NZ ELECTORATE BOUNDARY REVIEW

REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATION COMMISSION 2025



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A report to the Governor-General of New Zealand pursuant to section 40 of the Electoral Act 1993

to be presented to the House of Representatives pursuant to section 41 of the Electoral Act 1993

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REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATION COMMISSION 2025

TE KŌMIHANA WHAKAATANGA ROHE PŌTI

To Her Excellency the Governor-General of New Zealand

Your Excellency

The Representation Commission, constituted and acting under the Electoral Act 1993 (the Act), now reports to you on the names and boundaries of the General and Māori electoral districts as fixed by the Commission. From 8 August 2025, being the date of the Gazetting of the notice of these names and boundaries, general elections of members of Parliament will be based on these boundaries, until they are changed by the Representation Commission at the next boundary review.

The principal function of the Commission is, under section 28(1) of the Act, to make regular readjustments of the electorate boundaries for the representation of the people of New Zealand in the House of Representatives. The Commission's functions are to be undertaken entirely independently of Parliament, informed by public contributions through the objection and counter-objection process. This is a matter of public interest and importance. Knowing that Your Excellency will shortly present a copy of this Report to the House of Representatives, the Commission provides to you, the members of the House of Representatives, and the people of New Zealand, this account of its proceedings.

Signed for and of behalf of the Representation Commission this eighth day of August, 2025.

Judge Kevin D Kelly

Cenous

CHAIR

PŪRONGO A TE KOMIHANA WHAKAATANGA ROHE PŌTI 2025

TE KŌMIHANA WHAKAATANGA ROHE PŌTI

E Te Tapairu, te Kāwana Tianara o Aotearoa

E te Tapairu

Ko tēnei Te Komihana Whakaatanga Rohe Pōti i whakatūria ai, e mahi ai i raro i te Ture Pōti 1993 (te Ture), e pūrongo ana ki a koe i ngā ingoa me ngā rohenga o ngā rohe pōti Whānui, o ngā rohe pōti Māori hoki i whakaūria ai e Te Komihana. Atu i te 8 o Ākuhata 2025, te rā o te pānui Kāhiti i aua ingoa, rohenga hoki, ka pōtingia ngā mema Pāremata e ai ki aua rohenga, tae rawa atu ki te wā e panonihia ai e Te Komihana Whakaatanga Rohe Pōti ā tērā arotakenga rohenga.

Ko te mahi matua a Te Komihana i raro i te wāhanga 28(1) o te Ture, he whakariterite i ngā rohe pōti mō te tūnga o ngā māngai o te iwi whānui o Aotearoa ki te Whare Pāremata. Ka tū motuhake ngā mahi katoa a Te Komihana i waho i te Pāremata, ka mutu ka whai wāhi te iwi tūmatanui mā te tukanga tuku whakahēnga, tuku whakautu hoki ki taua whakahēnga. He kaupapa aronga whānui, he kaupapa whaitake hoki. I runga i te mōhio ākuanei ka whakatakotoria he tārua o tēnei pūrongo e koe, e te Tapairu, ki te Whare Pāremata, otirā ki te iwi whānui, ka tāpaehia e Te Komihana tēnei whakamārama o āna whakahaerenga.

Kua waitohua tēnei i runga anō i te mana o Te Komihana Whakaatanga Rohe Pōti, i tēnei rā, te tuawaru o Ākuhata, 2025.

Kaiwhakawā Kevin D Kelly UPOKO

Cenous

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FOREWORD

It has been a privilege to serve the Representation Commission as its chair since December 2024 as it has reviewed and updated Aotearoa New Zealand's electoral boundaries, in preparation for the next general election.

Throughout the process I have been impressed by the dedication and knowledge of my fellow Commissioners, and the expertise, professionalism and diligence of the officials that have supported this work. I have also been impressed by the valuable insights offered by the many people and organisations who took the time to make submissions to inform our decision-making.

I am heartened that so many people have taken an active interest in this important work, with some submitters clearly investing a significant amount of their personal time to help the Commission understand issues that go beyond their own electorates.

In particular, I would like to thank the submitters who appeared in person or remotely to present their submissions to the Commission. The many public contributions to the boundary review process were invaluable and helped to ground our statutory processes in the real-world. There is no substitute for people's knowledge and lived experiences of their own communities of interest.

We regret that not all submissions can be given effect to, due to the need to take a national view as well as a local view. We consider we have struck the appropriate balance.

I hope you find our report not only informative and interesting, but that it successfully conveys the level of public contribution to the process of renewing electoral boundaries to represent the people of New Zealand in the House of Representatives.

Ngā mihi

Judge Kevin D Kelly CHAIR

KUPU TAKAMUA

Nōku te whiwhi ki te noho hei upoko o Te Komihana Whakaatanga Rohe Pōti mai i te Tīhema 2024, i te wā kua arotakea, kua whakahouhia hoki ngā rohe pōti o Aotearoa, kia reri ai mō te pōtitanga whānui e tū mai nei.

I te roanga o te tukanga, i wewehi ahau ki te manawa ū, me te matatau o aku hoa Kaikomihana, tae atu ki te tohungatanga, te ngaiotanga me te pukumahi o ngā āpiha i tautoko i a mātou i ēnei mahi. I wewehi hoki ahau ki ngā whakaaro whai uara o te tokomaha me ngā rōpū i whai wāhi ki te tuku tāpaetanga, hei whakamōhio i ō mātou whakataunga.

E ngākaunui ana ahau ki te tokomaha i kaingākau nui ki tēnei mahi whaitake, otirā i kitea te nui o te whakapeto ngoi a ētahi kaituku ki te āwhina i Te Komihana kia mārama ki ngā take kei tua noa o ō rātou ake rohe pōti.

Ina koa rā te mihi ki ngā kaituku whakaaro i tae ā-kanohi, ā-tuihono rānei ki te whakaatu i ō rātou tāpaetanga ki te Komihana. He tino taonga ngā tāpaetanga tūmatanui maha ki te tukanga arotake rohenga, ā, i āwhina ki te whakawhenua i ō mātou tukanga ā-ture i te ao tūturu. Kāore he whakakapinga mō te mōhiotanga me ngā wheako noho o te tangata i roto i ō rātou ake hapori.

E whakapāha ana kāore e tareka te whakatinana i ngā tāpaetanga katoa nā te hiahia ki te aro ki te tirohanga o te motu whānui, me te tirohanga paetata. E whakaaro ana mātou kua tika i a mātou te tauritenga o ngā taha e rua.

Ko te tūmanako ka whai māramatanga, ka whai aronga hoki koe i tā mātou pūrongo, otirā me te tūmanako hoki ka angitu tana kawe i te wāhanga nui ki te iwi tūmatanui i roto i te tukanga o te whakahou i ngā rohe pōti hei whakaatu ki te iwi o te motu me Te Whare Pāremata.

Ngā mihi

Kaiwhakawā Kevin D Kelly UPOKO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Where possible, the Representation Commission has maintained existing electorate boundaries for the next general election. Nineteen electorates are unchanged.

The main areas of change are in Auckland, the Bay of Plenty, the lower North Island, and Christchurch. Fourteen percent of the population will be in a different electorate at the next election.

Since MMP was introduced the number of electorates has typically increased in each boundary review process. However, in this review there is one fewer North Island general electorate than in 2020. Lower North Island electorate boundaries have been reconfigured to include one fewer electorate, with some related redistribution of population amongst neighbouring electorates.

The boundaries of 49 general and three Māori electorates have been adjusted.

Most of the boundary changes were signalled in the proposed electorates report published in March 2025, but we have made some amendments to those proposals as a result of input from submitters and our technical advisors.

North Island general electorates

The number of North Island electorates decreases from 49 to 48. Changes include the following:

- Whangārei extends northwards into Northland north of Whangārei city.
- In western Auckland three electorates New Lynn, Kelston and Te Atatū are replaced by reconfigured electorates: **Waitākere**, **Glendene** and **Henderson**.
- In north Auckland, Upper Harbour and East Coast Bays both shift westward.
 Northcote and North Shore both expand northward in small areas, while Kaipara ki Mahurangi expands into a small area south of Coatesville, which is moved from Whangaparāoa.
- Population shifts result in mostly minor boundary changes in all six central Auckland electorates, Auckland Central, Epsom, Tāmaki, Maungakiekie, Mt Roskill and Mt Albert. In an amendment to our proposal for Epsom, an area around Balmoral will now remain in Epsom rather than being moved to Mt Albert. To ensure the latter electorate's population remains within quota, part of Arch Hill is moved from Auckland Central to Mt Albert. We have also reverted to the 2020 electorate boundary between Epsom and Maungakiekie in Greenlane.
- Various electorates in southeast Auckland are reconfigured due to population growth, with Panmure-Ōtāhuhu shifting south and east and being renamed Ōtāhuhu, and both Pakuranga and Botany expanding eastwards. Takanini is a fast-growing area that was significantly over quota, so some population is moved from that electorate into neighbouring electorates, particularly Botany and Papakura.
- In the Bay of Plenty, Tauranga extends westward while Bay of Plenty gains Mt Maunganui, which becomes the electorate's new name. Rotorua also shifts northwards to gain required population. In response to submissions we received, an area south of Tauranga city in the lower Kaimai Range no longer shifts into Rotorua and instead remains within Tauranga. There are related minor changes to the boundaries between Mt Maunganui and Rotorua.

- In response to submissions, our proposed boundary changes north of Gisborne will
 no longer proceed. Instead, Napier gains a rural area from Tukituki north of the
 Ngaruroro River.
- Whanganui expands to the northeast, and Taranaki-King Country gains Taumarunui.
- **New Plymouth** extends so more of Waitara is included within its boundary, rather than being shared with **Taranaki-King Country**.
- Palmerston North expands its boundaries around the city, and Ashhurst moves into Wairarapa.
- Rangitīkei extends southwards to include Foxton, Levin and Manakau.
- Three lower North Island electorates, Ōtaki, Mana and Ōhāriu, are reconfigured as two electorates, **Kapiti** and **Kenepuru**.
- Hutt South and Remutaka both shift south-westwards, with the former taking in Newlands.
- In the capital, Wellington Central and Rongotai move north and west respectively, and in a change to our proposed boundaries an area around Webb St now no longer moves from Wellington Central to Rongotai. These electorates are renamed Wellington North and Wellington Bays, respectively.

South Island general electorates

The number of South Island electorates is fixed at 16 under the Act.

- Selwyn's population is growing fast and as a result the communities of Templeton and Prebbleton are moved into Wigram. There are resulting flow-on effects from these shifts in Christchurch Central, Ilam and Christchurch East, around Addington, Spreydon, Linwood/Phillipstown and Northcote. In a change from our proposed boundaries, Redwood remains with Christchurch Central, and instead Christchurch East gains an area from Christchurch Central in Linwood and Phillipstown.
- Invercargill expands into the area west of Winton, taking an area from Southland.

Māori electorates

The number of Māori electorates remains at seven. A boundary change affects three electorates:

- Ikaroa-Rāwhiti gains an area in Lower Hutt and its eastern bays area fom Te Tai
 Tonga
- The boundary between **Te Tai Tonga** and **Te Tai Hauāuru** has a minor adjustment in Horokiwi, affecting no population.

Name changes

Ten North Island general electorates have new or amended names, to better reflect the geographic areas and communities they cover. There were no name changes in the South Island or Māori electorates. There are four changes from the North Island electorate names proposed in our March report (marked with an asterisk and discussed later in this report)::

- New Lynn and parts of Kelston become Waitākere
- Parts of Te Atatū, Upper Harbour and Kaipara ki Mahurangi become **Henderson***
- Parts of Kelston and Te Atatū become **Glendene**
- Parts of Panmure-Ōtāhuhu and Botany become Ōtāhuhu
- Parts of Bay of Plenty and Tauranga become Mt Maunganui
- East Coast becomes East Cape*
- Parts of Ōtaki and Mana become **Kapiti**
- Parts of Mana and Ōhāriu become **Kenepuru**
- Wellington Central becomes Wellington North*
- Rongotai becomes Wellington Bays*.

The final electorate maps are included in this report and can be viewed at vote.nz.

THE COMMISSION'S FUNCTION

- The Commission's principal function is to review and determine electorate boundaries and names in accordance with the requirements of the Act after each periodical census and informed by the number of electors on the Māori and general rolls. The statutory formula for calculating the number of electorates and the electorate population is explained from paragraph 13.
- 2. Once the electoral populations and number of electorates have been calculated by applying the statutory formula, the actual boundaries of each electorate are determined by considering the criteria set out in the Act in sections 35 and 36 (for the general electorates) and section 45 (for the Māori electorates), discussed at paragraph 24. The expected result is that, so far as is practicable, each electorate member of Parliament represents approximately the same number of people.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

- 3. The membership of the Commission includes ex officio members,¹ and those appointed under section 28 of the Act. The members are:
 - Judge Kevin Kelly Chair

Ex officio members:

- Anselm Haanen Surveyor-General, Toitū Te Whenua LINZ
- Vince Galvin Chief Methodologist, Stats NZ
- Karl Le Quesne Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Commission
- Brendan Duffy Chair of the Local Government Commission

Appointed members:

- Hon Roger Sowry representing the Government
- Hon Andrew Little representing the Opposition

Appointed members for the purpose of determining the Māori electorates:

- Grace Smit (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa, Ngāti Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Matangirau) –
 Deputy Secretary, Regions, Te Puni Kōkiri
- Rev Dr Steven Elers (Ngāti Kauwhata, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Matakore, Poutini Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Hikairo ki Kāwhia, Ngāti Kahungunu me Rangitāne ki Wairarapa) – representing the Government
- Derek Fox (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu) representing the Opposition

Deputies of ex officio and appointed members

4. Under sections 32 and 33 of the Act, both the ex officio and appointed members may arrange for deputies to act in their place. Grace Smit and Vince Galvin were appointed as deputies to carry out the Commission functions of the Te Puni Kōkiri Chief Executive and Government Statistician, respectively. Deputy Surveyor-General Jeff Needham also deputised for Anselm Haanen in the hearings and final determinations.

¹ A member of a body like the Commission who is part of it because they hold another office.

Commission secretariat and technical advisors

5. The Commission was ably assisted by its secretariat and technical advisors. Officials from the Electoral Commission provided comprehensive secretariat services, including secretary Shane Whitfield, principal advisor Ethan Tucker, coordinator Kerri-Anne Palmer, and project manager Carla Lees. Communications advice was provided by Clare Pasley, Richard Thornton and Jarrod Baker. Valuable technical advice from LINZ geospatial specialist lan Harrison was a vital component of our deliberations throughout the process. The Chair would like to express his particular indebtedness and thanks to these people.

THE COMMISSION'S WORK TIMELINE

- 6. Our work began after the 2023 Census results were issued. The Government Statistician is required to report the results of the Census to the Commission, along with calculations of the Māori electoral population. Using this information, the Surveyor-General is then required to prepare provisional maps of the electorates, and to call a meeting of the Commission to review the boundaries. From the date of that meeting the Commission has six months to deliver its report.
- 7. The Report provided by the Government Statistician and the provisional boundary maps produced by the Surveyor-General based on that information, are deemed to be sufficient evidence of the general electoral population and Māori electoral population of each electorate.² The report of the Government Statistician to the Commission of 23 October 2024 is at **Schedule A**.

Meetings and hearings

- 8. We met formally on 11 days, including three days deliberating on the proposed electorates in February 2025, and five days hearing objectors and counter-objectors who wished to speak in support of their written material in June 2025. In the latter period there was also opportunity to undertake final deliberations.
- 9. By mutual agreement, the Commission members appointed to assist with determining the Māori electorates met collectively with the other Commissioners to consider the issues particularly relevant to the boundaries and names of those electorates.
- 10. The key dates relevant to the boundary review are:

7 March 2023	2023 Census
1 April 2024	Determination of Māori electoral population
23 October 2024	Government Statistician's report to the Representation Commission
11 December 2024	First administrative meeting of the Commission and election of Chair
31 January 2025	Second Commission meeting to receive the Surveyor-General's provisional boundaries

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² See sections 35(8) and 45(5) of the Act.

10 February 2025	Meeting to commence deliberations on the proposed boundaries called by the Surveyor-General and hear political party submissions (this meeting triggers the six-month period within which to prepare this report)		
25 March 2025	Proposed electorates released for public consultation, Gazette notice signalling the opening of the objections period		
27 April 2025	Objections period closed		
8 May 2025	Objections published on vote.nz, Gazette notice published notifying the opening of counter-objection period		
21 May 2025	Counter-objection period closed		
28 May 2025	Counter-objections published on vote.nz		
9-16 June 2025	Public hearings of objectors and counter-objectors who wished to be heard in person, and final deliberations		
8 August 2025	Report of the Representation Commission presented		

POLITICAL PARTY SUBMISSIONS

- 11. We identified six political parties as coming within the terms of section 34 of the Act, entitling them to make submissions to the Commission in relation to matters to be considered under section 35(3) and section 45(6) of the Act. Those parties were:
 - ACT
 - Green
 - Labour

- National
- New Zealand First
- Te Pāti Māori
- 12. Each party was invited to lodge written submissions and make an oral presentation to the Commission. Four parties (ACT, Green, Labour and National) lodged submissions, and three parties (ACT, Green and National) presented their submissions at a Commission meeting on 10 February 2025. The submissions made under this provision largely addressed process issues and the statutory criteria.

DIVIDING THE COUNTRY INTO GENERAL AND MĀORI ELECTORATES

- 13. The electoral population figures derived from the 2023 Census, as supplied by the Government Statistician in his report (see **Schedule A**), required the number of North Island electorates to be reduced by one.
- 14. The Government Statistician also provided the population quotas used for drawing electoral boundaries. Every electorate must contain an electoral population that is within 5% (plus or minus) of the quota set under the Act.
- 15. The Commission was required to work within the following quotas (and the 5% allowances) for the population of each electorate:

	Ei ch	EichU U`ckUbWY'Ž#	A]b]aiaˈ ƳYWcfUhY dcdi`Uh]cb	AUI]aia ƳYWhcfUhY dcdi`Uh]cb
North Island general electorates	69,875	3,494	66,381	73,369
South Island general electorates	70,037	3,502	66,535	73,539
Māori electorates	74,367	3,718	70,649	78,085

- 16. The South Island quota is set by dividing the population of the South Island (1,120,593) by 16, giving a result of 70,037, which is then used as the number of people for each general South Island electorate.
- 17. The South Island quota is also used to determine the number of North Island and Māori electorates and their populations for electoral purposes. Dividing the population of the North Island (3,353,982) by the South Island quota of 70,037 provides 48 general electorates in the North Island one fewer than previously.
- 18. The Māori electoral population calculated according to the formula in section 3 of the Act is 520,569. The Māori electoral population is also divided by the South Island quota, giving a result of seven Māori electorates, which is unchanged from the existing number. The calculation is described below, and more details can be found on the Stats NZ website.³

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The Government Statistician calculates the number of electorates in each of the North Island, the South Island, and the Māori electorates. These calculations are based on the 2023 Census results and the Māori electoral option (the process by which Māori electors choose to be either on the Māori or the general roll) as of 1 April 2024 (the date provided for in the legislation). The precise calculations are set out in the Electoral Act 1993, and are based on four main concepts:

- 1. Electoral representation is based on the usually resident population count in New Zealand, including children and others not eligible to vote.
- 2. The census usually resident population count is split into two segments: the Māori electoral population (MEP) and the general electoral population (GEP)
- 3. There are approximately equal electoral populations in each Māori and general electorate
- 4. There are 16 general electoral districts in the South Island.

 $^{^3\} www.stats.govt.nz/methods/the-mathematics-of-electorate-allocation-in-new-zealand-based-on-the-outcome-of-the-2023-census-and-maori-electoral-option/$

Dividing the South Island GEP by 16 gives the South Island quota. Because the populations for all electorates should be approximately equal, this is used to determine the number of Māori and North Island electorates.

The 2023 MEP of 520,569 divided by the South Island quota of 70,037 gives a total of 7.43 Māori electorates. Fractions are rounded to the nearest whole number, so the number of Māori electorates is **seven**.

- 19. At the start of the boundary review process the populations of 17 North Island general electorates were more than 5% below the quota, and seven were more than 5% over the quota. In the South Island, one general electorate was more than 5% below the quota, and one was more than 5% over the quota. For the Māori electorates, one electorate was more than 5% below the quota, and none were more than 5% over the quota.
- 20. The number of South Island general electorates is fixed at 16. Population changes and distribution required adjustments to some electorate boundaries to keep populations within the permitted plus-or-minus 5% range, and to accommodate projected trends of population increase or decrease between now and the next boundary review.
- 21. For the North Island, accommodating the reduction in the number of general electorates by one, population movements and the relative growth of populations in the regions also required boundary adjustments to several of the existing electorates. In addition to the relatively slow population growth in the lower North Island, the rate of population growth in the South Island relative to the North Island has been greater than expected:

Population	2018	2023	% change
General North Is	3,180,037	3,353,982	+5.5%
General South Is	1,047,321	1,120,593	+7.0%
Māori	473,077	520,569	+10.0%

- 22. We considered that drawing electoral boundaries with one fewer general electorate in the lower North Island presented the most effective outcome. Drawing boundaries to incorporate one fewer general electorate required consequential adjustments of the boundaries of nearby existing electorates. Population shifts over the coming years will determine the adjustments required in the next boundary review, and the next Representation Commission may need to add an electorate back in.
- 23. Considering List seats is not part of our functions, but we note that as a consequence of there being one fewer general electorate, there will be one more List seat available in the elections to which this boundary review will apply.

STATUTORY CRITERIA FOR SETTING BOUNDARIES

24. When setting electorate boundaries, the population quotas dictate the extent of any adjustments. All electorates must contain populations varying by not more than the quota allowance figures set out at paragraph 15.

In setting the general electorate boundaries to accommodate the required number of people, the Commission is required to give due consideration to:

- existing boundaries of the general electorates
- · communities of interest
- facilities of communication
- topographical features
- any projected variation in the General electoral population of those electorates during their life.

In setting the Māori electorate boundaries, an additional criterion applies:

- communities of interest amongst Māori people generally and members of Māori iwi.
- 25. In considering both the general and Māori electorates our approach has been, wherever possible, to retain existing boundaries that the public are familiar with. Overall, 19 of the 71 electorate boundaries remain unchanged from 2020 (see **Schedule B**).
- 26. Local authority areas are often a useful indicator of communities of interest, and several electorate boundaries have been drawn to coincide with these areas. Splitting small communities has been avoided where possible, and we have attempted to place communities in the same electorate as an adjoining area with which they have the most interaction. This has not been achieved in all cases, because of the requirements to remain within the quota limits, and the consideration of the criteria in sections 35 and 45.
- 27. Features such as roads, rivers and mountain ranges often present physical barriers that can help define the appropriate extent of an electorate. We also considered projected population change trends, with the goal of maintaining the principle of equality of representation over the life of an electorate until the boundaries are next revised.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: OBJECTIONS AND COUNTER-OBJECTIONS

- 28. We published the names of the proposed electorates and maps showing their boundaries and summaries of reasons both in print and online at vote.nz on 25 March 2025. Public objections were then invited. The proposed electorates were distributed for public display to libraries, and the offices of councils, the Electoral Commission and Te Puni Kōkiri. The release was supported by a nationwide advertising campaign, with communications activities prioritised in areas particularly affected by change.
- 29. Advertising channels included online, print, street posters and radio. The Commission Chair and the Deputy Chief Executive of Te Puni Kōkiri attended a media briefing on 25 March for the release of the proposed electorates. There was widespread media coverage of the proposals and the timetable for the public to have their say.
- 30. The public were able to provide feedback on the boundaries in a range of ways. They could use interactive maps to examine the existing and proposed boundaries online at vote.nz and make a submission through the website. Web analytics indicate that there were high levels of public access to these pages during the public consultation stage of the review. Paper objection and counter-objection forms were also produced for the public to use for written submissions. Objection forms, along with copies of the report on the proposed boundaries, were available at public libraries, Electoral Commission offices, and Te Puni Kōkiri offices.
- 31. By 27 April 2025, the date set for closing the objections period, we received 636 separate objections. No bulk submissions were received, although some objections did

- canvass similar themes. Most of the submissions were made through the online web portal.
- 32. The objections received related to 53 electorates: 40 in the North Island, 11 in the South Island and two Māori electorates. Of the total, 574 related to the proposed boundaries, 42 related to proposed names, and 20 related to both boundaries and names. No objections were received for 18 of the 71 proposed electorates. Some "objections" expressed support for the proposed boundaries or names rather than opposing them.
- 33. All objections were published online at vote.nz on 8 May 2025 and the counter-objection period opened. By the time the counter-objection period closed on 21 May 2025, we had received 81 counter-objections. Of those, 56 counter-objections related to boundaries, 18 to names and seven to both boundaries and names.
- 34. The Commission heard from the people and organisations that wished to speak to their submissions online and at the following physical locations:

∉ Auckland

∉ Palmerston North

← Christchurch

∉ Wellington

- 35. In some cases, to save the time and expense of travel, submitters were heard remotely by Teams video calling or teleconferencing. Seventeen submitters attended the hearings in person, 18 delivered their submission via Teams, and one via teleconference. We believe that the hearing process worked well, and were impressed with the well-considered submissions we received. We appreciated the opportunity to hear from, and discuss issues with, individuals and organisations that wished to speak to their submissions.
- 36. Several of the objections and counter-objections were particularly compelling, both in confirming some proposed boundaries and names and, in other cases, persuading us that there was an alternative course that might better give effect to the purpose and criteria contained in the legislation. We could not accommodate the wishes of all the compelling submissions we received, due to the constraints dictated by the statutory criteria we operate within. We are grateful to all those who gave their time and effort for the public consultation phase of the boundary review. We considered each objection and counter-objection carefully before we made our final decisions.
- 37. A list of the people and organisations that contributed to the objection and counterobjection process is set out in **GW YXi `Y'8**.
- 38. After considering the objections and counter-objections, we avoided, as far as possible, changes that had not been the subject of objection or counter-objection. This was so the public would not find that a boundary or name change had been made without there being the opportunity to object or counter-object.
- 39. We received several submissions that were outside the scope of the boundary review process, including several that either discussed the number of Māori electorates or requested the abolition of the Māori electorates. We also noted that some submissions raised concerns about other matters unconnected with electoral boundaries and names, such as school zoning decisions.

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- 40. After considering the Government Statistician's report and the Surveyor-General's provisional boundaries against the criteria in the Act, we decided on the proposed boundaries. Having received and considered the objections and counter-objections to those proposed boundaries, we moved on to confirm the final boundaries.
- 41. Overall, the result is that no boundary changes have been made to 19 electorates: six general electorates in the North Island, nine general electorates in the South Island, and

- four Māori electorates. (See **GW YXi `Y'6** for the list of changed and unchanged electorates).
- 42. The populations for each electorate are provided at **GW YXi `Y'7**. Overview maps showing the general and Māori electorate boundaries are at **GW YXi `Y'9**, and individual maps for each electorate can be found at **GW YXi `Y':** . Electorate information, including interactive maps, is also available online at vote.nz.
- 43. The following section explains the changes we made to the electorate boundaries, most of which were signalled in our proposed electorates report published in March 2025. Where changes have been made because of public consultation this is made clear below. Electorate names are also discussed from paragraph 87.
- 44. A small number of minor technical adjustments, not involving population, have also been made to electorate boundaries, i.e. to align to LINZ cadastral lines (property boundaries).

NORTH ISLAND GENERAL ELECTORATES

Lower North Island

- 45. The Census calculations produced by Stats NZ required us to produce a North Island general electorate map with one fewer electorate than in 2020. In the lower North Island almost all the electorates were below or well below quota. Furthermore, these electorates are all projected to fall further against quota by 2029. We believe removing a lower North Island electorate presented the best opportunity for change that could last beyond the next boundary review.
- 46. The 2020 electorates of Ōhāriu, Mana and Ōtaki are replaced by two reconfigured electorates:
 - **Kenepuru**, including Johnsonville, Tawa, Porirua city centre, Tītahi Bay, and eastern Porirua suburbs as far as Papakōwhai.
 - **Kapiti**, including areas around Whitby, Pāuatahanui, Pukerua Bay, Paekākāriki, Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Ōtaki.
- 47. We received a range of submissions on the proposed boundaries for the new electorates, including some that expressed concerns about dividing northern Porirua between the two electorates. We also received some submissions about the proposed electorate names, including one that suggested retaining the name Mana for the **Kapiti** electorate. On balance we believe the proposed boundaries as described in our March report continue to best meet the statutory criteria, and these boundaries and names remain unchanged.
- 48. **Hutt South** and **Remutaka** both shift south-westwards, with the former taking in eastern Newlands.
- 49. In the capital Wellington Central and Rongotai move north and west respectively. Following consideration of several objections, an area around Webb Street now no longer moves from Wellington Central to Rongotai. To more accurately reflect their current disposition and likely direction of future growth, these electorates are renamed **Wellington North** and **Wellington Bays**, respectively.

Auckland

- 50. In west Auckland, one of the three electorates (Kelston) was under quota and needed to gain population. The resulting proposed boundaries were reconfigured to create the **Glendene**, **Henderson** and **Waitākere** electorates.
 - We received a range of submissions on these proposed boundaries, with some focus amongst the objections on the proposed names of **Glendene** and Rānui.
 - After considering evidence presented in the objections and heard in person, we
 chose to retain the proposed electorate name for **Glendene** but to alter the name of
 Rānui to **Henderson** to better reflect the new electorate's identity.
 - We also made a minor change to the boundary between **Glendene** and **Waitākere**, moving the boundary northwards to Great North Rd in Kelston.
- 51. In the northern and northwestern Auckland electorates population growth resulted in three electorates being over quota, and one under quota.
 - Kaipara ki Mahurangi shifts population to Upper Harbour and Henderson, while gaining an area from Whangaparāoa, which in turn shifts population to East Coast Bays.
 - East Coast Bays also shifts small areas to both Upper Harbour and North Shore.

- **Upper Harbour**, which must lose population, experiences significant changes in addition to those mentioned above, shifting two areas to **Henderson** and **East Coast Bays**.
- Minor changes have also been made to the boundaries proposed in our initial report, including an area along Coatesville Highway being moved from Whangaparāoa to East Coast Bays.
- 52. Due to comparatively slow population growth in the Auckland isthmus electorates a range of minor boundary changes were proposed to bring all six electorates within quota. The boundaries of **Auckland Central**, **Mt Albert** and **Epsom** move in a roughly anticlockwise direction, while **Tāmaki** and **Maungakiekie** move eastwards and **Mt Roskill** moves westwards.
- 53. The largest group of objections we received related to the proposal to move part of Balmoral from **Epsom** into **Mt Albert**. Some of the concerns expressed in submissions related to school zoning decisions, which are not connected to electoral boundaries, but nevertheless we agreed with submitters that the concerns expressed regarding community of interest ties had merit. We would like to thank submitters for their interest in the Representation Commission process.
 - As it was possible to make changes elsewhere without significant flow on impacts, we agreed to retain a portion of Balmoral north of Balmoral Rd and east of Dominion Rd within Epsom.
 - To ensure Mt Albert remains within quota, an area around Arch Hill is shifted from Auckland Central to Mt Albert.
 - Our proposed changes to the boundary between Epsom and Maungakiekie in Greenlane also attracted some objections. As the electorates are within quota without the proposed shift, the Greenlane boundary will remain at its 2020 location and Greenlane will remain in Maungakiekie.
 - We considered some objections about the placement of Wesley within **Mt Albert** but these could not be accommodated within the available electorate quotas.
- 54. Of the seven electorates in east and southeast Auckland, three were over quota (**Takanini**, **Pakuranga** and **Papakura**) and one was below quota (**Māngere**).
 - Takanini has grown in population rapidly and was the most over-quota electorate in the country, at +17.7%. Substantial population is shifted from this electorate to Botany, Papakura and Ōtāhuhu. We also amended the boundary proposed in March, moving it westwards to retain more of Ormiston within Takanini.
 - There are relatively significant changes to Ōtāhuhu, which shifts south-eastwards and is renamed from Panmure-Ōtāhuhu. We received submissions on several of these proposed changes, including on the placement of boundaries in the Flat Bush and Ormiston areas, and on the name Ōtāhuhu. After considering the submissions we received, we have amended the proposed boundaries as described under Takanini above. The electorate name remains unaltered.
 - **Papakura** moves southwards and shifts rural population to **Botany**, which in turn shifts some urban population to **Pakuranga**.
 - We received a submission seeking to add a macron to the Pakuranga electorate name. While we recognise that some bodies deploy macrons under their own criteria, the Commission relies on the NZ Geographic Board's NZ Gazetteer of placenames for such matters. The current spelling of Pakuranga remains unaltered.
 - There are also changes on the eastern boundaries of both Mangere and Manurewa.

North of Auckland

55. Due to **Northland** being over quota we proposed moving a rural area between Whangaruru Harbour and Whananaki from **Northland** to **Whangārei**. We received several objections to the proposed change, but due to the need to ensure **Northland** remained within quota we adopted the proposed changes without amendment.

Bay of Plenty

- 56. There have been relatively major changes to three electorates around Tauranga city to address the under-populated **Rotorua** electorate. **Tauranga** expands westward to the boundary with **Coromandel**; Bay of Plenty, which is renamed **Mt Maunganui**, gains the town centre and natural feature of the same name; and **Rotorua** expands northwards as far as the southern outskirts of Tauranga city.
- 57. We received a range of submissions from residents near Tauranga city affected by the proposed boundary with **Rotorua**, indicating that their community ties are to Tauranga rather than Rotorua further south. While **Rotorua** must gain population to stay within quota, we have agreed that some of the proposed changes that affect McLaren Falls, Omanawa and Omanawa Falls, which can only be reached from **Tauranga**, are not required to achieve this. These areas in the Kaimai Range will remain in **Tauranga**. To keep **Tauranga** within quota, the **Mt Maunganui** boundary reverts to the old Bay of Plenty boundary around Waimapu and Windermere.

Central North Island

- 58. A range of boundary amendments affect all eight electorates in the central North Island:
 - Taranaki-King Country gains Taumarunui
 - New Plymouth gains a small area east of the Waitara River from Taranaki-King Country, so Waitara township is now wholly within New Plymouth instead of being split between the two electorates
 - Whanganui extends north and north-eastwards incorporating Ōwhango and Waiouru
 - Rangitīkei extends southwards as far as Manakau
 - Wairarapa incorporates Ashhurst
 - Palmerston North expands around the city including the township of Bunnythorpe
 - Napier expands at its southern edge, taking in rural areas west of Napier city and north of the Ngaruroro River from Tukituki, instead of our original proposal to shift areas north of Gisborne from East Coast to Napier
 - Tukituki is amended as described under Napier above
 - The East Coast boundary no longer shifts eastwards north of Gisborne; and in response to submissions, we agreed to change the electorate's name to East Cape as a better reflection of the area and communities it serves.
- 59. We received considerable feedback from the residents of Ashhurst on the proposal to include it within **Wairarapa** instead of **Palmerston North** or **Rangitīkei**. We wish to thank the Ashhurst residents who submitted to us, and those who attended our public hearings to share their views. We looked at options to avoid this change, but it was not possible to implement submitters' wishes without making major and, we believe, unviable changes to surrounding electorates throughout the lower and central North Island. Geographical constraints including prominent mountain ranges have constrained our decision-making in eastern North Island electorates with comparatively low population growth rates. Shifting Ashhurst now relieves population pressure in the short term and offers a signal for future boundary reviews of where population growth is occurring.

60. We also noted the submission of the Raglan Community Board regarding representation in the north of **Taranaki-King Country**, and particularly the challenges of being represented in a large rural electorate, but we were unable to accommodate its wishes.

SOUTH ISLAND GENERAL ELECTORATES

Christchurch

- 61. Due to rapid growth in **Selwyn**, which was originally 14% over quota, we proposed moving the communities of Prebbleton and Templeton and their surrounding areas from **Selwyn** into **Wigram**. This in turn necessitated flow-on changes to **Christchurch Central**, **Christchurch East** and **Ilam**, to ensure they remained within quota. The quota shortfall in the eastern part of Christchurch is typical of other relatively stable urban areas that don't grow as rapidly as the national average.
- 62. Submitters told us that the Prebbleton community preferred to remain connected to the rural **Selwyn** electorate. Due to the substantial over quota population of the **Selwyn** electorate, the Commission has been unable to reinstate the boundaries around Prebbleton or Templeton to the 2020 settings.
- 63. Further to this we received several submissions focused on the Christchurch suburb of Spreydon, expressing their preference to not split the suburb between **Wigram** and **Christchurch Central**, these changes being the result of needing to manage population overflow from **Selwyn**. The Commissioners explored suggested options to resolve these concerns, however we were unable to find a viable solution that kept the electorates within the population quota. The boundaries of the inner-city electorates will likely continue to spread westwards in future boundary reviews due to relatively low population growth.
- 64. We also received submissions in relation to the proposed shift of the suburb of Redwood from **Christchurch Central** to **Christchurch East**. Through the hearings process, we adopted an alternate proposal that kept Redwood within **Christchurch Central** and instead moved a section in Linwood/Phillipstown between Fitzgerald Avenue, Avonside Drive, and Tuam Street into **Christchurch East**. This change better aligns the Linwood/Phillipstown area to communities of interest to the east and reverts the Redwood area to its original electorate boundaries.
- 65. No other changes are proposed to the Christchurch electorate boundaries set out in our March report. Due to the projected growth for **Selwyn** ahead of the next review, it is highly likely that further shifts will be required to electoral boundaries in the greater Christchurch region in the future.

Southland

- 66. **Invercargill** was below quota and needed to gain population from neighbouring **Southland**. Our proposed changes involved a population of around 900 in the vicinity of Nightcaps and Otautau moving from **Southland** to **Invercargill**.
- 67. The Commission received submissions relating to the boundary between Invercargill and Southland and further suggestions relating to the Central Lakes region. While these submissions held merit, there was insufficient rationale for change and in particular the suggestions relating to the Central Lakes region would have too significant an impact on surrounding electorates to undertake without an opportunity for consultation with the impacted communities. Accordingly, we have retained the proposed boundaries between Invercargill and Southland as set out in our original report. If rapid growth in the Central Lakes area continues, the next Representation Commission may have to consider significant boundary changes in the area.

Elsewhere

- 68. There were no changes proposed to **Nelson**, **Waimakariri**, **Banks Peninsula**, **Rangitata**, **Waitaki**, **Dunedin** and **Taieri**. All these electorates remain unchanged from their 2020 boundaries and names.
- 69. The Commission did receive a small number of submissions from **West Coast-Tasman** and **Kaikōura**, however we have been unable to accommodate these suggestions due to population quota requirements, and they remain unchanged from 2020 boundaries and names.
- 70. We received some submissions from the residents of Geraldine in the Timaru district, seeking to move that town from **Waitaki** to **Rangitata**, due to its physical proximity to and connections with Timaru. We explored options in the region, but note that all these areas can claim an equally compelling community of interest connection to Timaru. Due to the population of the Geraldine area, any move would require substantial changes to both **Waitaki** and **Rangitata**. Accordingly, no changes have been made to these electorates. The Commissioners wish to acknowledge the passion of the submitters, and the detail provided during the hearings process.

MĀORI ELECTORATES

- 71. The boundaries of the Māori electorates were considered by the Māori members of the Commission in a group session with the rest of the Commission and were confirmed by the Commission as a whole.
- 72. The Māori electorates had seen some growth in population since the last boundary review. However, because of the relatively strong rates of growth in the South Island general electoral population, the number of Māori electorates remains at seven.
- 73. Most of the Māori electorates cover large geographic areas by comparison to the general electorates. This is unavoidable given there are currently seven Māori electorates to cover the entire country, and the Māori electoral population is lower in the South Island and the southern part of the North Island.
- 74. The only substantive proposed change to Māori electorate boundaries was between **Ikaroa-Rāwhiti** and **Te Tai Tonga**. The **Ikaroa-Rāwhiti** electorate was 5.5% below quota and so needed to gain population. It was proposed that an area around Petone and Eastbourne in Lower Hutt move from **Te Tai Tonga** to **Ikaroa-Rāwhiti**.
- 75. One objection was received to this proposed change, arguing that the proposed change did not effectively acknowledge iwi, hapū and whānau relationships in the electorate, or natural geographic barriers such as the Remutaka Range. We considered the points raised in this objection and note that many electorate boundaries intersect and cross various rohe lines. Accordingly, the Commissioners found the proposed boundary change presented the best opportunity to meet the statutory criteria.
- 76. Another submitter objected to the boundaries of **Tāmaki Makaurau**, recommending that we adopt boundaries that lead to more consistent populations for Māori electorates in the area. We considered the contents of this objection but note that the population quota already allows for having a similar number of people in each electorate. Accordingly, no changes have been made to this electorate as it remains within the required population quota.
- 77. The Commission received several submissions in relation to how the number of Māori seats is determined. Changes to the calculations as defined by the Electoral Act 1993 are not within the scope of the Commission and we were unable to consider these objections. The Commission does acknowledge the ongoing need for community education with regards to the continuous nature of the Māori roll, the exemption period for changing roll, and the date on which the data is collected for use in determining the number of Māori electorates. The Commission therefore recommends that further investigation into responsibility for community education form part of planning for future boundary reviews.
- 78. As all other Māori electorates are within quota no other substantive changes are required.

NGĀ ROHE PŌTI MĀORI

- 79. I wānangatia ngā rohenga o ngā rohe pōti Māori e ngā mema Māori o te Komihana, i tētahi wānanga ā-rōpū ki te Komihana whānui, ā, i whakaūngia e te Komihana whānui.
- 80. Kua kitea te tipuranga o ngā rohe pōti Māori mai i tērā o ngā arotake rohenga kua hipa. Engari, nā te pakari o te tipu o te taupori o te rohe pōti whānui o Te Waipounamu, ka noho tonu te maha o ngā rohe pōti Māori ki te whitu.
- 81. Ka kapi i te nuinga o ngā rohe pōti Māori tētahi rohenga whenua hora whānui, ina tauritea ki ngā rohe pōti whānui. E kore e taea te karo i te mea e whitu noa ngā rohe pōti Māori puta noa i te whenua katoa, ā, he iti ake te taupori rohe pōti Māori i Te Waipounamu, me te taha tonga hoki o Te Ika-a-Māui.
- 82. Kotahi anake te panonitanga i marohitia ki ngā rohe pōti Māori, arā, ko te rohenga i waenga o **Ikaroa-Rāwhiti** me **Te Tai Tonga**. I heke te rohe o **Te Ikaroa-Rāwhiti** mā te 5.5% i raro o te pae, nā reira me piki kē te taupori e mau tonu ai te rohe. I marohitia ake kia nuku tētahi wāhi o Pito-one me Ōkiwi i Te Awakairangi ki Tai, mai i **Te Tai Tonga** ki **Te Ikaroa-Rāwhiti**.
- 83. Ko tētahi whakahēnga ki tēnei marohitanga, i tohe i te korenga o tēnei panoni e tūtohu ki ngā hononga iwi, hapū me ngā whānau i te rohe pōti, kāore rānei i tūtohu ki ngā tauārai tūtohu whenua pēnei i Remutaka. I wānanga mātou i ngā aronga o tēnei whakahēnga, ā, me te kī ake, he nui ngā rohenga pōti e tauwehe ana, e whakawhiti ana rānei i ngā rohenga ā-rohe. Waihoki i whakatau ngā Kaikomihana ko ngā panoni ki ngā rohe e marohitia ana ka noho hei arawātea pai rawa ki te whakatutuki i ngā paearu ā-ture.
- 84. I whakahē anō tētahi atu kaituku ki ngā rohenga o **Tāmaki Makaurau**, me tana tūtohu ake kia whāia e mātou ngā rohenga e reretahi ake ai ngā taupori mō ngā rohe pōti i te rohe. I wānangatia e mātou ngā kaupapa o tēnei whakahēnga, engari ka āheitia te ritenga o te maha o ngā tāngata ki ia rohe pōti i roto i ngā tikanga o te pae rahinga taupori. Nā tērā, kāore he panoni ki tēnei rohe pōti i te mea ka tau tonu ki roto i te pae rahinga taupori.
- 85. I whiwhi te Komihana i ētahi atu tāpaetanga ki te āhua o te tikanga whakatau i te maha o ngā tūru Māori. Ko ngā panonitanga ki te ture tātai e ai ki ngā whakamārama o te Ture Pōti 1993, kāore i tau ki te mana whakatau o te Komihana, ā, kāore i āhei ki te whiriwhiri i ēnei whakahēnga. Ka tūtohu Te Komihana i te hiahia moroki mō te mātauranga āhapori e pā ana ki te āhua moroki o te rārangi pōti Māori, te wā whakawātea o te whakawhiti rārangi, me te rā o te kohinga o ngā raraunga hei whakatau i te maha o ngā rohe pōti Māori. Nā reira ko te tūtohu a Te Komihana kia mātorohia tonu te haepapa o te mātauranga ā-hapori kia uru ki ngā whakamaheretanga o ngā arotake rohenga anamata.
- 86. I te mea ka tau ērā atu o ngā rohe pōti Māori ki roto i te pae rahinga, kāore he panonitanga atu anō.

NAMING ELECTORATES

- 87. As part of the boundary review the Commission must also decide the names of the electorates, which often reflect their communities and relevant geographic areas or features. As a result of boundary changes, some electorate names have also been changed to better reflect those areas and features.
- 88. For electorate names in te reo Māori, the Commission has used macrons where it is considered appropriate, informed by the decisions of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa.
- 89. The proposed electorate names generated some commentary through the objection and counter-objection process. We considered the merits of all the submissions and were persuaded in several cases that the proposed alternative electorate names offered more accurate and potentially enduring names than those proposed in our report.

Changed names

- 90. Electorate names changed since our March 2025 proposals are:
 - The reconfigured electorate of Rānui becomes Henderson
 - East Coast becomes East Cape
 - Wellington Central becomes Wellington North
 - Rongotai becomes Wellington Bays.

Names not changed

- 91. Alternative names that we have not adopted were suggested for a range of electorates. These were not adopted, for reasons including lack of public awareness of the proposed name, lack of public feedback through the objections and counter-objections process, or potential confusion with other electorates or local authority names. Some of these suggestions included:
 - Northcote: Kaipātiki (to align with the Auckland Council ward of the same name)
 - **Glendene**: Whau (to align with the river and the Auckland Council ward of that name), Te Atatū (retaining the name of the 2020 electorate)
 - Ōtāhuhu: Manukau East, Papatoetoe, Ōtara-Ōtāhuhu
 - Pakuranga: add a macron to become Pakūranga
 - Port Waikato: Franklin
 - Mt Maunganui: Tauranga East (and Tauranga to be renamed Tauranga West), Mangatawa, Papamoa / Pāpāmoa
 - Napier: Northern Hawke's Bay
 - Rangitīkei: Manawatū
 - **Kapiti**: Mana (retaining the name of the 2020 electorate)
 - Kenepuru: Rangituhi (the name of a prominent hill in the electorate), Porirua
 - Hutt South: Petone / Pito-One
 - Dunedin / Taieri: Dunedin North and Dunedin South
 - **Southland**: Central-Southland, Otago-Southland, Southern Lakes, Awarua.

92. We thank submitters for their detailed electorate name suggestions.

FINAL RESULT

- 93. The final result of the Commission's work is that there will be one fewer North Island general electorate. The boundaries of 49 general electorates have been amended to some degree, with 10 general electorates being renamed to better reflect their revised location and boundaries. The boundaries of three of the seven Māori electorates were amended to a small degree, and none were renamed. The boundaries of 15 of the existing 65 general electorates and four of the seven Māori electorates remain unaltered.
- 94. Of the total 2023 population, 676,123 in the North Island (20.2% of the North Island electoral population), 30,032 in the South Island (2.7% of the South Island electoral population) and 3,289 in the Māori electorates (0.6% of the Māori electoral population) will be in a different electorate at the next election.
- 95. The names and electoral populations of the electorates are set out at **Schedule C**. Overview maps of the electorates are provided at **Schedule E**. The boundaries of the electorates are shown in the maps at **Schedule F**.

Duration of the electorate boundaries

96. The boundaries described in this report will be used for the next general election. Any byelections held before that election will be conducted using the 2020 electorate
boundaries. A date has not been set for the next boundary review. Consideration of
population projections for 2026 and 2029, when general elections are expected, were
included when setting the boundaries. We recognise that these are estimates and are
used as guidance to support suitability of these boundary determinations over this
period. We note that the next boundary review process may face some challenges in
determining boundaries given slow population growth, and in some cases, declining
populations, in some rural and provincial areas.

Notes of thanks

97. We would like to record our thanks to the Surveyor-General, the Chief Electoral Officer, and the Deputy Government Statistician for the way they and their departments have served the Commission. They and their staff at the Electoral Commission, Land Information New Zealand and Stats NZ provided excellent professional service and invaluable support for our work.