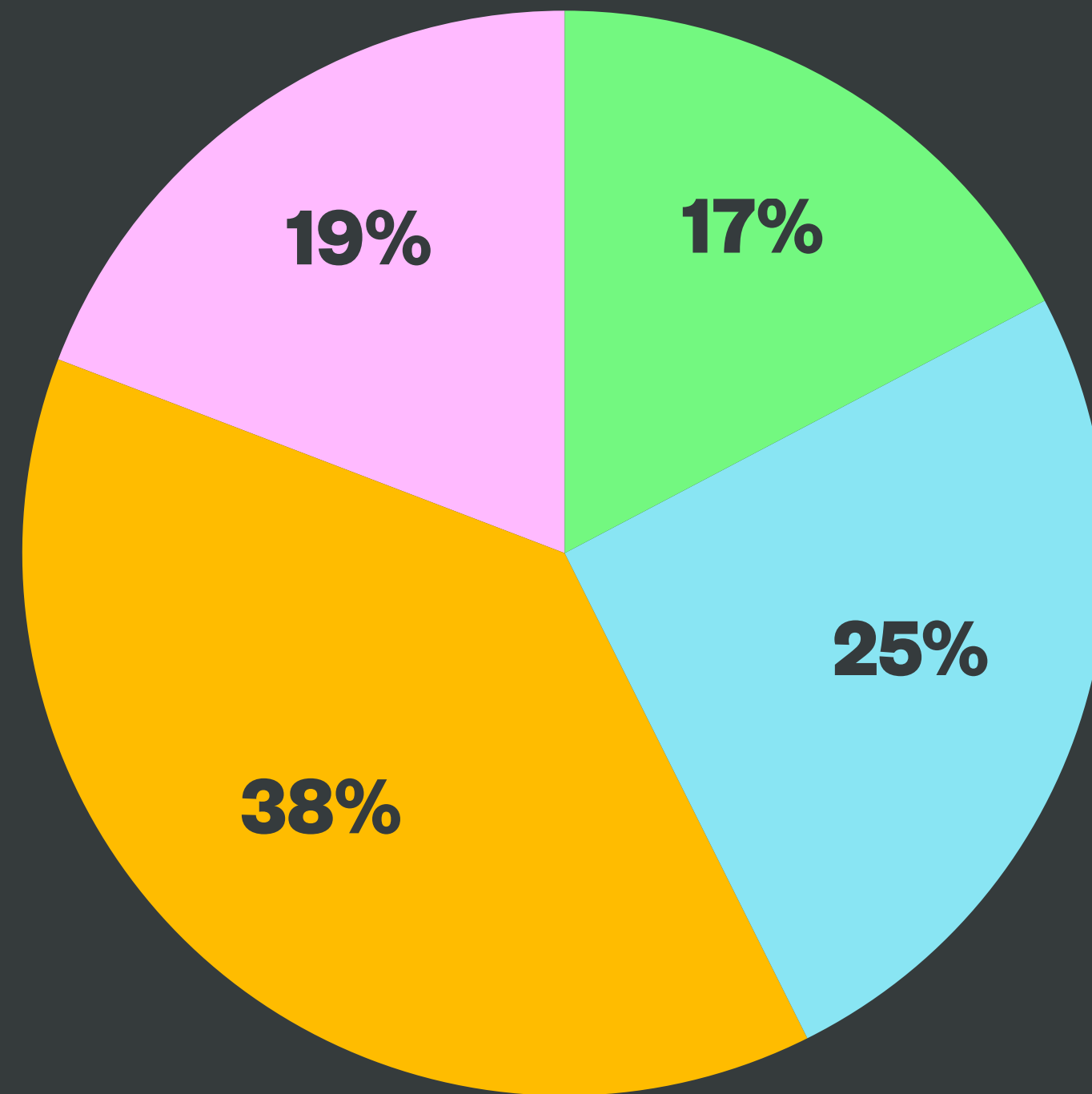
About the respondents

- 532 submissions in total

- About 55% through 'Have your say'

- 22 from groups or organisations

Submissions

25%

4%

13%

17%

41%

- Ōtaki
- Waikanae
- Paraparaumu
- Paekākāriki-Raumati
- Did not say

Submissions

- Ōtaki: 25%
- Waikanae: 41%
- Paraparaumu: 17%
- Paekākāriki-Raumati: 13%
- Did not say: 4%

Population

- Ōtaki: 17%
- Waikanae: 25%
- Paraparaumu: 38%
- Paekākāriki-Raumati: 19%

Legend:
- Ōtaki
- Waikanae
- Paraparaumu
- Paekākāriki-Raumati
- Did not say

Quick reminder

- Quant data points are not equal, stats are indicative
- Can provide commentary based on comments, not everyone provided comments
- More people, not necessarily more representative than earlier design research

Overarching themes

Submissions reiterate community insight from previous design research

- Echoed the beliefs, needs and concerns
- No need to update the original design principles
- Reiterated and extended one important area: the perceived value of community boards

People want distinct voices to be heard by council

- Their voice, the voices of others
- Re accessibility of councillors
- Re mechanisms for collecting the people's voices
- Re communities that aren't bound by geography
- Re minority communities
- Want distinct voices to be heard more easily and clearly

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Diversity of thought and a voice for all is required. • We are all unique and need our own voice. • You need to hear the voter voice on particular issues.

People want distinct suburbs to be recognised and represented

- Distinct suburbs and corresponding communities
- Histories, identities, demographics, cultural ties, needs
- In particularly, many wrote about Ōtaki as distinct
- Many stressed Waikanae is different from Paraparaumu
- Want distinct suburbs to have dedicated and focused elected representation
- Otherwise, lost, overlooked, forgotten, weakened

Each area is diverse and needs individual representation. • The communities are all very different and need an individual representative. • Different populations need thoughtful consideration. • I feel each area should have its own representation as they are all unique.

People want more accessible and more representative democracy

- Want more local representation
- Want more tools for delivering their view to council
- Many believe aspects of the proposal mean less
- Strongly expressed

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In a proper democracy, I believe that street-level and local wishes, experiences, hopes and needs are vital. ... Use digital. Be proactive. Do door visits. ... Where are brown faces? Young faces? disabled faces? • This consultation process disadvantages swathes of citizens. Those on the other side of the digital divide - including elderly - primarily.

People question the need for, and value of, change

- It's not broken, don't need to fix it
- Weren't given a good enough reason to change
- Status quo is better than the proposed arrangements
- Why change ahead of significant reform
- If not really shaking it up, what's the point
- Issues are from people more than roles

It's not perfect but it's definitely not broken. • I don't see any compelling reason for changing it. • From the information supplied I cannot see enough benefits, to me it's just change for change sake. • Why change a system that's working?

People want Māori to be better recognised, represented and heard

- Want dedicated representation through Māori wards
- Want important history reflected in arrangements
- Want channels to access council reps, traditional channels are not a good fit
- Obligations under Te Tiriti

"Historically Māori have not been well represented on the KCDC -this needs to change. There is no guarantee that Māori issues will be fairly addressed in the current model. Māori should not be treated as advisors or consultants. They need to be at the decision making table. Māori cannot be truly represented in the current model of representation because they are a minority and their views are overridden by the majority.

People want built-in ways to keep accountable and in check

- Elected members and council officers
- Particularly in comments re community boards
- Related theme — lack of trust and confidence in council's people and processes, including this rep review process
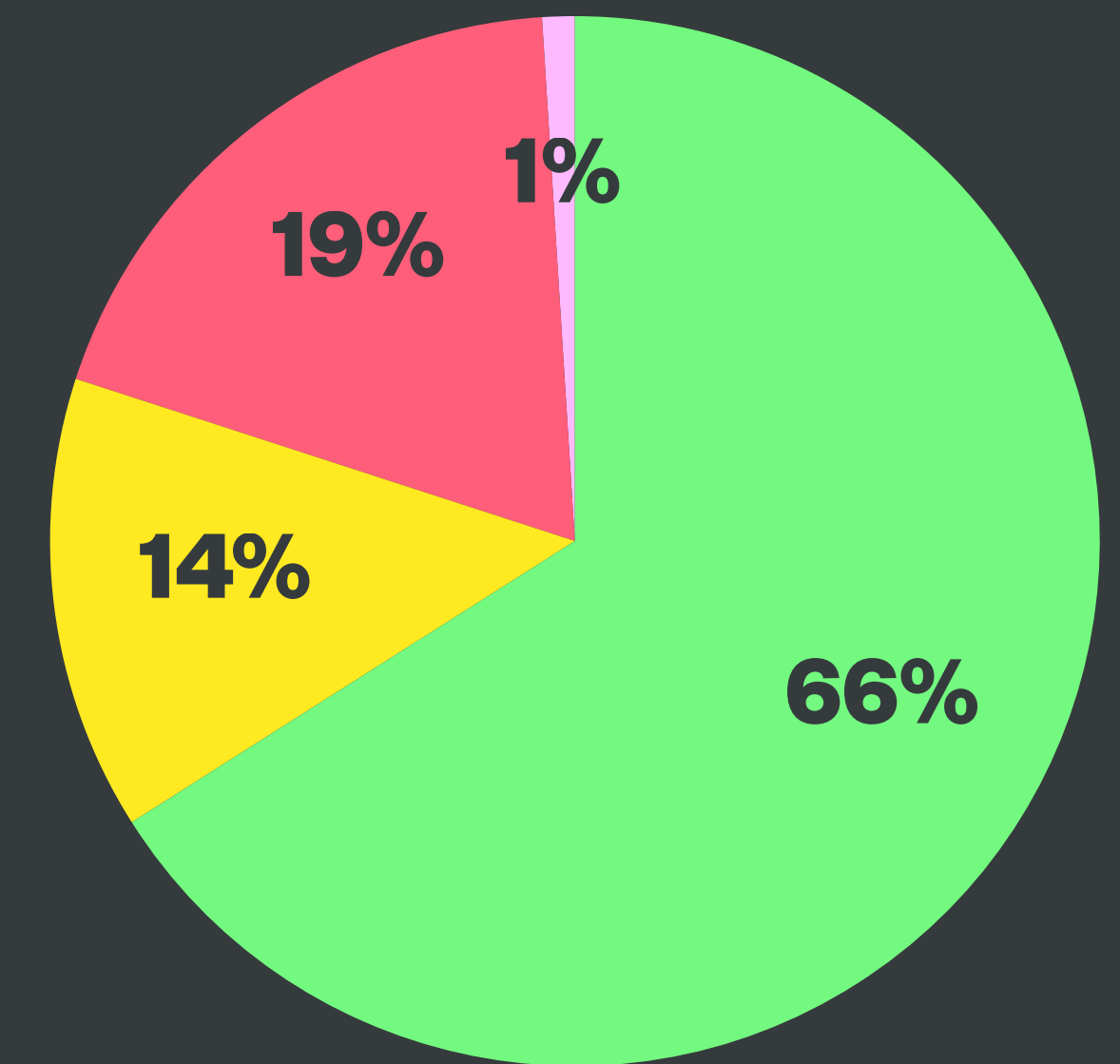
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It seems like a power-grab to me. • Council have already made up their mind what's going to happen therefore this survey is wasting my time. • I disagree with the conclusions of the 'research' and disappointed in the methodology

responses to questions

The majority agree with retaining 10 councillors and a mayor

- Seems to be working now — not broken, don't fix it
- A good number for Kāpiti's size, including growth
- Allows good discussion and adequate representation
- Big enough to enable diversity and reasonable workload, and small enough to be efficient and cost-effective
- But depends on other aspects of the proposal

"

I don't see any compelling reason for changing it • The numbers are about right for a council of this population size • It gives more chance for diversity and a range of voices to important issues impacting a diverse community • No need to change what works ok • It is a good balance between too big and too small

The minority disagree with retaining 10 councillors and a mayor

- Most believe smaller better for efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- Some believe bigger better for diversity and representation, particularly if no community boards
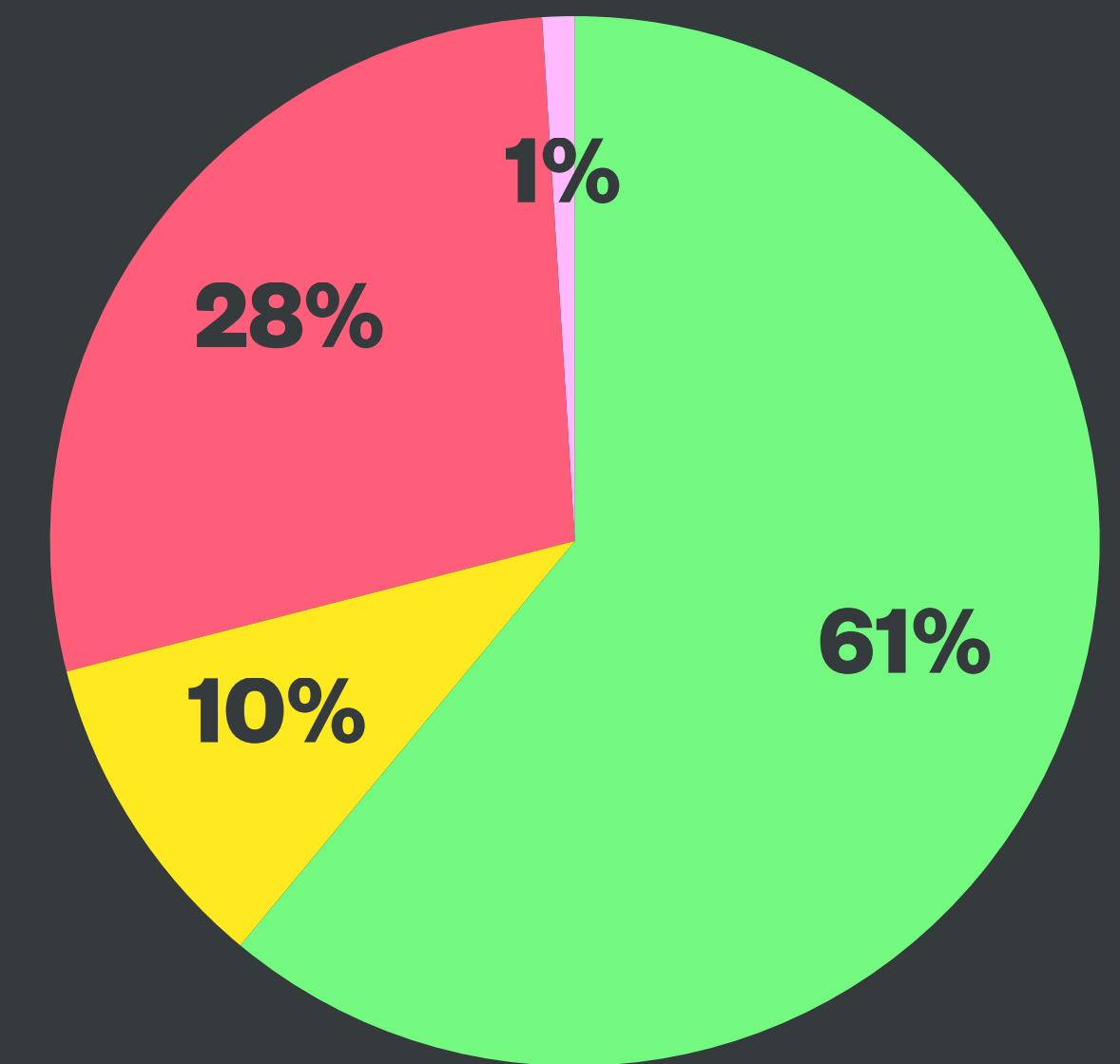
We need to cut costs, and having less councillors means more accountability on those that remain. • Too many for such a small and compact Local Authority. • I do not believe the population of this area warrants so many councillors, which is a cost burden for little extra benefit to the region.

Question 2

Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five district-wide councillors?

- Strongly agree + Agree
- Neutral
- Strongly disagree + Disagree
- Don't know

61%

10%

28%

1%

Let's dig a little further

- This question housed three components — the mixed model, the total number, and the ratio

- Stats not straightforward

- The comments help us understand

Strongly disagree – "I strongly agree with a mix of ward and districtwide councillors, however I believe the number of ward councillors should increase"

The majority agree with a mix of ward and district-wide councillors

- Those who agree or strongly agree endorse the mixed model
- Some who disagree or strongly disagree endorse mixed model, some do not
- Probably more than 2/3 in total agree with a mix
- Most who do not want a mixed model want want all ward

Why people want a mix

- Seems to work now
- Local focus, district-wide focus
- Geographic representation, dispersed communities

"Good balance between representing local concerns and supporting benefits for whole district."

"Councillors from each of the wards plus districtwide councillors ensures all parts of the community are fairly represented."
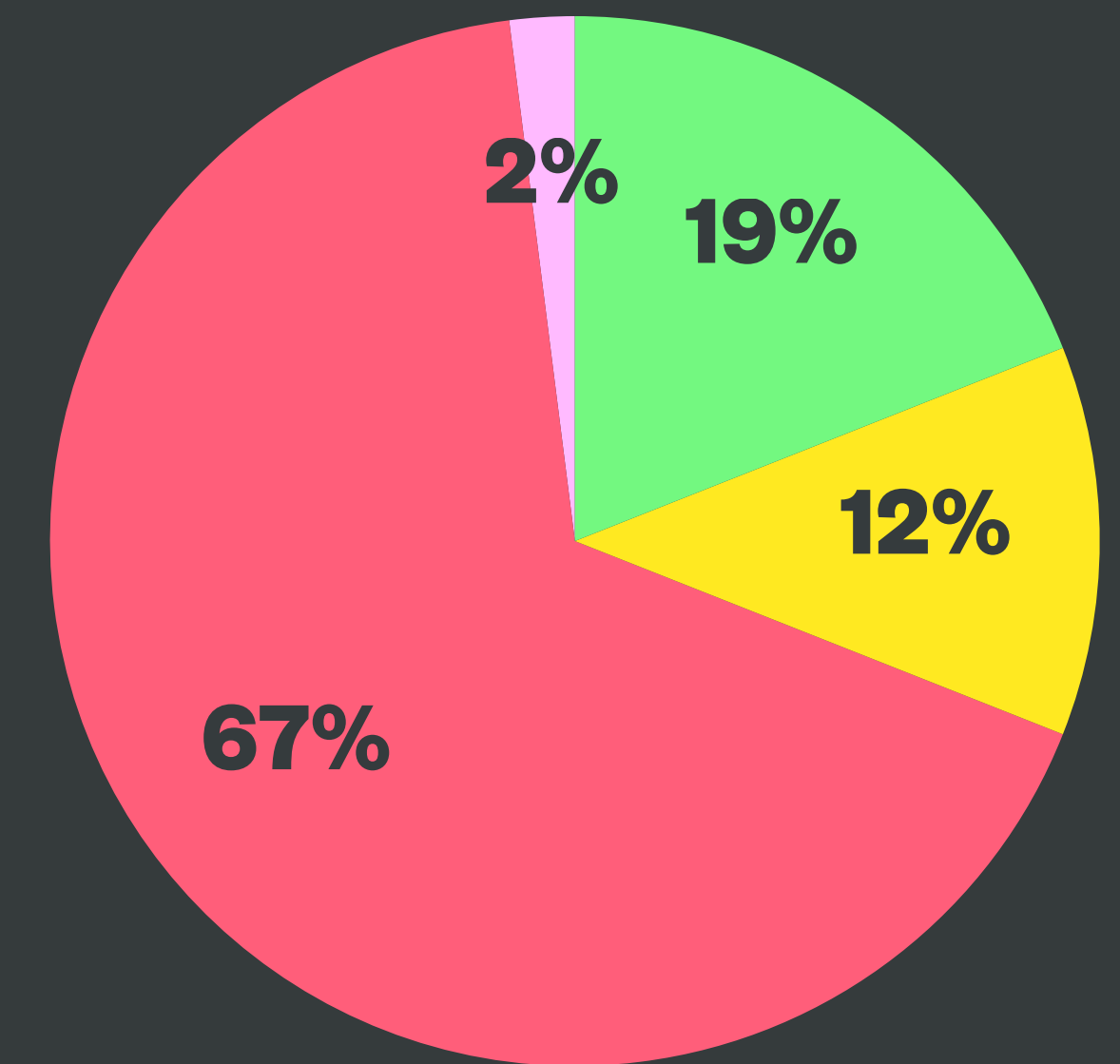
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This system seems to work, providing a blend of oversight of issues that affect the entire district as well as good knowledge of the issues that may pertain to a specific community. • Why change a system that's working? • Prefer increased local representation, suggest 6 wards and 4 districtwide.

Question 3

Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae wards?

- 🟢 Strongly agree + Agree
- 🟡 Neutral
- 🔴 Strongly disagree + Disagree
- 🟣 Don't know

2%
19%
12%
67%

The majority disagree with combining Waikanae and Paraparaumu

- Of those from Waikanae, 82% D+SD, 73% SD
- Distinct communities of interest, with different needs, requiring different representation
- Fear Waikanae and rural voices will be overshadowed
- Waikanae already underserved by council, high rates
- Consider projected population growth
- Concern about consolidation of power

Absolutely not. Waikanae is it's own identity. Waikanae needs its own representation to address own own very specific needs. We need our own voice. ● You are doing both communities a dis-service with this initiative. ● It will make a very powerful block that will impact the other wards,

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The proposal will result in diminishing the voice for the varied demographics in Waikanae and Paraparaumu. It will create a mega ward where non-mainstream voices will be lost. • Kapiti will no longer be 'the string of pearls', merely a rather bland, unimaginative district comprising Southern, Central and Northern Wards.

The minority agree with combining Waikanae and Paraparaumu

- Commonalities between the two suburbs
- Progressing towards a unified district
- Simplification for voters and council management
- To remove inefficiencies and ineffectiveness

Question 4
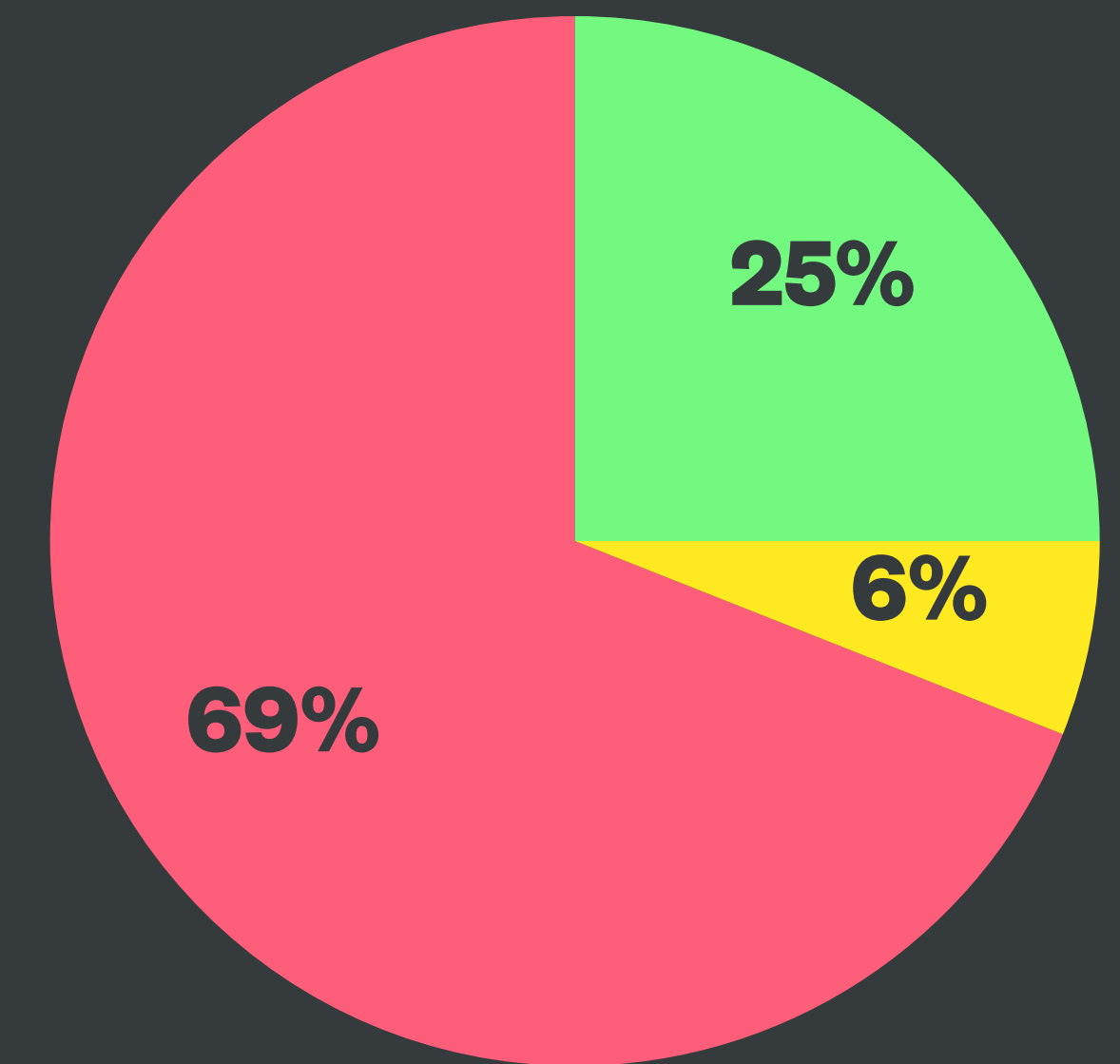# Do you agree with the removal of community boards?

Reiterated and extended earlier design research

- Then, only a small minority of those involved could speak to direct experience of community boards
- That minority provided two different viewpoints
- Here, many submitters had theoretical knowledge and/or direct experience of community boards
- Both viewpoints emerged, but one is far more prevalent

Question 4

Do you agree with the removal of community boards?

- ● Strongly agree + Agree
- ● Neutral
- ● Strongly disagree + Disagree
- ● Don't know

25%

6%

69%

The majority disagree with removing community boards

- Of those from Ōtaki, 84% D+SD, 79% SD
- Of those from Raumati-Paekākāriki, 75% D+SD, 68% SD
- Often disagreed with great force — formatting and punctuation, length of submission, phrases such as "This is disgraceful! Anti-democratic!", references to voters remembering this at the next election

Why people disagree

- A more casual and accessible avenue for people
- Help with councillors' workload
- Help keep council accountable to the community
- Thus, help achieve better democracy
- Disagree with rationale re bureaucracy, saving
- No robust and certain alternative was proposed
- Should be adding more tools for representation and engagement in local matters, not removing them
- A good training ground for councillors and mayors

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Community boards provide the grassroots lines of communication between residents and council. Handpicked advisors to do the job is not democratic.

"

I believe the community boards are a vital conduit from residents to the council to ensure that local issues are dealt with effectively by the council. They are also control on the behaviour and effectiveness of councillors in their respective wards.

"

I want to know how our community, in all its diversity, will be enabled in leading community focused development. I do not accept that ONE Councillor, even when s/he is supported by Council staff, can manage that sort of workload.

Many who disagree want more 'teeth'

- More delegated functions
- Voting rights
- More speaking time at council meetings
- Greater funding

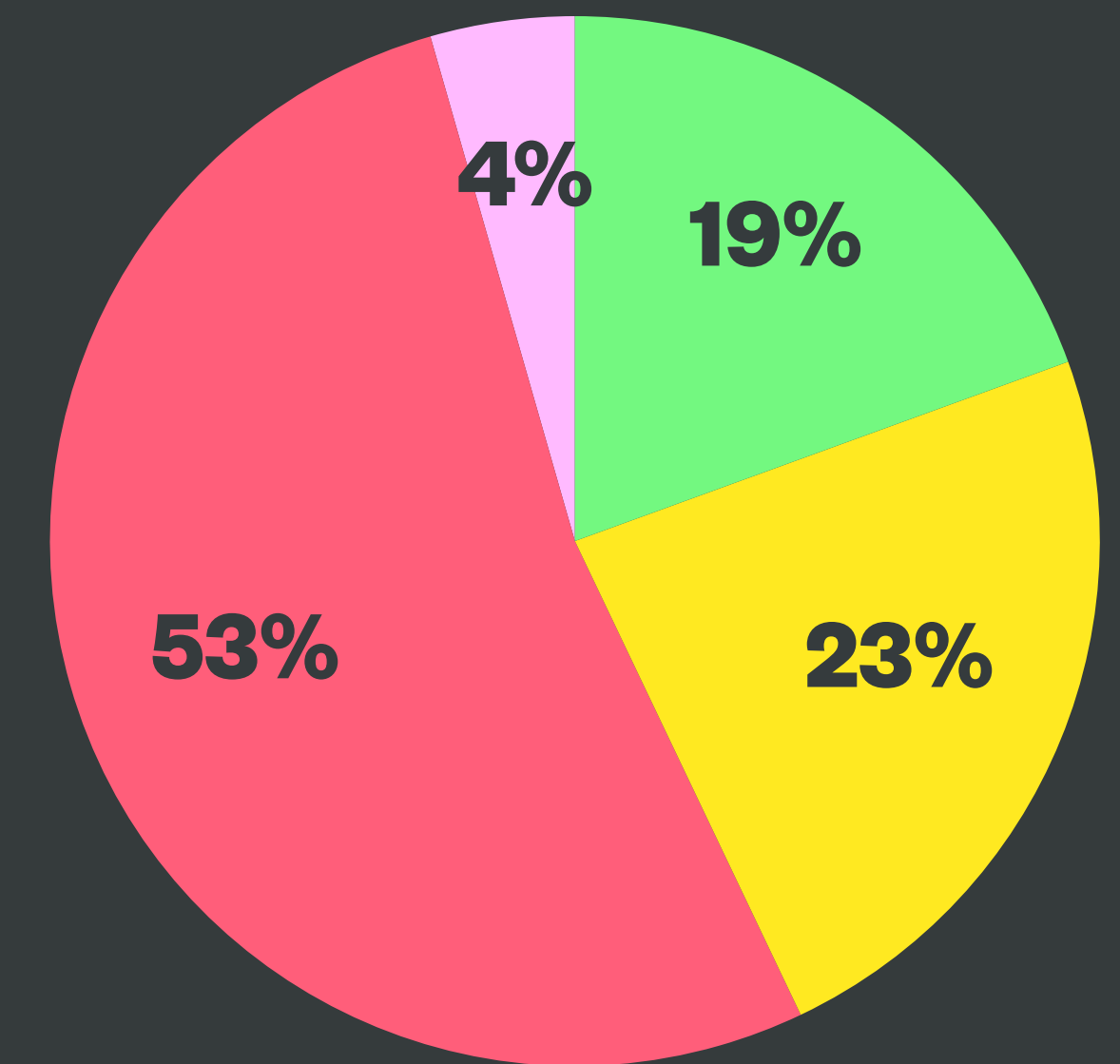# Many also want council to help community boards improve

About a quarter agree to remove community boards

- Most believe the boards are ineffective and an extra cost for council
- Some believe that communities are better served by having direct access to a ward councillor
- Some believe only one view, cater for one section of community

Question 5

Do you agree with the new boundary lines?

- Strongly agree + Agree
- Neutral
- Strongly disagree + Disagree
- Don't know

4%
19%
53%
23%

About half disagree with the proposed boundary lines

- More disagreement from Waikanae, 69% D+SD
- Not many comments about specific boundaries
- Comments about overall ward structure
- Some believe not worth commenting on detailed boundary placement until overall ward structure was better determined

Summary wrt the proposal

The feedback is in line with the beliefs and needs uncovered in the earlier design research.

The proposed size of 10 councillors and a mayor was supported.

The mixed model — ward and district-wide councillors — was supported, but not the ratio.

Most of those providing comments prefer more ward councillors.

The proposal to combine Waikane and Paraparaumu into a ward was not supported.

- Waikanae is seen as a distinct community that requires separate and specific representation.
- Most of those providing feedback prefer smaller wards, as they are perceived to enable better representation and democracy.

The proposal to remove community boards was not supported.

Most of those providing feedback want to retain community boards, improve them, and give them more "teeth".

Overall, most of those providing feedback want more avenues for having their voice and all voices heard, not fewer.

from Emma and Ann

Thank you

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