

Proposed Electorates Objection Form

REPRESENTATION
COMMISSION
TE KŌMIHANA WHAKATAU ROHE PŌTI

Your details

I am making an objection ☒ as an individual ☐ on behalf of an organisation

I would like to present my objection to the Representation Commission in person ☒ Yes ☐ No

Title First name Last name

Position (if applicable)

Organisation I represent (if applicable)

If you're making an objection on behalf of an organisation make sure you are authorised to represent their views. The name of the organisation will be published with the objection.

Address

City/Town

Email

Your objection

Proposed electorate my objection relates to

Write the **proposed** electorate that contains the area you want to comment on. Complete a separate objection form for each geographic area you want to comment on.

My objection relates to ☒ a proposed boundary ☐ a proposed name

Your objection and reasons. Please attach additional documents if required.

SEE APPENDED OUTLINE

Your suggested solution. Please attach additional documents if required.

SEE APPENDED SOLUTION

OBJECTION (SUBMISSION) AS TO PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE(S) - EAST COAST AND ADJOINING ELECTORATES

My objection is to the proposed change in the boundary between the electorates of **East Coast** and **Napier** and, as a suggested solution, would also involve boundaries to the **Wairarapa** and **Tukituki** electorates.

Principal reason for the objection is founded on the failure of the Representation Commission's Proposed 2025 Changes ("**RCP25**") to adequately adhere to the objectives to be taken into account in setting electorate boundaries including:

- Population distribution
- Communities of interest
- Geographical features
- Connectivity and communications
- Preservation of existing boundaries

Only on the last-mentioned factor does **RCP25** appear to conform to an objective.

As far as **East Coast** is concerned, the (proposed) further encroachment by the **Napier** electorate on the southern boundary of East Coast (started in 2020 review) fractures a clear relationship between Gisborne as the centre of commerce and administration and the rural hinterland reaching into hill country in a sparsely populated corner of an already vast electorate.

Areas identified in **RPC25** (intended for a switch from East Coast to Napier) largely encompasses horticulture, cropping and agricultural land, stock finishing and lifestyle holdings as well as rural towns and urban settlements around the State Highway 2 corridor between Gisborne and Opotiki – areas with little or no connection to Napier. This change would reportedly involve circa **1300** in population terms.

Additionally, the present (and proposed) southern boundary of East Coast should be shifted southward to align more or less (subject to mesh block cells) with the local (**Gisborne District Council**) and regional (Tairāwhiti) – unique Unitary authority.

In attempting to rebalance population as a main consideration between electorates, **RCP25** misses an opportunity to reconfigure the four electorates on the eastern seaboard of the North Island which, under **RCP25**, would have a population and variance from the **69,875** quota as follows:

▪ East Coast	68,768	-1,107	-1.6%
▪ Napier	67,012	- 2,863	- 4.1%
▪ Tukituki	70,370	+ 495	+ 0.7%
▪ Wairarapa	<u>72,929</u>	+3,054	+ 4.4%
Total	279,079	(average 69,769)	

It would seem that an upward shift of the boundaries from **Wairarapa** to **East Coast** (involving **Tukituki** and **Napier**) would bring the populations closer to the average reducing the variance.

Particular reasons for the change involve distance, geographic aspects, connectivity and communications as well as the community of interest between corners of the East Coast electorate and the obvious administrative centres. **RCP25** has the Motu district (destined for inclusion in the **Napier** electorate) some 3.5 hours drive time to Napier but one hour from Gisborne.

Further, the fragile road linkages on SH2 as the main connector across the region was evidenced by cyclone *Gabrielle* with some of the roads inoperable for a period – and where relief and reconstruction resources were overseen by the Tairāwhiti unitary authority.

This submission has not addressed the western edge of **East Coast** where the Murupara/Minginui towns (SW corner of electorate) or the Maketu-TePuke/Te Puna (NW edge of **East Coast**) might feature in any fine tuning of populations. This can be addressed in an oral submission.

In proposing the southward shift to the Gisborne District Council/Tairāwhiti boundary, this would take in largely sheep and beef hill country plus forestry as well as cropping and horticulture land use and involve overall districts known as Wharerata, Muriwai, Manutuke, Ngatapa, Hangaroa, Tiniroto, Otoko, Rakuroa and Matawai – areas *currently* in the **Napier** electorate.

Whilst no population figures are available for these areas, I put the General (non-Māori) population at (say) **400** which, together with the **1300** proposed under **RCP25** would involve a gain of **1700** into East Coast.

According, a rebalancing of the (*General*) population on the eastern seaboard of the North Island would involve an upward shift in boundaries as follows:

❖ Wairarapa surrenders 2,800 population to Tukituki and becomes	70,129
❖ Tukituki gains 2,800 but surrenders 3,200 pop. to Napier becoming	69,970
❖ Napier gains 3,200 but surrenders 1,700 pop. to East Coast to be	68,512
❖ East Coast increases by 1,700 population from Napier to become.	<u>70,468</u>
Total <i>General</i> population:	279,079

An enclosed map shows a revised East Coast/Napier electorate boundary but leaves open the final boundary adjustments to Napier/Tukituki/Wairarapa.

I wish to be heard in support of the Objection/submission herein.