

Have your say on how Ruapehu is represented

Tell us about your community and how well our current arrangements work for you.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Council is reviewing how councillors and community board members are elected, ready for the 2028 local elections. We are not asking about options yet. We want to understand your community and how well the current arrangements work.

The survey closes on 14 April 2027. Return it to any Council service centre in Taumarunui, Ohakune or Raetihi. It takes about 10 minutes.

1 About you

Which area do you live in?

How long have you lived there?

- ☐ Less than 2 years ☐ 2 to 5 years
☐ 6 to 10 years ☐ More than 10 years

Which electoral roll are you on? (optional)

- ☐ Māori roll ☐ General roll ☐ Unsure

Your age

- ☐ Under 25 ☐ 25 to 44
☐ 45 to 64 ☐ 65 or over

Are you a ratepayer?

- ☐ Resident ☐ Non-resident
☐ Both ☐ Neither

2 Your community

When you think about your community, what area comes to mind?

Where do you go for most of your shopping, services, school, work and healthcare?

2 Your community (continued)

Do the councillors elected to represent you understand your community's interests?

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

☐ I don't know who represents me

Any comment?

Are there communities in Ruapehu you feel are not well represented by current arrangements?

What do you call the area you live in?

3 The numbers

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

Ruapehu has nine councillors plus a mayor for about 13,400 residents — roughly one councillor for every 1,500 people. Nearby rural districts range from about 950 to 1,650 people per councillor: Stratford 953, Ōtorohanga 1,200, Rangitikei 1,455, Waitomo 1,658.

For Ruapehu, is nine councillors about right, too many, or too few?

☐ About right ☐ Too many ☐ Too few

If too many or too few — what number, and what would change as a result?

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

Until the 2022 elections, Ruapehu's councillors were elected from four wards: Ōhura, Taumarunui, National Park and Waimarino-Waiouru. In 2021 Council proposed two wards, one in the north and one in the south. In 2022 the Local Government Commission decided that councillors should instead be elected across the whole district. It found the proposed ward boundary split some communities, such as Kakahi and Ōwhango, from the places they identify with.

Ruapehu's nine councillors are elected from two district-wide wards: six from the General Ward and three from the Māori Ward. Would you prefer councillors elected from geographic wards instead — for example a Taumarunui ward, a Waimarino ward?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Why?

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

Ruapehu has three community boards, each with five elected members plus one appointed councillor. Member remuneration totals about \$119,000 a year, set by the Remuneration Authority and funded from the general rate. Because board areas differ greatly in size, the number of residents each member represents varies widely:

Taumarunui-Ōhura: 7,400 residents, one member per 1,480

Waimarino-Waiouru: 4,840 residents, one member per 968

Ōwhango-National Park: 1,200 residents, one member per 240

Do you know what your community board does?

☐ Yes, clearly ☐ Yes, vaguely
☐ No ☐ Not sure which one I am in

Have you ever attended a community board meeting or contacted a board member?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Should Ruapehu continue to have community boards?

☐ Keep them as they are (3 boards) ☐ Fewer boards covering larger areas
☐ More boards covering smaller areas ☐ No boards
☐ Not sure

4 Community boards (continued)

If you ticked “fewer boards” or “no boards”: what should take their place in your community? For example, a ward committee: a Council committee of councillors for your area. Local people can be appointed to advise it, but only councillors can vote.

What would you change about how community boards work?

5 Anything else

Is there anything else about how Ruapehu is represented that you would like Council to consider?

Would you like to come to an in-person session in your area between February and April 2027?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which area?

Email for updates (optional)

Or phone number (optional)

Ngā mihi — thank you

Please return your survey by **14 April 2027** to any Council service centre in Taumarunui, Ohakune or Raetihi, or post it to Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946.

Questions? Email elections@ruapehudc.govt.nz

Your privacy. Ruapehu District Council collects this information for the representation review. Your contact details are optional and will only be used to send you updates about the review. Your answers will be summarised and reported without identifying you. You can ask to see or correct your information by emailing elections@ruapehudc.govt.nz.