

COUNTER-OBJECTIONS SUBMISSION

May 2025

Overview

2 The Labour Party thanks the members of the Representation Commission for their work in drafting the next set of electorate boundaries for New Zealand, and also thanks the organisations and members of the public who submitted objections to the draft boundaries..

3 Having consulted with our local teams, Labour wished to counter-object to five sets of objections the Commission has received. These groups of objections cover:

- a. Rānui - McLaren Park
- b. Waitakere - Blockhouse Bay
- c. Maungakiekie - Panmure
- d. East Coast - Whakatane District Council
- e. Invercargill - Winton

Rānui - McLaren Park

4 Three objections seek to move the area of McLaren Park from Rānui to Glendene. We understand this would affect around 3,500 people, likely sending Rānui below the minimum allowed population and requiring further knock-on changes, which the proposers suggest should be in the north of the seat.

5 Labour opposes these proposals. The main transport networks in McLaren Park lead to public services, retail, and entertainment precincts in Henderson, which is in the Rānui electorate. In addition, secondary school students from McLaren Park are zoned for Henderson High School, also in the Rānui electorate.

6 We understand one of the objectors, Ryan Maguire, may be the electorate agent of National MP Greg Fleming. Nonetheless we agree with Mr Maguire's statement that most addresses in McLaren Park are listed as part of the "Henderson" suburb, which further underscores the identification people in McLaren Park have with Henderson. There's some irony in the objectors' proposal to rename the Rānui seat as "Henderson" while at the same time removing people with Henderson addresses from the seat.

Waitakere - Blockhouse Bay

7 Benjamin Nathan objects to two aspects of the Waitakere boundaries. We counter-object to his suggestion regarding Blockhouse Bay. Mr Nathan suggests splitting the suburb in two, with around half going into Waitakere while the other half remains in Mt Roskill as per the Commission's suggestion. Mr Nathan's sole reasoning for this proposal is that he asserts without evidence that the area identifies more with New Lynn than with Mt Roskill. Our assessment is that Blockhouse Bay residents share strong communities of interest with one another, which supports keeping the suburb in one electorate.

8 The electoral roll indicates there is a Benjamin Nathan who works as a teacher and lives in the potentially affected area in Blockhouse Bay, and [we note from LinkedIn](#) that a Benjamin Nathan who works as a teacher is currently the Chair of the National Party's New Lynn electorate committee. If these facts are linked, it appears Mr Nathan may be seeking to include his own home in Waitakere for reasons of personal advancement rather than community interest.

Maungakiekie - Panmure

9 Three objectors - Mary Hedges, Philippa Beams, and Ryan Maguire - object to Panmure's inclusion in Maungakiekie. One of the three objections asks that Panmure be included in Pakuranga, while the other two ask that Panmure be included in Tāmaki. Labour opposes both these proposals, and instead recommends the Commission adopt Labour's proposal in this area to retain Panmure in Maungakiekie, extend Maungakiekie up the coast to also include Point England and Glen Innes, and compensate Tāmaki with population in Ellerslie. This proposal is contained in our own objection. The reasons we oppose the proposals in these three objections are:

Panmure into Pakuranga

10 We disagree with the objector's contention that Panmure residents have a greater community of interest with Pakuranga than with other communities in Maungakiekie. The Tāmaki river estuary forms a prominent natural boundary between communities to its east and its west, and should be retained.

11 The fact that many Pakuranga residents use major arterial roads in Panmure does not create a community of interest. This is because Pakuranga residents use these roads primarily as a way to get to other Auckland suburbs and the CBD, rather than to get to Panmure. Virtually all the community services Pakuranga residents can access in Panmure are also available to them in Pakuranga itself, east of the estuary and closer to their homes.

12 Further underscoring this divide, schools just east of the estuary such as Riverina School and Edgewater College have enrollment zones that include Pakuranga but exclude Panmure. By contrast, schools just west of the estuary such as Panmure Bridge school and Tamaki College have enrollment zones that include Panmure but exclude Pakuranga.

Panmure into Tamaki

13 We disagree with the objectors' suggestion that Panmure has a better community of interest with other areas in Tāmaki than with other areas in Maungakiekie. We share the objectors' perspective that there

exists a strong community of interest between Panmure, Point England, and Glen Innes, and share the objectors' concern that these suburbs should not be split from each other. Our assessment, however, is that the best way to unite these suburbs into a single electorate is in Maungakiekie rather than Tāmaki.

14 Much of our reasoning for this position is already set out in our own objection, and we don't propose to repeat those points here. There is, however, a specific point in the objections that warrants comment. Both Ryan Maguire and Philippa Beams suggest the sweep of suburbs from Glen Innes to Panure should be in Tāmaki due to communities of interest with the rest of Tāmaki.

15 This assessment is deeply misguided because [Stats NZ's Aotearoa Data Explorer](#) shows that Glen Innes, Point England, and Panmure all host populations that are more ethnically diverse than the New Zealand average, with especially high Māori and Pacific populations but a very low Asian population, and have median incomes at or below the nationwide average. This is in stark contrast to other suburbs in Tāmaki - the existing electorate as a whole (even including Glen Innes) has the second highest median income in the country [according to the Parliamentary Library](#), and has lower ethnic diversity than New Zealand as well, with an especially low Māori population and a high Asian population.

16 Maungakiekie as a whole is ethnically and economically a much closer match to the populations in Glen Innes, Point England, and Panmure, which creates important communities of interest and leads to higher quality representation of residents' interest by their local MP.

East Coast - Whakatane District Council

17 The National party's East Coast electorate committee proposes moving several towns such as Murupara and Minginui from East Coast to Rotorua. We counter-object, because those towns form part of the Whakatane District Council and as a result share communities of interest on governance issues with Whakatane (which is in the East Coast electorate) more than with Rotorua. Splitting the district council between two electorates is not necessary and may harm the quality of representation these towns receive.

18 If the Commission wants to increase Rotorua's population and lower East Coast's population, the more sensible place to do that is near Te Puke (for example Maketu, Rangiuru). These communities are part of the Western Bay of Plenty District Council, share communities of interest with Te Puke (which is inside Rotorua), and have little community of interest with Whakatane or the broader East Coast.

Invercargill - Winton

19 Fiona Bottcher suggests Invercargill should take in Winton. We counter-object, reminding the Commission that there was significant community objection from Winton in 2019/20 when the previous Commission's draft boundaries included Winton inside Invercargill. The local community successfully opposed that in the last cycle, persuading the 2019/20 Commission to change the draft boundaries to keep Winton in Southland, which may in part be why the Commission has kept them separate in the 2025 draft boundaries. We support the draft boundaries and oppose this objection.