

2007 COMMUNITY BOARDS BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

The Community Boards Best Practice Awards recognise excellence in the implementation of projects in local government. Prizes will be presented to the winners of each category and the best overall project.

The objectives of the Awards are:

- ◆ Recognition of significant contributions made by Community Boards to the process of achieving excellence in local government;
- ◆ Development of the awards scheme as a learning tool for quality improvements in the functioning of Community Boards;
- ◆ Fostering the exchange of best practice and innovative ideas.

CATEGORIES

Consultation (eg how the Board has actively consulted with its community)	Significant Project (eg a major project which the Board has been actively involved in achieving a desired outcome)
Facilitation (eg identification of a situation/s where the Board has taken a facilitation role to overcome a problem)	Partnership (eg with parent Council / other Boards / community organisation/s)
Heritage (eg outline of heritage project in your community in which your Board has been involved)	Working with Maori (eg examples of projects in which the Board has been in partnership with local Maori)
Working with Children * (eg outline of projects in your community in which your Board and children have been involved)	Harmonious Relations * (eg examples of projects in which the Board has promoted diversity and harmonious relations in NZ)
Safety (eg examples of a project/s in which your Board has contributed to the safety of your community)	<i>* The Young People and Harmonious Relations categories are sponsored, respectively, by UNICEF and the Human Rights Commission. Separate criteria apply. These are attached in full to this notice.</i>

In addition, from each of these categories an overall winner will be selected.

HOW TO FORWARD YOUR ENTRY

You can submit as many entries as you wish, however, each entry should only relate to a single category.

Award applications can be in the format of your choice (such as a PowerPoint presentation/ video/ photos, etc) and should include all relevant information relating to your application. Submissions as electronic files, eg Word documents, will make it easier to share your project information after the Conference. The following information should be included:

1. The name of the project; the Community Board and parent Council and a contact person's name, address, telephone number/s, fax number and email address (if available);
2. A brief description of how the project was implemented and what was achieved;
3. A list of who was involved in the project, including local government/s, community organisation/s, businesses, individuals, etc and how you got them involved;
4. An estimate of the total project cost, how the finance was achieved (eg rates, grants, etc) and any cost savings;
5. A brief explanation of improvements in service quality;
6. Information on lessons learned, including barriers encountered, what you would do differently next time, and how the project might be useful to other communities.

CLOSING DATE

Send your entries, headed 'CB Best Practice Awards' to:
Warwick McNaughton, C/o Manukau City Council, Private Bag 76917, Manukau City,
or email to WMcNau@manukau.govt.nz by 5 pm Thursday 5 April 2007.

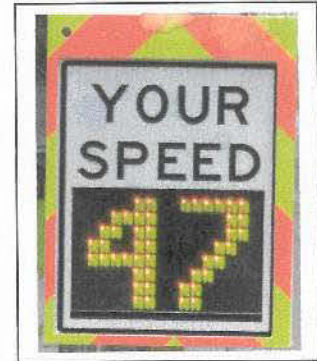
REVIEW PROCESS

All applications will be reviewed by the Conference Judging Panel. The Awards will be announced and presented at the Conference dinner.

Traffic Calming by Fixed Driver Speed Feed Back Sign

Executive Summary

The 3M Driver Feedback Sign is a relatively new tool to help Traffic Safety Engineers reduce speeds in areas where typical speeds are higher than posted maximums. The sign uses radar to calculate the speed of an approaching vehicle and then translate this, in real time, to a driver readable sign. Alerting drivers to their vehicle speed in real-time graphically highlights speed to the driver and encourages speed limit compliance thereby improving safety and protecting pedestrians.



Many drivers are not continually aware of their speed. When their speed is indicated by the sign with an inferred request to slow down they do so agreeably. It is a traffic-calming device that seeks compliance versus imposing compliance by penalty and this instantly gains approval and respect.

The key to high impact easily read sign is the hybrid pixels that combine LED technology with fluorescent yellow green reflective wide observation angle sheeting that ensures that the speed stands out against even cluttered backgrounds, night and day and in all weather conditions.

The signs internal control program allows speed to be set to an agreed maximum in order to prevent motorist testing vehicle performance against the sign. Any speed above this setting causes the LED's to flash and a SLOW NOW signs to repeat until speed is reduced.

The sign is protected from vandalism in a robust cabinet that features an unbreakable polycarbonate sign face. This cabinet enables the sign to be moved strategically to calm speeds in several locations as part of a three or four location rotation.

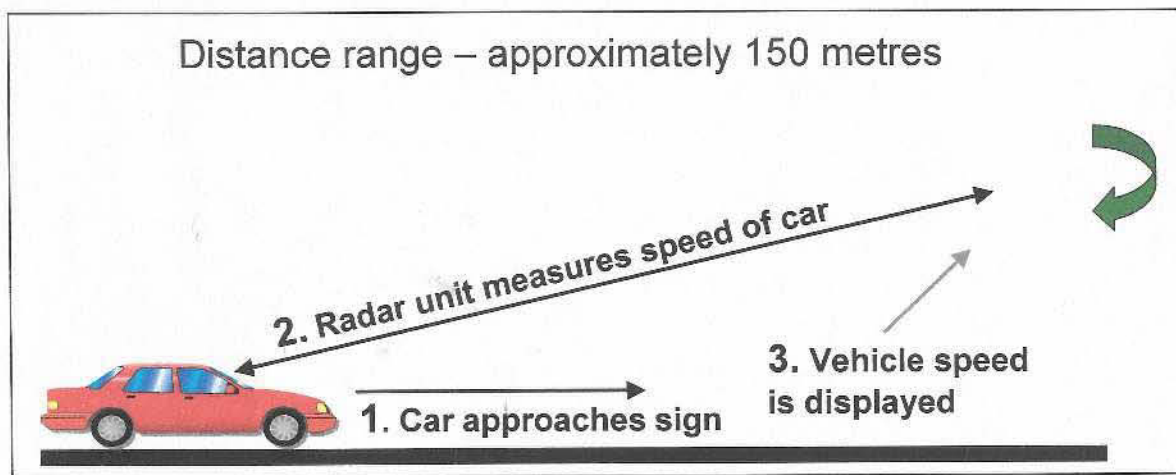
Trials and experience in New Zealand has confirmed international findings. The signs work and speeds are lowered.



1. What are Driver Speed Feedback Signs?

No responsible driver means to speed. But even the most responsible driver is not constantly monitoring his or her own speed. Many responsible drivers unconsciously let their speed build without realising it. If drivers are more conscious of their speed and drive to suit the conditions then we will see fewer and less severe crashes.

The Driver Speed Feedback Sign is a device that uses radar to show an approaching driver exactly what speed they are travelling at. Once aware of any excessive speed the speeding driver can and usually does immediately take actions to reduce speed to within the posted limits.



When the Driver Speed Feedback sign is positioned at locations where speed control is critical, in school zones for example, responding drivers control their own speed and make the area safer for all.

The Driver Speed Feedback Signage is an effective traffic calming tool. By giving instant feedback of a driver's speed it promotes driver education by making drivers aware of their speed.

The Fixed Driver Speed Feedback Sign is more than a traffic calming tool. For the high percentage of motorists who have just let their speed creep up unnoticed, it is a warning. Given a slightly different circumstance they would now have a speeding ticket. When confronted by a Driver Speed Feedback Sign announcing exactly what their speed is these drivers are keen to return to the legal limit and below. But more than this it acts as a reminder to motorists to be speed aware. And this in turn influences many other motorists who become aware of the generally observed speed in the area. Added to this drivers may be concerned that Police may be monitoring speeds in the area.

The severity of injuries sustained by a pedestrian hit by a vehicle is clearly related to the impact of speed. A pedestrian hit at 40km/h has the likelihood of death of approximately 30% while at 60km/h the likelihood of death is around 90%. This is likely to be much higher with a child, due to the head height of a child in relation to a vehicle.

2. The Effectiveness of Driver Speed Feedback Signs:

The use of Driver Speed Feedback Signs (DSFB) definitely influences driver speed. These signs are fully supported by the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), who successfully use trailer mounted Driver Speed Feedback Signs to educate drivers in many known areas where speed is of concern.

An extensive study in the Netherlands found that the average speed before the installation of a DSFB Sign was 63kph. This was reduced to 55kph after the installation of a DSFB Sign - an average of a significant 8kmph speed reduction.

The trailer mounted sign is extremely mobile and effective as a short term speed education project. The Accident Compensation Corporation has deployed 25 such trailers in the interests of accident prevention. One monitored occasion saw speeds reduced by over 5.0% in the first hour of its deployment.

The trailer-mounted signs were designed to be mobile rather than held in a single location for any period of time. They have proved to be excellent for short term deployment and great for spot campaigns. But their very size means that they can't be used everywhere and their battery life means they must return to base and be recharged.

3. NEW Fixed Driver Speed Feedback Signs –

Understanding the limitations of the trailer mounted signs and working with Traffic Safety Engineers, 3M have developed a fixed version of the DSFB sign.

This new sign is housed in a specially designed vandal resistant cabinet, which is mounted strategically on a suitable power pole. In this format the sign can be left in place for extended periods of time, remaining active night and day in order to promote speed awareness twenty four hours a day seven days a week.

3M, supported by Waitakere City Council ran a trial in Great North Road, It was hoped that the sign would reduce the high number of motorists travelling over the speed limit to reduce their speed down closer to the posted fifty kilometres per hour.

The trial found the Fixed Driver Speed Feedback sign to be effective in speed reduction by drivers.

Example of Fixed Speed Feedback sign



Closeup of the sign





LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Determination

of representation arrangements to apply for
the election of the Waitakere City Council
to be held on 13 October 2007

Background

1. The Waitakere City Council ("the Council") elected at the 2004 local election comprises 14 councillors and the mayor. The 14 councillors were elected as follows:

Wards	Population*	Councillors	Population per councillor	Deviation from city average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from city average population per councillor
Massey	58,100	4	14,525	+817.86	+5.97
Henderson	45,300	3	15,100	+1,392.86	+10.16
New Lynn	55,400	4	13,850	+142.86	+1.04
Waitakere	33,100	3	11,033	-2,674.14	-19.51
TOTALS	191,900	14	13,707.14		

* Note: These figures are 2005 population estimates

2. Waitakere City has a community board for each of the four existing wards – Massey, Henderson, New Lynn and Waitakere. None of these are subdivided for electoral purposes. The membership of each board is as follows:
 - Massey – 6 elected members and 3 appointed members;
 - Henderson – 5 elected members and 2 appointed members;
 - New Lynn – 5 elected members and 2 appointed members; and
 - Waitakere – 6 elected members and 3 appointed members.
3. The Council undertook an informal public feedback/information process on 3 options for a ward structure prior to its formal review of representation arrangements for the city and its communities under sections 19H and 19J of the Local Electoral Act 2001 ("the Act").
4. On 15 March 2006 it resolved initial proposed representation arrangements to apply for the 2007 local election. These were publicly notified on 24 March 2006.

5. The Council's initial proposal was as follows:

- (a) the city be divided into 3 wards;
- (b) the council comprise a mayor and 14 councillors elected as follows:

Wards	Population*	Councillors	Population per councillor	Deviation from city average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from city average population per councillor
Northern	54,100	4	13,525	182	-1.33
Central	72,200	5	14,440	733	+5.35
Southern	65,600	5	13,120	587	-4.28
TOTALS	191,900	14	13,707		

* Note: These are 2005 population estimates

- (c) community boards be established with boundaries aligned with those for each of the 3 wards;
 - (d) each community board comprise 6 elected members and 3 appointed members; and
 - (e) the communities not be subdivided for electoral purposes.
6. The Council received 510 submissions on time and 103 late submissions on its initial proposal. An analysis of the submissions by the Council showed:

234 (47%) in support of the Council's 3-ward proposal; and

265 (52%) opposed, with the vast majority favouring a 4-ward model similar to the current structure.

7. Following consideration of the submissions, the Council, on 24 May 2006, changed its initial proposal. Its final proposal was publicly notified on 7 June 2006, as follows:

- (a) the city be divided into 4 wards (modified from original 4-ward model);
- (b) the council comprise a mayor and 14 councillors elected as follows:

Wards	Population*	Councillors	Population per councillor	Deviation from city average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from city average population per councillor
Massey	37,400	3	12,467	-1,240	-9.04
Henderson	73,300	5	14,660	+953	+6.95
New Lynn	66,800	5	13,360	-347	-2.53
Waitakere	14,400	1	14,400	+693	+5.05
TOTALS	191,900	14	13,707		

* Note: These figures are 2005 population estimates

- (c) community boards be retained for each of the 4 wards;
- (d) the Massey, Henderson and New Lynn Community Boards each consist of 5 elected members and 2 appointed members, and the Waitakere Community Board consist of 6 elected members and 1 appointed member; and
- (e) the communities not be subdivided for electoral purposes.

8. A total of 220 objections, including 120 on a standard form, were received against the Council's proposal. The main concerns of the objectors related to:
- exclusion of Laingholm and other areas including (part of) Titirangi from the proposed Waitakere Ward (201 objections);
 - a need for a minimum of two councillors to represent the Waitakere Ward given the size and geography of the ward;
 - the location of boundaries for the Massey, Henderson and New Lynn Wards; and
 - the number and membership of community boards.

Hearing

9. The Commission met with the Council, objectors and submitters supporting the Council's initial 3-ward proposal who had expressed a desire to be heard, at a hearing held in the Waitakere City Council Chambers on 19 September 2006. The Council was represented by Councillor Janet Clews and the Council's Democracy and Support Services Manager Darryl Griffin. The objectors and submitters who appeared at the hearing were: Councillor Warren Flaunty, the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, John Edgar, Kath Dewar, Swanson Residents and Ratepayers Association, Piha Residents and Ratepayers Association, Elizabeth Francke, Henderson Community Board, Denise Yates, Patricia La Roche, Gary Marshall, Geoff Webster, New Lynn Community Board, Anne Grace, Greg Presland, Bryan Trenwith, Jo Quartermass, Waitakere Community Board, Paul Walbran, Massey Community Board, Sandra Coney, Councillor Linda Cooper, John Newick, Eanna Doyle, Massey and Birdwood Settlers Association, Ron Watson, Kubi Witten-Hannah and Jan O'Connor.

Matters raised in objections and at the hearing

10. The main arguments presented in support of alteration of boundaries for the proposed Waitakere Ward were:
- the non-urban area of the city is a distinct community of interest with different interests and needs from the urban area;
 - Laingholm is currently in the non-urban Waitakere Ward reflecting the character of the area and it has little in common with the urban New Lynn Ward;
 - Titirangi has more in common with the 'bush-living' areas such as Laingholm;
 - the Waitakere Ranges are a unique feature of West Auckland attracting thousands of visitors every year and this creates particular issues which require full understanding by locally elected representatives;
 - the Waitakere Ward should, as far as practicable, reflect the area defined in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill presently before Parliament;
 - one councillor would not be able to provide effective representation for the Waitakere Ward given its size and geography and the workload would be unreasonable.

11. Other arguments presented included:
- the boundary between the Waitakere and New Lynn Wards should be redrawn so as to: not split Parrs Park from Oratia, locate the 'Zodiac' area in Waitakere Ward and avoid Glengarry Road being crossed four times by the boundary;
 - the Ranui area being retained in the Massey Ward or possibly moved to the Waitakere Ward;
 - support for community boards with added delegations;
 - increased membership (of 6) for the Massey Community Board;
 - a reduction in the number of community boards to one urban board and one rural board;
 - removal of community boards.
12. The New Lynn Community Board, as a submitter in support of the Council's initial proposal for a 3-ward model, was invited to appear at the hearing. Arguments presented in support of the 3-ward model included:
- mixing urban and non-urban areas would help unify the city;
 - urban councillors would become more involved in the non-urban areas and "buy into" stewardship of the Ranges;
 - would result in more balanced decision-making;
 - representation is a different issue from management of, for example, the Ranges;
 - wards would all have a main centre and reflect natural transport routes to the west;
 - Titirangi is better suited to a mixed southern ward than a non-urban ward;
 - the option is more sustainable for the future.
13. The main arguments presented against a 3-ward model were:
- wards would be artificial and wouldn't reflect communities of interest;
 - would combine very different life styles and needs;
 - the wards would be too big;
 - would increase the cost of standing for election;
 - wouldn't provide adequate representation for the non-urban area;
 - would dilute the principles of "eco city" and the West Coast Plan;
 - would put pressure on volunteer groups to protect the Ranges.

Matters for Determination

14. The statutory provisions in respect of objections are contained in sections 19R, 19H and 19J of the Act.

19R. ***Commission to determine appeals and objections***
 (1) *The Commission must—*

- (a) Consider the resolutions, submissions, appeals, objections, and information forwarded to it under section 19Q; and
 - (b) Subject to sections 19T and 19V in the case of a territorial authority, and to sections 19U and 19V in the case of a regional council, determine,—
 - (i) In the case of a territorial authority that has made a resolution under section 19H, the matters specified in that section:
 - (ii) In the case of a regional council that has made a resolution under section 19I, the matters specified in that section:
 - (iii) In the case of a territorial authority that has made a resolution under section 19J, the matters specified in that section.
- (2) For the purposes of making a determination under subsection (1)(b), the Commission—
- (a) May make any enquiries that it considers appropriate; and
 - (b) May hold, but is not obliged to hold, meetings with the territorial authority or regional council or any persons who have lodged an appeal or objection and have indicated a desire to be heard by the Commission in relation to that appeal or objection.
- (3) The Commission must, before 11 April in the year of a triennial general election, complete the duties it is required to carry out under subsection (1).

19H. Review of representation arrangements for elections of territorial authorities

- (1) A territorial authority must determine by resolution, and in accordance with this Part,—
- (a) Whether the members of the territorial authority (other than the mayor) are proposed to be elected—
 - (i) By the electors of the district as a whole; or
 - (ii) By the electors of 2 or more wards; or
 - (iii) In some cases by the electors of the district as a whole and in the other cases by the electors of each ward of the district; and
 - (b) In any case to which paragraph (a)(i) applies, the proposed number of members to be elected by the electors of the district as a whole; and
 - (c) In any case to which paragraph (a)(iii) applies,—
 - (i) The proposed number of members to be elected by the electors of the district as a whole; and
 - (ii) The proposed number of members to be elected by the wards of the district; and
 - (d) In any case to which paragraph (a)(ii) or paragraph (a)(iii) applies,—
 - (i) The proposed name and the proposed boundaries of each ward; and
 - (ii) The number of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each ward.
- (2) The determination required by subsection (1) must be made by a territorial authority —
- (a) On the first occasion, either in 2003 or in 2006; and
 - (b) Subsequently, at least once in every period of 6 years after the first determination.

- (3) *This section must be read in conjunction with section 19ZH and Schedule 1A.*

19J. Review of community boards

- (1) *A territorial authority must, on every occasion on which it passes a resolution under section 19H, determine by that resolution, and in accordance with this Part, not only the matters referred to in that section but also whether, in light of the principle set out in section 4(1)(a) (which relates to fair and effective representation for individuals and communities) —*
- (a) *There should be communities and community boards; and*
 - (b) *If so resolved, the nature of any community and the structure of any community board.*
- (2) *The resolution referred to in subsection (1) must, in particular, determine—*
- (a) *Whether 1 or more communities should be constituted:*
 - (b) *Whether any community should be abolished or united with another community:*
 - (c) *Whether the boundaries of a community should be altered:*
 - (d) *Whether a community should be subdivided for electoral purposes or whether it should continue to be subdivided for electoral purposes, as the case may require:*
 - (e) *Whether the boundaries of any subdivision should be altered:*
 - (f) *The number of members of any community board:*
 - (g) *The number of members of a community board who should be elected and the number of members of a community board who should be appointed:*
 - (h) *Whether the members of a community board who are proposed to be elected are to be elected—*
 - (i) *By the electors of the community as a whole; or*
 - (ii) *By the electors of 2 or more subdivisions; or*
 - (iii) *If the community comprises 2 or more whole wards, by the electors of each ward:*
 - (i) *in any case to which paragraph (h)(ii) applies, -*
 - (i) *The proposed name and the proposed boundaries of each subdivision; and*
 - (ii) *The number of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each subdivision.*
- (3) *Nothing in this section limits the provisions of section 19F.*

Procedural Issue

15. Several objectors suggested that if the non-urban area of the city was not to be effectively represented, consideration should be given to transferring this area to the more rural Rodney District. One of these objectors, Bryan Trenwith, raised this issue at the hearing. Mr Trenwith said he believed the Council's proposal did not meet the requirements for fair and effective representation of the rural community, which was well delineated in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill presently before Parliament. He said the problem lay with the original boundaries of Waitakere City and Rodney District. Mr Trenwith proposed that the Commission refer the matter of the boundaries of the two territorial authorities to the Minister of Local Government for consideration.

16. The Commission has noted the issue raised by Mr Trenwith. It notes also that under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) reorganisation proposals involving boundary alterations may be initiated in one of three ways:
 - (a) by an affected local authority; or
 - (b) by the Minister of Local Government; or
 - (c) by a petition signed by at least 10% of the electors of the area subject to the proposed reorganisation.
17. While the Commission is empowered, by another provision of the LGA, to report to the Minister on any matter relating to a local authority or local government, it considers that reorganisation proposals are generally best initiated at the local level. The Commission considers that either one of the councils concerned or 10% of electors would be in a better position, at this stage, to ascertain the appropriateness and level of support for a boundary alteration in the area.

Consideration by the Commission

Effective representation of communities of interest

18. The steps in the representation review process are not statutorily prescribed. The Commission believes, however, that the following process for determining representation arrangements will achieve a robust outcome that is in accordance with the statutory criteria:
 - (a) identify the city's communities of interest;
 - (b) determine the best means of providing effective representation for the communities of interest; and
 - (c) determine fair representation of electors for the city.
19. The Act does not define either 'effective representation' or 'communities of interest'. The Commission considers, however, that achieving effective representation for communities of interest includes determining which, if any, communities of interest, or groupings of communities of interest, require separate ward representation.
20. The Commission acknowledges the work the Council undertook, given this was the first review undertaken under this legislation, to confirm the city's communities of interest. This work identified possible approaches as including communities of interest based on water catchments, transport links, land use, and community facilities.
21. Based on these options, the Council initially proposed a structure of 3 wards as east-west bands across the city integrating the urban and non-urban areas of the city reflecting factors of population, land use, transport links and landscape. In response to both an informal public feedback/information process and the Council's initial representation proposal, there was strong community support instead for a 4-ward model reflecting existing land use patterns and in particular the need for separate representation to reflect the distinction between the urban and non-urban areas of the city.
22. After considering the community feedback, the Council changed its final proposal to a modified 4-ward model recognising, by reinstatement of a

Waitakere Ward, the non-urban area of the city as a separate community of interest. While not agreeing with the Council's proposed boundaries for the Waitakere Ward, the bulk of objectors to the Council's final proposal strongly supported a 4-ward land-use based model.

23. The Commission agrees in the first instance that a ward system for Waitakere City is appropriate given the size and geography of the city, the existence of different communities within the city, and general acceptance of the traditional use of wards reflecting recognised communities of Massey, Henderson, New Lynn and the non-urban Waitakere area.
24. Many objectors to the Council's final proposal referred variously to the special character and common interests of the rural, forested and coastal areas of the city as distinctive from, and with different needs to, the urban areas. In this regard, the Commission notes the Council's own long-term council community plan (p. 19) describes the Waitakere Ranges as "what makes us uniquely West Auckland". One objector submitted that this area, more than any other, helps define the essence of Waitakere's 'eco city' a vision and guide for decision-making in the city.
25. The Commission's 'Guidelines to assist local authorities in undertaking representation reviews' notes that defining characteristics of communities of interest include "a sense of community identity and belonging". It is clear to the Commission that many residents have a strong sense of identity with and belonging to the Waitakere Ranges area of the city and a commitment to this area. This is reflected, for example, in the number of community organisations and volunteers working to protect and enhance the character of the non-urban area of the city and the interests of the residents of this area.
26. This sense of identity and commitment was demonstrated in the development of the West Coast Plan, a community initiative, supported by the Council, reflecting residents' wishes for the future management of the west coast and Waitakere Ranges. The plan acknowledges the ecological, social and demographic similarities of the communities of this area.
27. The Commission considers accordingly that retention of a 4-ward model, including a non-urban Waitakere Ward reflecting perhaps the single biggest community of interest in the city, is appropriate.
28. The Commission believes that 4 wards can also support the Council's policies in relation to future planning for the city. The long-term council community plan identifies the following planning focuses relating to the current 4 ward areas:
 - a central hub for the city based on Henderson;
 - two town centres providing significant community hubs based on New Lynn and Massey North/Westgate; and
 - a network of rural and coastal villages reflecting the unique qualities of the Waitakere Ranges.
29. Given the decision to retain a 4-ward model, the Commission is then required to consider the appropriate boundaries for these wards. The bulk of the objections related to the Waitakere Ward and its proposed boundaries.

30. The Commission recognises the reasoning of the Council in including the Laingholm and Titirangi areas in the proposed urban New Lynn Ward was to achieve consistency with the 'metropolitan urban limit' line designed to contain growth and stop sprawling development.
31. The Commission heard, however, that Laingholm is physically separated from the urban area, and that both the catchment of Laingholm School and circulation area for the *Laingholm Roundabout*, a monthly community newspaper, suggested its community of interest lay more appropriately with the non-urban area. While Titirangi has always been in the urban New Lynn Ward, the Commission heard from a number of objectors that many residents identified more with the non-urban area given its 'bush-living' character in common with Laingholm.
32. The Commission acknowledges inclusion of the more urban-focussed Titirangi area in the Waitakere Ward will not be supported by all. It believes, however, that, on balance, Titirangi does have a commonality of interest with bush-living areas such as Laingholm that justifies its inclusion in the Waitakere Ward.
33. The Commission also heard that there had been careful consideration and extensive consultation on the boundaries for the heritage area identified in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill. The purpose of this Bill is "to recognise the national, regional and local importance of the Waitakere Ranges, foothills and coastal areas and to promote the protection and enhancement of its heritage features for present and future generations".
34. The Council submitted that the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill was about environmental protection and not about governance. The Commission acknowledges this point but believes, given the level of community identification with the purpose of the Bill, the heritage area may still be seen as an appropriate basis for identifying boundaries for the Waitakere Ward reflecting residents' sense of identity with and belonging to the area. The Commission notes that a perfect match between the heritage area and a Waitakere Ward cannot be achieved as the former does not align with meshblocks in a number of areas. It also considers that the coastal area leading up to Green Bay, though in the heritage area, would, on community of interest grounds, be best placed in the New Lynn Ward.
35. Most objectors proposing closer alignment of the boundaries of the Waitakere Ward with the Ranges heritage area also saw this as a means to increase representation for the Waitakere Ward. They saw the proposal for one councillor to represent this ward as inadequate and failing to meet the statutory requirement for effective representation for communities of interest. This argument was based on:
 - the size of the ward (being approximately two thirds of the city) and, as a result, the distances one representative would have to travel to meet constituents and local groups;
 - the impact of the size of the ward being exacerbated by roading patterns and the remoteness of the dispersed communities in the ward;
 - the pressure placed on one councillor would be further exacerbated by the large number of community organisations in the ward (13) with which contact needs to be maintained;

- the range and nature of the issues to be dealt with in the ward, described by some as an “ecological island”, and the tension between environmental protection and enhancement of the Ranges and development pressures which would be hard for one councillor to effectively represent; and
 - the difficulty of providing effective cover for a single councillor in times of absence (through holiday or sickness).
36. The Commission heard certain provisions of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill would also place particular demands on a single Waitakere Ward councillor. These included the provision for local area management plans. These plans are a tool for the Council, in consultation with the local community, to clearly identify and provide for the qualities that make up the area’s present and desired future amenity, aesthetic, natural and cultural character. The areas concerned were seen by some to require effective representation by a local councillor who was familiar with the area. This would be easier to achieve with two councillors as opposed to one.
37. The Commission agrees that it would be difficult for one councillor to provide effective representation for the Waitakere Ward given the nature of the ward and other factors outlined above. It therefore agrees with the objectors seeking an adjustment to the boundary between the Waitakere and New Lynn Wards, aligning the former more closely with the heritage area, and thereby providing for a second councillor to represent the Waitakere Ward. This means some areas, which are more urban in nature, need to be included in the Waitakere Ward. This is necessary in order to achieve fair representation for the electors of both Waitakere and New Lynn Wards.
38. The Commission did receive and hear other objections relating to boundary issues. In particular there were suggested changes to the boundary between the Waitakere and New Lynn Wards in the area of Parr’s Park and Oratia, the so-called ‘Zodiac’ area, and Glengarry Road which some believe should be more clearly in one ward or the other.
39. The Council advised that the areas concerned were generally urban in nature, outside the Ranges heritage area, or located as a result of the layout of particular meshblocks. Accordingly the Commission believes any redrawing of boundaries in these areas, while perhaps addressing concerns of some objectors, is likely to cause further perceived inconsistencies.
40. The Commission did hear submissions from both the Massey Community Board and the Massey and Birdwood Settlers Association that the Ranui area would be more appropriately located in the Massey Ward rather than in the Henderson Ward as proposed by the Council. The Commission notes that Ranui is currently in the Massey Ward and that it was proposed to be in the Northern Ward along with the rest of the Massey Ward, in the 3-ward structure whereas Lincoln was to be in the proposed Central Ward.
41. The Commission also notes the future growth anticipated in the Massey Ward including the planned development of Westgate as a new town centre serving particularly the residents of Massey and West Harbour. Based on this future growth, the Commission considers that representation for Massey equal to that for the Henderson and New Lynn Wards would be appropriate.

42. Inclusion of Ranui, with an extended area to the south and four additional meshblocks north of Universal Drive, all presently in the Massey Ward, along with an adjustment between the Henderson and New Lynn Wards, will allow for equal representation between the three urban wards. The further required adjustment between the Henderson and New Lynn Wards is the inclusion of an extended area of Glendene in the New Lynn Ward.

Fair representation of electors

43. A number of objectors sought "an exemption" from the statutory requirement for fair representation of electors measured in terms of the maximum +/-10 percent variance in the ratio of population to councillors. The Commission points out that the only provision for an exception to the +/-10 percent rule for territorial authorities is in respect of island or isolated communities. While particular communities within the Waitakere Ward may be seen as physically remote or isolated from other communities, the Commission does not consider that the Waitakere Ward itself may be seen as an isolated community. It therefore believes that the +/-10 percent rule must apply for all wards in the city.
44. Apart from proposals to add a further member for the Waitakere Ward, the Commission heard no submissions seeking a change to the Council proposal to retain the present number of councillors of 14. Accordingly the Commission has decided that, in accordance with the requirement for fair representation for electors in all wards, there shall continue to be a total of 14 councillors elected from 4 wards, modified as described above, as follows:
- Massey Ward: 4 councillors;
 - Henderson Ward: 4 councillors;
 - New Lynn Ward: 4 councillors;
 - Waitakere Ward: 2 councillors.

Communities and community boards

45. The Commission is also required to determine whether there should be communities and community boards in the city and, if so, the nature of those communities and the structure of the boards.
46. The Commission is aware that a structure of community boards to match the current 4 wards has been in place in Waitakere City since its formation in 1989. Relatively few objections addressed the issue of community boards and the Commission takes this as a general level of support for their continuation. The Council consistently proposed a structure of boards matching that for the city's wards throughout the review. One objection did propose removal of all boards and another proposed the reduction of the number of boards to two, namely a rural board and an urban board. The Commission, on the other hand, heard a number of objectors actively supporting a structure of community boards matching the wards particularly from objectors seeking the retention of a 4-ward structure.
47. The Massey Community Board did propose the number of its elected members be retained at 6, whereas the Council proposed a standard number of 5 elected members for the boards in the 3 urban wards.

48. Given the level of support, the Commission believes a structure of boards matching the 4-ward structure should continue in the interests of good local government in the city. The Commission considers further that, in light of the more balanced councillor representation in the 4 wards, the number of members for each community board should be the same. Accordingly it considers that the Massey, Henderson, New Lynn and Waitakere Community Boards should each comprise 5 elected members and 2 appointed members.

Commission's Determination

49. Under section 19R of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the Commission determines that for the general election of the Waitakere City Council to be held on 13 October 2007, the following representation arrangements shall apply –
- (1) Waitakere City as delineated on SO Plan 381700 deposited with Land Information New Zealand, shall be divided into four wards;
 - (2) Those four wards shall be -
 - (a) the Massey Ward, comprising the area delineated on SO Plan No. 381701 deposited with Land Information New Zealand;
 - (b) the Henderson Ward, comprising the area delineated on SO Plan No. 381702 deposited with Land Information New Zealand;
 - (c) the New Lynn Ward, comprising the area delineated on SO Plan No. 381703 deposited with Land Information New Zealand;
 - (d) the Waitakere Ward, comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 381704 deposited with Land Information New Zealand;
 - (3) The Council shall comprise the mayor and 14 councillors, elected as follows -
 - (a) four councillors elected by the electors of the Massey Ward;
 - (b) four councillors elected by the electors of the Henderson Ward;
 - (c) four councillors elected by the electors of the New Lynn Ward; and
 - (d) two councillors elected by the electors of the Waitakere Ward;
 - (4) There shall be 4 communities as follows:
 - (a) the Massey Community, comprising the area of the Massey Ward;
 - (b) the Henderson Community, comprising the area of the Henderson Ward;
 - (c) the New Lynn Community, comprising the area of the New Lynn Ward; and
 - (d) the Waitakere Community, comprising the area of the Waitakere Ward;
 - (5) The membership of the community board for each community shall be comprised as follows:

- (a) the Massey Community Board: 5 elected members and 2 members of the Council representing the Massey Ward and appointed to the community board by the Council;
- (b) the Henderson Community Board: 5 elected members and 2 members of the Council representing the Henderson Ward and appointed to the community board by the Council;
- (c) the New Lynn Community Board: 5 elected members and 2 members of the Council representing the New Lynn Ward and appointed to the community board by the Council;
- (d) the Waitakere Community Board: 5 elected members and 2 members of the Council representing the Waitakere Ward and appointed to the community board by the Council.

50. As required by sections 19T(b) and 19W(c) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the boundaries of the above wards and communities coincide with the boundaries of current statistical meshblock areas determined by Statistics New Zealand and used for Parliamentary electoral purposes.

FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Gwen Bull (Commissioner)

Wynne Raymond (Commissioner)

19 December 2006