Statement of proposal

Representation review

For the 2019 and 2022 Wellington City Council elections Ward and community board names and boundaries

> Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council Me Heke Ki Pöneke

Background

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act) local authorities must review their electoral arrangements at least every six years.

Wellington City Council (Council) last reviewed its arrangements in 2012 for the 2013 elections, with a minor change to the Tawa Community Board boundary in 2015.

That means we have to do another review before the 2019 elections.

Representation reviews look at:

- Identifying our communities of interest
- How these communities of interest are best represented by:
 - the basis on which councillors are elected (ie at large, wards or a mixture of both)
 - the total number of councillors
 - ward numbers, names and boundaries and
 - community board arrangements
- Ensuring each councillor represents about the same number of people
- the electoral system to be used and
- any arrangements for Māori wards.

Council resolved, on 30 August 2017, to keep the Single Transferable Voting (STV) voting system for the 2019 elections.

Council has also decided, after consulting with mana whenua, not to establish a Māori ward.

A research survey with a number of Wellingtonians and with the Tawa and Makara/ Ohariu community boards showed most people are happy with the current ward and community board system and boundaries, although some people thought we should consider incorporating te reo Māori in how we name our wards.

Under the Act Council can only consult on one proposal.

Ward boundaries

Two current wards - Eastern and Lambton - do not comply with the Act's rules on fair representation which say that each councillor should represent about the same number of people.

Currently Eastern Ward has too few people for the number of councillors it has, and Lambton Ward has too few councillors for the number of people living in the ward.

Another issue is Brooklyn is split between the existing Southern and Lambton wards.

Council is proposing keeping the same number of councillors (14) and making changes to the ward boundaries.

The changes proposed take account of communities of interest and reduce the level to which our ward system doesn't comply with the rules in the Act.

The proposal does not completely comply with the Act because of the need to protect recognised communities of interest in the Eastern, Southern and Lambton wards.

The main changes proposed are:

- a change in the boundary between Eastern and Southern wards
- a change in the boundary between the Southern and Lambton wards
- a change in the boundary between Onslow-Western and Southern wards
- a change in the boundary between Northern and Onslow-Western wards.

If the proposed changes are accepted by Council the Eastern Ward will be slightly over-represented (by just over 11%) and the Southern Ward slightly under represented (by just over 10%).

The maps in this statement of proposal show the old ward boundaries (in green) and the proposed new boundaries (in red).

Community boards

The proposal keeps the current community board arrangements with an adjustment to the boundary of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board area to match the proposed changes to the ward boundaries.

Te reo Māori

The proposal includes renaming the wards to include te reo Māori.

Council consulted with local iwi on what te reo Māori names would be appropriate for the various wards.

Have your say

To have your say about the proposed new ward boundaries and names you can:

- make a submission online at wellington.govt. nz/have-your-say/consultations
- go to wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/ consultations print the FreePost submission form and post it to us (no stamp required) at: FreePost Wellington City Council Representation review (265) PO Box 2199 Wellington 6140

Printed copies of the representation review proposal and submission forms are available at our service centre at 101 Wakefield Street and at city libraries.

If you would like us to send you a copy of the proposal and submission form, please phone 04 499 4444 or email repreview @wcc.govt.nz

Written submissions open on April 4 and close at 5pm on May 4.

Next steps

Oral submissions will be heard between 7-25 May.

The final proposal will be presented to Council on 30 May for a decision.

The decision will be publicly notified on 13 June and there is a period from 13 June to 13 July during which you can appeal or object to the decision.

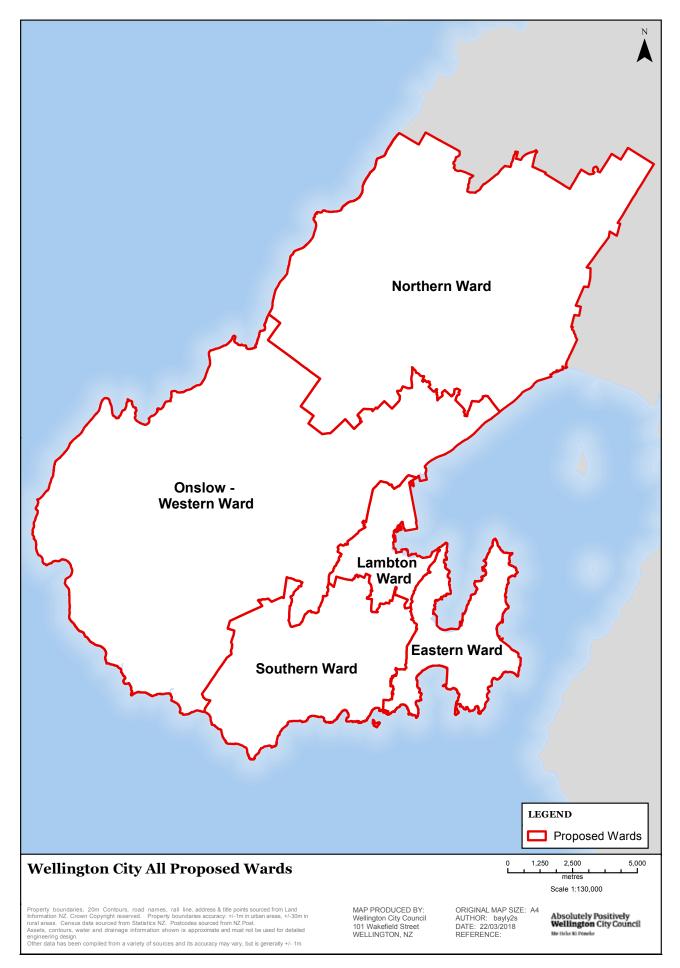
If there is an appeal or objection, or the final proposal does not comply with the Act's requirements for fair representation it must be referred to the Local Government Commission (LGC). The LGC will determine the representation arrangements, including any community boards, for the 2019 Wellington City Council elections.

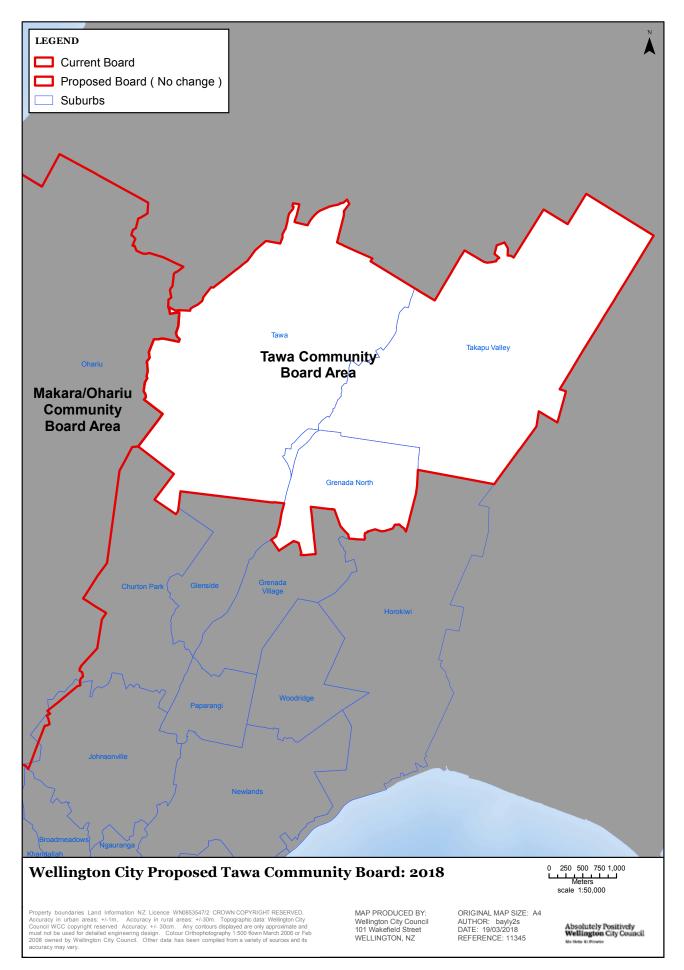
That decision must be made by 10 April 2019.

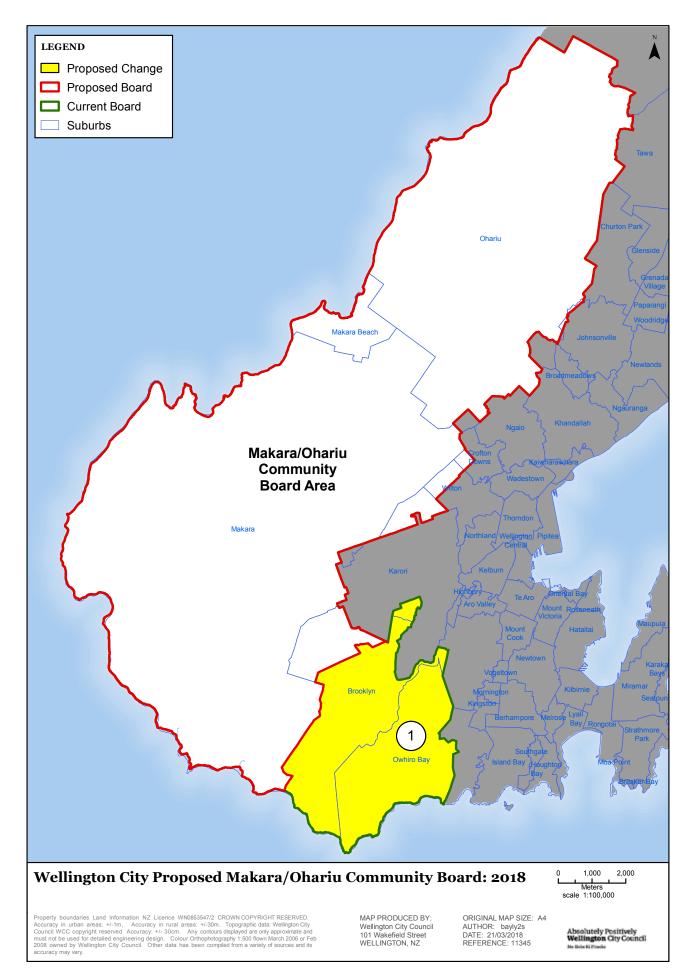
Proposed ward boundary changes

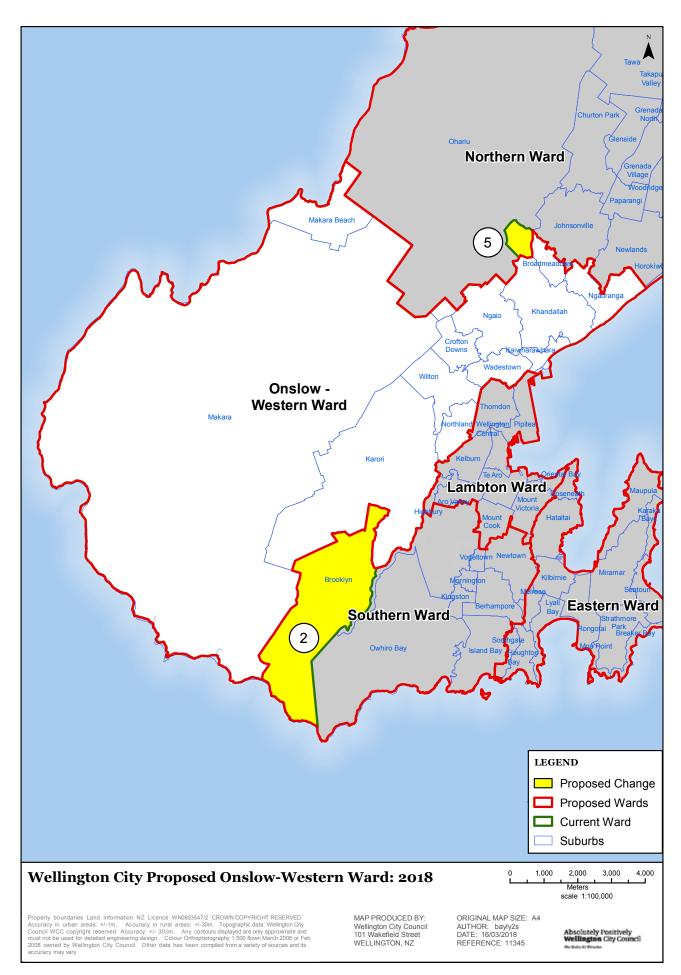
The following eleven pages show the proposed changes to ward boundaries. Note the red boundary lines show the proposed ward boundaries and the green lines show the current boundaries.

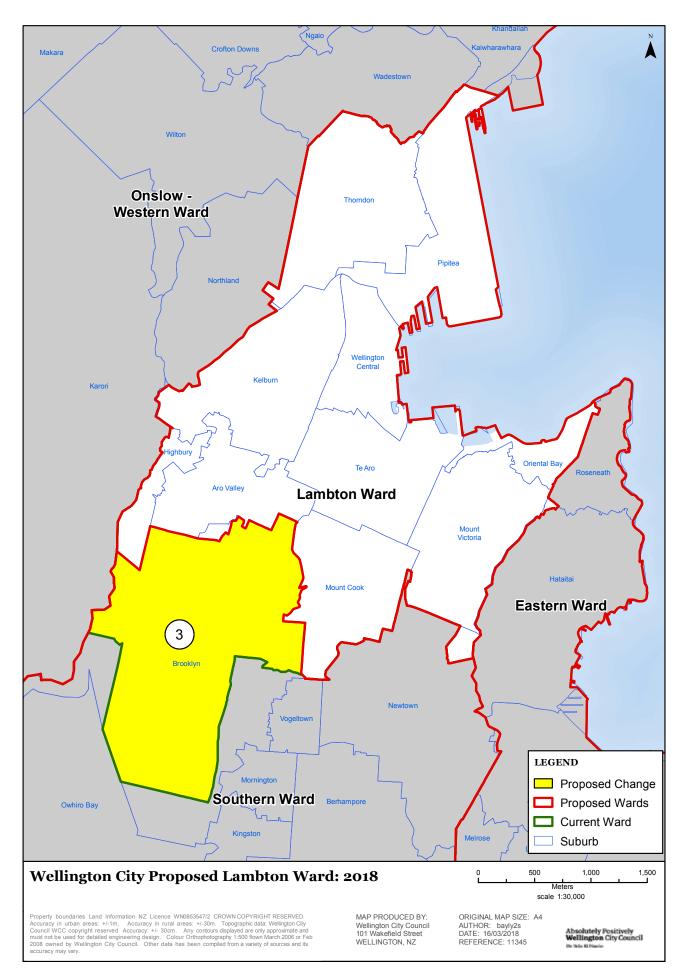
Change		Reason	Affects
1	Changing the boundary of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board area.	Moving the boundary to match the new boundary of Southern and Onslow-Western wards	People living in parts of Brooklyn and Owhiro Bay
2	Moving part of the boundary between Onslow- Western Ward and Southern Ward towards the Onslow- Western Ward (ie Southern is taking in some of what has been Onslow-Western)	Bringing Southern Ward into alignment with other wards in terms of population to councillor ratio and to put all of Brooklyn into one ward.	People living in Brooklyn
3	Moving part of the boundary between the Lambton Ward and the Southern Ward towards the Lambton Ward (ie Southern is taking in some of what has been Lambton)	Bringing Southern and Lambton wards into alignment with other wards in terms of population to councillor ratio and to put all of Brooklyn into one ward.	People living in Brooklyn
4	Moving part of the boundary between Southern Ward and Eastern Ward towards the Eastern Ward (Eastern is taking in some of what has been Southern)	Bringing Southern and Eastern wards into alignment with other wards in terms of population to councillor ratio.	People living in Southgate
5	Moving a small piece of uninhabited council- owned land currently in the Onslow-Western Ward into the Northern Ward.	Bringing the whole of the Ohariu suburb into one ward	No affected people

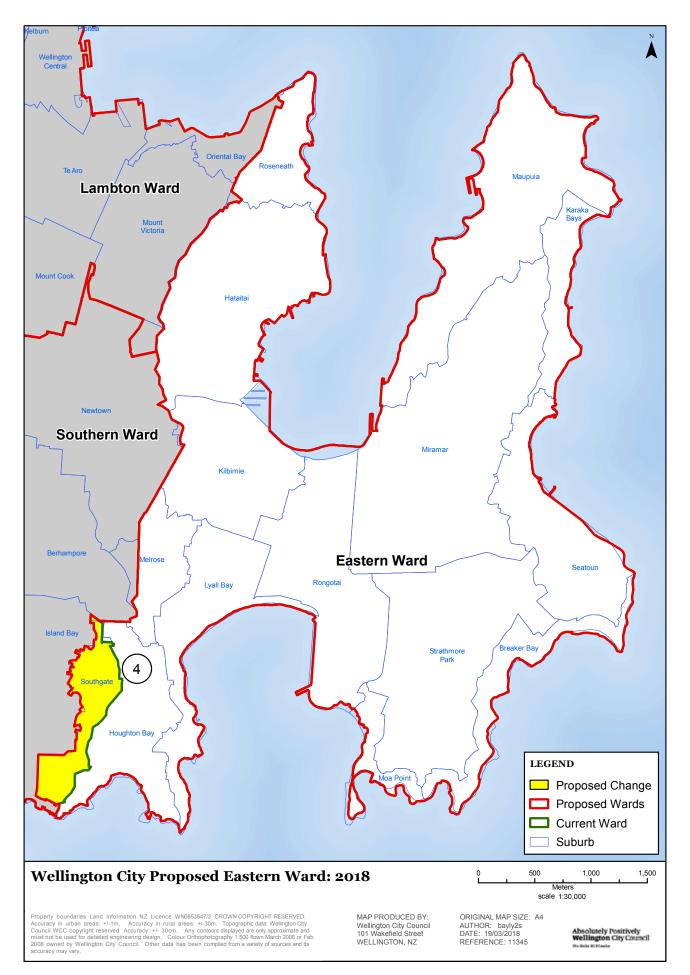


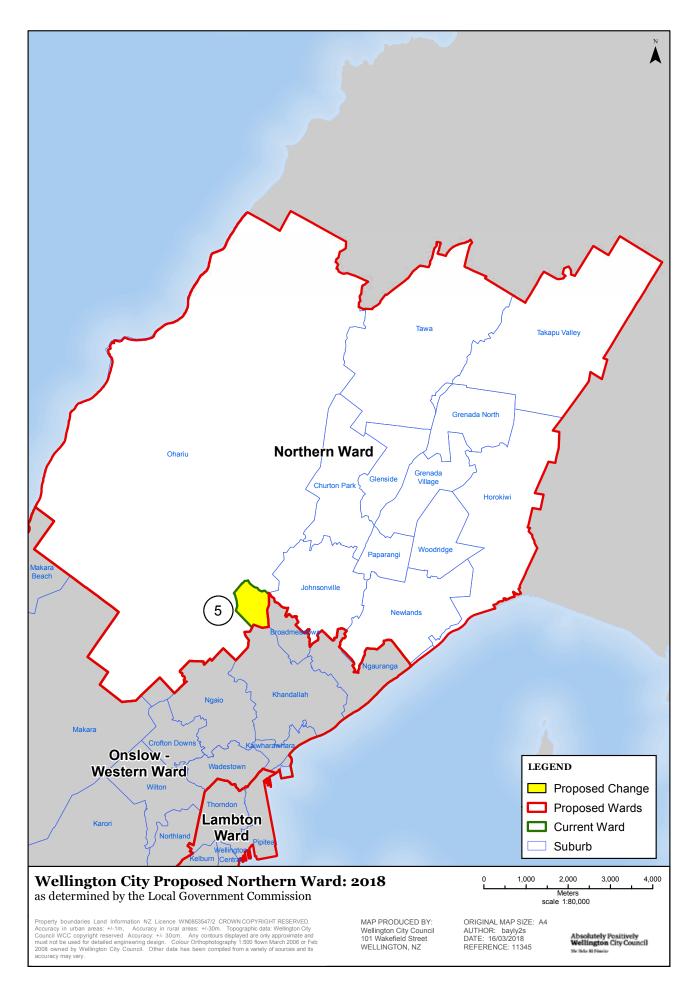


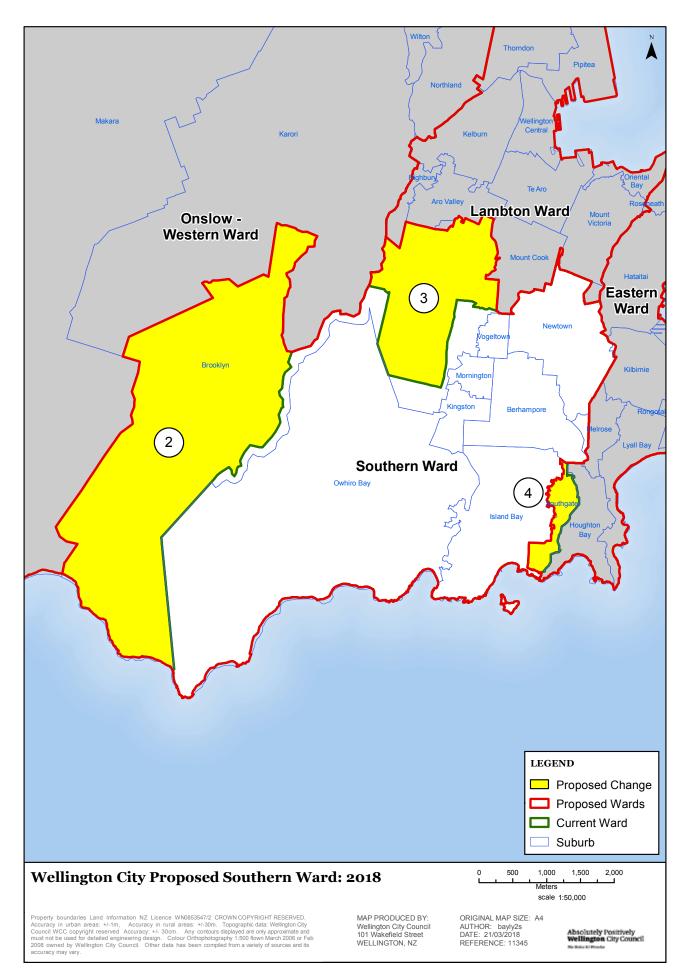


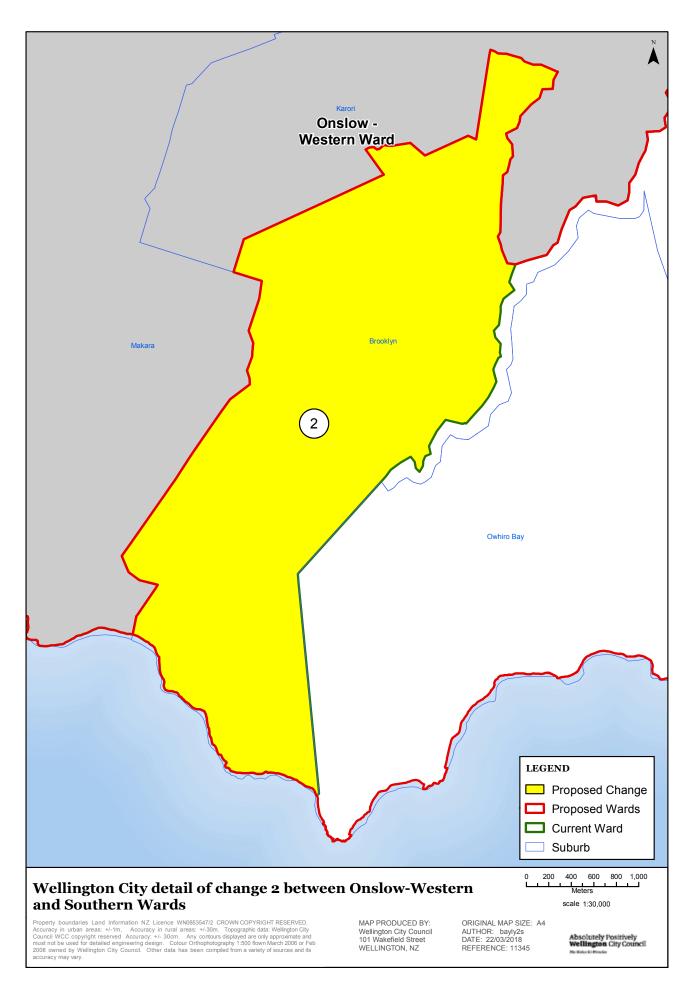


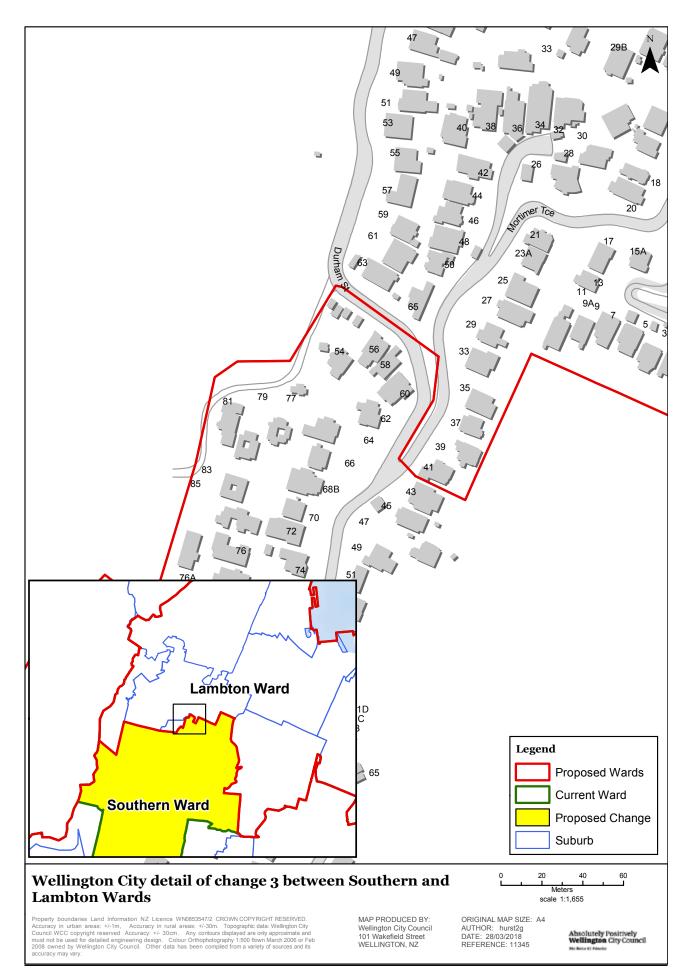


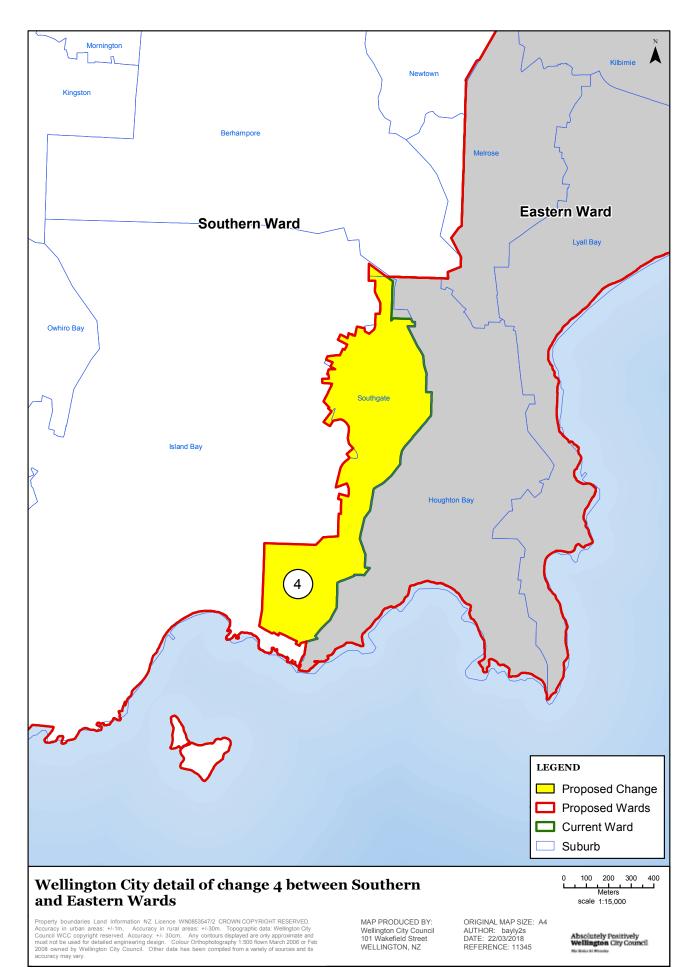












Proposed bilingual ward name changes

The following te reo Māori names are proposed for the wards:

- Pukehīnau Lambton Ward
- Motukairangi Eastern Ward
- Paekawakawa Southern Ward
- Wharangi Onslow-Western Ward
- Takapū Northern Ward

In accordance with the Council's commitment to make Wellington a te reo city, it has sought input from mana whenua into the selection of appropriate te reo Māori ward names.

The names reflect the depth of Wellington's history and our mana whenua narrative, but are not a forgone conclusion and are still open to discussion.

Ward boundaries and historical iwi landmarks differ geographically. Therefore, dual naming of the wards was considered an appropriate method.

This process is an opportunity to revitalise these Māori names for future generations.

Pukehinau - Lambton ward:

This name means hill of the hīnau tree. It is the ridge extending from Te Aro School to the west of Victoria University and up to Kelburn.

When iwi first came to Wellington the ridge was covered in hīnau trees. It was considered an important and life-giving area, because it was the source of many of the rivers that still flow through the ward today.

Motukairangi - Eastern ward

Literally meaning 'sky-gazing island', the name refers to the large island that became Miramar Peninsula. It is a dominant landmark in the Eastern Ward, being visible from all suburbs.

In early Wellington history, Whatonga advised his son Tara that Motukairangi Island was the most esteemed and precious area for a pā. So Tara and his people moved there from Matiu (Somes) to Motukairangi.

Paekawakawa - Southern ward

This name refers to two parts of the Southern Ward. The first is the bush-clad valley that leads down from the ridge to Island Bay. The other is the Paekawakawa Stream which has a welldeveloped system of headwater tributaries that extend from the Vogeltown area to the southern end of Newtown.

Wharangi - Onslow-Western ward

The name refers to a native costal plant, which was used as a mouth freshener and for its pleasant scent. It refers to the large hill range in the ward. The name Wharangi was provided at a time when oral history reigned and therefore details of why the hills were named this was not recorded. It was likely because of how prolific the plant was on the range. The hills extend from the forks of the Karori stream to Makara and from Wadestown to Porirua. Many residents of the ward live, play or drive on the hills each day.

Takapū - Northern ward

A reference to a food source of great value that started at Porirua and occupied the valley that is now the main transport route to Wellington. At a view point close to what is now Takapū Road, Te Patukawenga looked over the valley and exclaimed, "Ko taku takapū tēnei" - this is my belly, this is where our food will come from. The valley, that now forms the Northern ward from Newlands and Johnsonville north to Tawa, was then known as Takapū.

Questions and answers

Ward boundaries

- Q: This proposal doesn't meet the rules set out by the Local Electoral Act 2001. Why haven't you offered a proposal that is compliant with the Act?
- A: Because of the need to recognise and protect communities of interest, and ensure people with common interests are grouped in the same ward, it wasn't possible to create a fully compliant proposal.

The proposal we have provided is largely compliant (ie the extent of non-compliance is small), and recognises communities with similar interests by grouping them in the same ward.

Non compliance is permitted where respecting communities of interest makes it necessary.

- Q: How do you decide what a "community of interest" is?
- A: Generally a "community of interest" is a geographic area where people feel a sense of belonging. It is a place where the people living there look to the immediate area for social, service and economic support. A community of interest can be influenced by geographic features.

Q: Did you consider adding more community boards?

A: Our original research did not indicate there is a need for more community boards, however if the submissions received show there is a need we will consider it.

Te reo Māori names

- Q: How were the te reo Māori names chosen? Why does the te reo Māori name for my ward refer to one particular geographic feature – how is this representative of the whole area?
- A: We consulted local iwi for the proposed te reo Māori names. Māori culture often links an area with a particular geographic feature.

Place names are particularly significant for Māori as they place people in the world by naming where they come from - where home is. They are important markers of the landscape to help people navigate the world.

- Q: Why have you put the te reo name first when we are all used to the English names?
- A: Wellington City Council has consulted on Te Tauihu - the draft te reo Māori policy. Under that policy te reo names are placed first, with English following. This follows the New Zealand Geographic Board's protocol and the Te Puni Kokiri Māori-English Bilingual Signage Guide.

Absolutely Positively **Wellington** City Council Me Heke Ki Põneke