



NOTICE OF A COAST COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Ōpōtiki District Council Chambers, 108 St John Street, Ōpōtiki
Tuesday, 11 August 2026
Commencing at 10.00am

ORDER PAPER

APOLOGIES

DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC FORUM

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Members:

Cr Pāpā Wharewera (Chairperson)

Gaylene Dudek (Deputy Chairperson)

Te Ataarangi Parata

Tullulah Ross

Allen Waenga

Committee Secretary:

Maheesha Silva

Quorum:

3

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS' INTERESTS) ACT 1968

Members are reminded that if you have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda, then you must declare this interest and refrain from discussing or voting on this item, and are advised to withdraw from the Council chamber.

Stace Lewer

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**MINUTES OF A COAST COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING DATED, TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2026 IN THE
ŌPŌTIKI DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 108 ST JOHN STREET, ŌPŌTIKI AT 10.00AM**

PRESENT:

Cr Pāpā Wharewera (Chairperson)
Gaylene Dudek (Deputy Chairperson)
Te Ataarangi Parata
Tullulah Ross

IN ATTENDANCE:

His worship the Mayor David Moore

Stace Lewer (Chief Executive Officer)
Rachael Burgess (Group Manager Business Support)
Antoinette Campbell (Group Manager Strategy and Development)
Michael Fryer (Strategy and Policy Manager)
Billy Kingi (Finance Manager)
Nikki Maurirere-Emberson (Project Lead Service Delivery)
Joel Hingston (Principal Policy Advisor)
Scott James (Strategic Policy Analyst)
Gae Finlay (Executive Assistant and Governance Lead)
Ranjini Manoharan (Executive Support Officer)
Maheesha Silva (Governance Support Officer)

The chairperson opened the meeting with a Karakia.

APOLOGIES

Allen Waenga

RESOLVED

(1) That the apologies be sustained.

Parata/Ross

Carried

DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Board Member Ross declared an interest in Item 08 (Coast Initiatives Fund Application – Otuwhare Marae Charitable Trust – Apanui E Tu Whanau 2027).

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – COAST COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
19 MAY 2026**

p3

The following amendment is to be made to the minutes:

- Item 02 – Group Managers’ Report – Survey Link Discussion: Board Member Dudek requested a survey link for community feedback.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the minutes of the Coast Community Board meeting held on 19 May 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the amendment requested by the Board.**

Wharewera/Ross

Carried

The Executive Support Officer left the meeting at 10.12am.

2. GROUP MANAGERS’ REPORT

p8

The Group Manager Strategy and Development presented the report along with the Group Manager Business Support and the Finance Manager.

LGFA Guarantor Consideration

In response to a question regarding borrowing limits, the Finance Manager clarified that becoming an LGFA member does not change the existing financial ratios and limits reported through quarterly reporting. The \$20m ceiling is due to Council not currently being a guarantor.

Update on Regional Spatial Plan Programme-Pre-Enactment Phase

The Group Manager Strategy and Development advised that work is underway with neighbouring councils and the Regional Council on a regional spatial plan. It was noted that Council adopted the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan last year and that existing spatial plans place the Bay of Plenty in a good position. Further updates will be provided.

Adoption of Climate Strategy and Action Plan

The Group Manager Strategy and Development advised that Council adopted the Climate Strategy and Action Plan last month and that future projects should have regard to its goals and objectives.

Dog Control Policy and Gambling and TAB Venue Policy

The Group Manager Strategy and Development stated that consultation is underway on the Dog Control Policy and Gambling and TAB Venue Policy.

Local Government Reform – Community Engagement Update

The Group Manager Business Support stated that Council had resolved to continue working with other Eastern Bay Councils and the Regional Council on options for the district as part of the Simplifying Local Government Reform Programme. Consultation is underway, with further community engagement planned.

Discussion focused on the importance of maintaining local representation, local voice and connections with coast communities under any future governance arrangements. Board members also discussed the importance of retaining community board funds and reserves for local benefit.

Staff noted that there is currently uncertainty regarding future governance structures representation arrangements and encourages community feedback through formal consultation channels.

Motion

Moved: Dudek

Seconded: Ross

That the Board recommends that Council considers the importance of maintaining local representation and local voice, and retaining Community Board funds and reserves for the benefit of the Coast community in any future local government reform decision-making.

The motion was PUT and CARRIED

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Board recommends that Council considers the importance of maintaining local representation and local voice, and retaining Community Board funds and reserves for the benefit of the Coast community in any future local government reform decision-making.**

Dudek/Ross

Carried

Ōpōtiki Rising – Economic Development Engagement

The Group Manager Strategy and Development provided an update on engagement for the Ōpōtiki Economic Development Strategy. It was noted that engagement had taken place in Te Kaha and that feedback received included themes relating to tourism, visitor experiences, roading access, trades and employment pathways, community facilities, recreation, housing, health support, local enterprise and youth opportunities.

Further engagement activities are planned, including community events and engagement at Waihou Bay. Feedback received will help inform the Economic Development Strategy and other related Council strategies and projects.

Board members discussed the accessibility of engagement activities, the value of networking opportunities, and the importance of promoting events and information more widely within the community.

RESOLVED

(2) That the report titled “Group Managers’ Report” be received.

Ross/Dudek

Carried

3. COAST RECREATION PROJECT ACTION PLAN

p23

The Strategic Policy Analyst provided an update on the Coast Recreation Project and advised that consultation materials, including a survey and community engagement activities, had been prepared. Consultation is scheduled to commence on 1 July 2026, within an in-person engagement event also planned.

Board members discussed the origins of the funding, potential recreation options, and the importance of community participation in the consultation process. Discussion also included aspirations for community recreational facilities and the need to consider future operational and maintenance requirements.

It was noted that feedback received through consultation would help inform recommendations to the Coast Community Board.

RESOLVED

(1) That the report titled “Coast Recreation Project Action Plan” be received.

- (2) That the Board commences consultation across the coast to better understand community needs in relation to the development of a recreational space.**

Ross/Parata

Carried

4. HONO MAI| CONNECT WITH COUNCIL – PROPOSED TE KAHA EVENT

p33

The Project Lead Service Delivery presented the proposed Hono Mai community engagement event in Te Kaha next month. The event would provide an opportunity for Council teams to engage with the community, share information on projects and services, and gather feedback.

It was noted that feedback from the previous event highlighted a desire for more in-person Council engagement and information on Council services.

Board members discussed potential timing for the event and the opportunity for Board members to participate in the planning working group and attend the event.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled “Hono Mai| Connect with Council – proposed Te Kaha event” be received.**
- (2) That the Coast Community Board confirm their support and endorsement for this event to go ahead in July 2026.**

Ross/Wharewera

Carried

The Project Lead Service Delivery left the meeting at 11.16am.

5. COAST INITIATIVES FUND REPORT

p44

The Finance Manager advised that there had been no changes from the last report other than an adjustment to the estimated interest.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled “Coast Initiatives Fund Report” be received.**

Ross/Dudek

Carried

6. COAST INITIATIVES FUND COMPLETION REPORT - p51
KAUAETANGOHIA MARAE TE WHANAU A APANUI ANZAC REMEMBRNCE DAY

Board members noted positive feedback from the community, with comments that the event was well attended, the hall was full, and the kaupapa and kai were well received.

Board Members also discussed expenditure items funded through the application process and noted that, for future funding applications, conditions may need to be stipulated when funding is approved.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "Coast Initiatives Fund Completion Report - Kauaetangohia Marae Te Whanau a Apanui ANZAC Remembrance Day" be received.**

Ross/Parata

Carried

7. COAST INITIATIVES FUND COMPLETION REPORT - p79
TE WHANAU A APANUI COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE –
TE ROOPU HAUORA TE KAHA MEDICAL UPGRADE PROJECT

Board members noted that the project exceeded the initial budget and that some items were donated.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "Coast Initiatives Fund Completion Report -Te Whanau A Apanui Community Health Centre – Te Roopu Hauora Te Kaha Medical Upgrade Project" be received.**

Dudek/Ross

Carried

8. COAST INITIATIVES FUND – FUNDING APPLICATION: p95
OTUWHARE MARAE CHARITABLE TRUST – APANUI E TU WHANAU 2027

Board members supported the Kaupapa but noted that further information is required including supporting quotes and clarification of the bank details. It was also noted that previous funding of \$10,000 had been allocated to the previous host of the event.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "Coast Initiatives Fund – Funding Application: Otuwhare Marae Charitable Trust – Apanui E Tu Whanau 2027" be received.**
(2) That the Board declines the funding application.

- (3) That the applicant be encouraged to reapply with supporting quotes and clarification of bank account details.

Wharewera/Parata

Carried

**9. COAST INITIATIVES FUND – FUNDING APPLICATION:
LIFE EDUCATION TRUST EBOP MOVEMENT OF MOBILE CLASSROOM**

p103

The Board discussed the application's eligibility under the current funding criteria.

Board members noted that the applicant was outside the Coast Community Board area and that previous decisions where applications from organisations outside the Coast area had been declined. It was agreed that the application be declined.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "Coast Initiatives Fund – Funding Application: Life Education Trust EBOP Movement of Mobile Classroom" be received.
- (2) That the Board declines the funding application from Life Education Trust.

Ross/Parata

Carried

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.33AM WITH A KARAKIA.

**THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE CERTIFIED AS BEING
A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD AT A SUBSEQUENT
MEETING OF THE COAST COMMUNITY BOARD HELD
ON TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST 2026.**

**PĀPĀ WHAREWERA
CHAIRPERSON
COAST COMMUNITY BOARD**

COAST COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT

Date : 31 July 2026
To : Coast Community Board Meeting, 11 August 2026
From : Group Manager Strategy and Development, Antoinette Campbell
Subject : **GROUP MANAGERS' REPORT**
File ID : A1410308

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report is an update from Council to the Coast Community Board.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) **That the report titled "Group Managers' Report" be received.**

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Coast Community Board with regard to recent Council meetings and workshops. This report includes items which will be of interest to the Board from the 4 August 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, along with updates on other items of interest.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

2. The matters detailed in this report relate to the following priorities from Ōpōtiki District Council's Long-Term Plan 2024-2034:
 - ☑ Community Priority One: Strong relationships and partners
 - ☑ Community Priority Two: Investment in our district
 - ☑ Community Priority Three: Well-being is valued
 - ☑ Community Priority Four: Our communities are resilient
 - ☑ Community Priority Five: Growth is sustained over time.

BACKGROUND

3. Council provides updates which are of interest or importance to the Coast Community Board.

DISCUSSION

Items of interest from the 4 August 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting

The full agenda for the meeting can be found here:

<https://www.odc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2bpcqtp1b1cxby3k9b0b/hierarchy/sitecollectiondocuments/our-council/Meetings%20and%20Committees/Ordinary%20Council%20Meeting%20Agendas/2026-08-04%20ORDINARY%20COUNCIL%20MEETING%20AGENDA%204%20AUGUST%202026.pdf>

The live stream of the meeting can be watched here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/qA71QMdmBx8?si=rHdakVdK-LUivpBC>

Correction of Typographical Error in the 2026/27 Rates Resolution

4. Following the adoption of the 2026/27 Annual Plan and Rates Resolution, a typographical error was identified in one targeted rate. The Annual Plan, supporting financial models, and Revenue and Financing policy all specify the connected Ōpōtiki/Hukutaia Water Supply targeted rate as \$644.79 per separately used or inhabited part (SUIP). However, the adopted Rates Resolution incorrectly records this rate as \$664.79 per SUIP.
5. This discrepancy is confined to a single figure and resulted from an administrative transcription error in the preparation of the Rates Resolution. The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to correct the error so that the Rates Resolution aligns with the funding decisions adopted through the 2026/27 Annual Plan. No other rates are affected.
6. The corrected Rates Resolution can be accessed in the Council meeting agenda p92.

Simplifying Local Government Eastern Bay Proposal

7. There have been some important decisions that have been made around the country in recent weeks in regard to the Government's Simplifying Local Government reform. This comes after central Government signalled its intention to replace regional councils with a new governance model centred on Combined Territorial Boards back in November 2025.
8. More recently, in May 2026 the Government announced the Head Start pathway, providing councils with an opportunity to develop locally led proposals for unitary authorities ahead of the wider reform programme and the 9 August 2026 submission deadline.
9. Since then, Ōpōtiki District Council has worked to understand the implications of the proposed reforms and assess the options available for our district. While the timeframe has been challenging, this has involved significant collaboration with neighbouring councils, technical analysis, engagement with iwi and key stakeholders, and community consultation.

10. The Community Engagement Report attached to this report (Appendix 1) summarises the feedback received. While there was clear concern about the Government's proposed reforms, there was also a strong and consistent message that, if change is to occur, an Eastern Bay of Plenty model is the preferred option. 76% percent of survey respondents supported an Eastern Bay grouping. Feedback also highlighted the importance of retaining local decision-making, protecting local representation, maintaining strong relationships, ensuring equitable service delivery, and carefully managing the financial implications of any future transition.
11. At Council meetings held on 4 and 5 August, Ōpōtiki, Whakatāne and Kawerau District Councils have each resolved to support the submission of a joint proposal to Central Government seeking the establishment of an Eastern Bay of Plenty unitary authority.
12. The proposal outlines a potential future governance model that would combine the functions of the three district councils and relevant regional council responsibilities within a single Eastern Bay authority.
13. Submission of the proposal does not establish a new council or determine the future structure of local government in the Eastern Bay. Rather, it is the first stage of a Government-led assessment process to determine whether the proposal should proceed to a more detailed design and evaluation phase.
14. The Government has indicated it expects to advise participating councils in September whether the proposal has received in-principle support to progress. If approved, a further phase of work will be undertaken, including detailed consideration of governance and representation arrangements, service delivery, financial implications and further community engagement before any final decisions are made.
15. The Outline Proposal for an Eastern Bay of Plenty Unitary Authority is available in the Council meeting agenda p114-167.

Preparing for the Bay of Plenty Regional Spatial Plan

16. The Planning Bill will require each region to prepare a regional spatial plan supported by a process agreement that outlines governance, roles, responsibilities, and decision-making arrangements. To help meet proposed statutory timeframes, Bay of Plenty councils have undertaken pre-enactment work, including identifying key geographical areas, issues and opportunities, assessing governance options for a future Spatial Planning Committee, developing a draft work programme, and establishing draft governance and project structures.
17. This report seeks Council feedback on the proposed approach, evaluation principles, and a preferred Spatial Planning Committee option for further consideration by Bay of Plenty local authorities. All councils across the region will receive a similar report before the matter is considered by the

Mayoral Forum on 10 September 2026 for strategic direction. Councils will remain the final decision-makers on the Process Agreement and future direction setting, while the Mayoral Forum will continue to receive programme updates until the Spatial Planning Committee is established.

18. The draft Bay of Plenty Regional Spatial Plan – Process Agreement Options report can be accessed in the Council meeting agenda p214-233.

Parks and Recreation Update

19. Engagement for the parks and recreation activity is still underway, with roughly 60 submissions received as part of the Coastal Recreation Project. To ensure the views of local rangatahi are included, the consultation period has been extended to 21 August 2026. Staff are planning a visit to Te Kaha School on 13 August 2026, alongside engagement activities for the Economic Development Strategy programme “Ōpōtiki Rising” and Te Kaha Masterplan. Coordinating these projects into a single visit will help minimise disruption for students while providing an opportunity for them to contribute to several important initiatives affecting their community.
20. A significant number of submissions were received early in the consultation period, due to the efforts of Coast Community Board members in promoting the consultation through social media and local community networks which helped raise awareness and encouraged meaningful participation. As a result, many submissions contained detailed and thoughtful feedback, providing valuable insights into community aspirations and priorities, rather than simply indicating support or opposition.
21. A formal report, including an analysis of submissions and recommendations, is scheduled to be presented to the Board at its September 2026 meeting. While the assessment process is still underway, feedback received to date suggests strong support for the Te Kaha area as the preferred location. Input from Te Kaha School is still to come and will form an important part of the overall assessment. Considering the location of the school, it is reasonable to believe that this will reinforce the current direction already received. The September 2026 report will provide the Board with a comprehensive summary of community feedback and support informed decision-making on the preferred way forward.

Te Kaha Placemaking

22. Work on the Te Kaha Placemaking Plan is underway, with recent engagement sessions providing clear direction on the community's priorities and aspirations.
23. The plan provides a long-term framework to guide investment, partnerships, and staged improvements across the community, ensuring future development supports community aspirations while reflecting the Coast's unique identity.

24. Development of the plan is moving well, with recent engagement sessions, namely the Coffee and Kōrero engagement and the recent Hono Mai Connect sessions, being well attended with the public sharing open and practical insights about what matters most for Te Kaha. Strong themes included:
- Protecting the Coast's identity
 - Improving access and resilience
 - Ensuring development supports those at place.
25. Tourism was also a major focus, with strong emphasis on the importance of connecting visitors to the landscape and culture that is sustainable and locally led.
26. Moving forward, these insights will now feed into the Placemaking work, with regular updates to be provided to the Board, until the project completion in April 2027.

Te Kaha Community Office

27. Councils Community Engagement Advisor, Maia Calcott, is putting the finishing touches on a dedicated office space at the Te Kaha Resource Recovery Centre. The office will provide a local point of contact for Coast communities, offering customer service and community engagement support.
28. It is intended that Maia will work from the office each Monday (to be confirmed), where she will be available to assist with enquiries, discuss community concerns, and connect residents with the appropriate Council services. We expect this service will continue to evolve as we gain a better understanding of the types of assistance the community would find most valuable. In time, we also hope to introduce video appointments with Council staff, enabling residents to speak directly with subject matter experts on more complex matters, such as rates enquiries.
29. Maia has begun promoting the service through her local networks, and a broader community update will be provided once the office is fully operational. The Coast Community Board will also be kept informed as the service develops.

Policy and planning implications

30. The recommendation in this report is consistent with Council's policies and plans.

Impact on mana whenua

31. There are no direct impacts on mana whenua in relation to the recommendation in this report.

Climate impact considerations

32. There is no climate impact consideration related to the matters in this report in terms of the decision to receive the report.

Risks

33. There are no identified risks associated with the matters in this report.

Community well-being considerations

34. The purpose of Local Government now includes promotion of social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the four well-beings').
35. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the four well-beings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
36. An update report from Group Managers on Council activities can promote economic, social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing by ensuring that decision-making and operations align with community goals and priorities.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Assessment of significance

37. On every issue requiring a decision, Council is required to determine how significant a decision is to the community, and what the corresponding level of engagement should be. Council uses the Significance Flowchart in the Significance and Engagement Policy to determine the level of significance.
38. The level of significance related to the decision in this report is considered to be low. Because the decision is determined to have low significance in accordance with the policy, the corresponding level of engagement required is inform.

Assessment of engagement

39. As the level of significance has been determined to be low, the level of engagement required is inform according to the Engagement Framework of the Significance and Engagement Policy:

INFORM	To provide balanced and objective information to assist understanding about something that is going to happen.
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40. The tools that Council will use for the 'Inform' level of engagement include a report in the public agenda of the Council meeting and may include a combination of public notices in the newspaper and/or on Council's social media.

CONCLUSION

41. This report provides the Community Board with an overview of some items of interest from the 4 August 2026 Ordinary Council meeting, along with other updates which will be of interest to the Board.

Antoinette Campbell

GROUP MANAGER STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT

SIMPLIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ōpōtiki District Community Engagement Report

JULY 29

CONNECT HONO MAI



Executive dashboard

Community engagement at a glance

33

Total respondents
Voluntary online survey

8 June – 24 July

Engagement period
2026

70%

Local decisions very important
23 of 33 respondents

76%

Preferred Eastern Bay model
25 of 33 respondents

TOP PRIORITIES

Local decision-making
and affordability
19 selections each

TOP CONCERN

Loss of local voice
23 selections

TOP PROTECTION

Local decision-making powers
23 selections

What we heard

Ten messages consistently reflected across the survey

- 1** Protect local decision-making and ensure Ōpōtiki priorities remain visible.
- 2** Retain meaningful local representation and accessible elected members.
- 3** Avoid centralising frontline services away from Ōpōtiki and East Coast communities.
- 4** Demonstrate how reform will affect rates, debt and long-term affordability.
- 5** Protect community identity, history and established local relationships.
- 6** Maintain and improve community facilities, services and local service centres.
- 7** Secure fair and sustained investment in rural infrastructure and resilience.
- 8** Preserve strong iwi and hapū participation in future governance arrangements.
- 9** Use collaboration and shared capability where it produces genuine efficiencies.
- 10** Take sufficient time to test assumptions, explain trade-offs and engage communities.

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Executive summary

Ōpōtiki District Council invited members of the community to share their views on the future structure of local government through a Connect Hono Mai engagement survey. Thirty-three responses were received between 8 June and 24 July 2026. The survey is not statistically representative of the district; however, the responses provide a detailed and useful record of the values, concerns and conditions that respondents believe should guide reform.

The central finding is that community support for structural change is conditional. Respondents recognised possible benefits from better coordination, shared expertise and stronger infrastructure planning, but consistently placed local voice, local decision-making and affordability ahead of organisational scale.

Local decision-making and affordability were the most frequently selected priorities, each chosen by 19 respondents (58%). Local representation followed with 16 selections (48%). 23 respondents (70%) said it was very important that decisions affecting Ōpōtiki continue to be made locally, and a further seven (21%) said this was somewhat important.

Loss of local voice was the dominant concern, selected by 23 respondents (70%). Reduced community connection was selected by 15 respondents (45%), centralisation of services by 13 respondents (39%). These findings indicate that respondents associate larger governance structures with a risk of increasing distance between communities and decision-makers.

Despite these concerns, respondents identified opportunities. Improved infrastructure planning was selected by 15 respondents (45.5%), better coordination by 11 (33.3%), and simpler governance by ten respondents (36.4%). Twelve respondents selected an “other” response, with several using the free-text field to state that they did not yet see a clear opportunity or needed more information.

Views on the proposed amalgamation were divided: 13 respondents supported a merger, 15 opposed it and five were unsure. However, when asked to choose between the three models presented, 25 respondents (76%) preferred an Eastern Bay sub-regional unitary council. This indicates that model preference and support for reform are not the same question. Some respondents who opposed amalgamation still regarded an Eastern Bay model as the least disruptive or most locally coherent option should reform proceed.

Headline implications

- Local representation and decision-making should be treated as core design requirements, not secondary safeguards.
- Financial modelling needs to clearly explain rates, debt, transition costs and the distribution of regional investment.
- The Eastern Bay model has the strongest stated preference, but this does not amount to unconditional support for amalgamation.
- Future engagement should test detailed representation and service-delivery arrangements before implementation decisions are finalised.

Executive summary

Key evidence

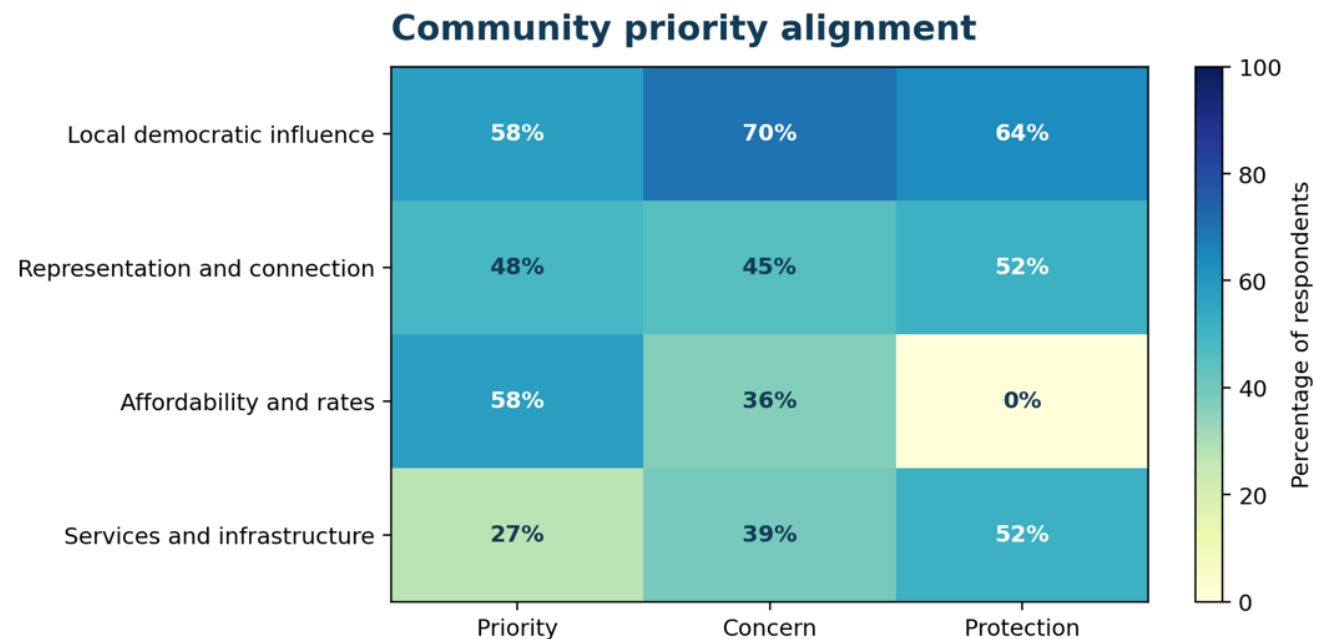


Figure 1. Community priority heat map. Alignment between priorities, concerns and protections; Percentages are of all 33 respondents.

“In a nutshell we must maintain our autonomy in some areas, and not dilute, localised voice and decision-making powers.”

Survey respondent

Introduction and methodology

The Government’s Simplifying Local Government reform programme prompted councils to consider how local territorial authorities could be reorganised. Ōpōtiki District Council used Connect Hono Mai to seek early community feedback on the issues that matter most, the principal risks and opportunities, and preferences among possible governance models to inform its approach to the Head Start pathway.

The engagement was designed as an exploratory survey rather than a referendum or statistically representative resident survey. Its purpose was to provide an evidence-informed picture of the views contributed by respondents and to strengthen Council’s understanding of the safeguards and outcomes the community expects.

Survey structure

- Demographic questions: age, ethnicity, district area and iwi affiliations.
- Multi-response questions: priorities, concerns, opportunities and community protections.
- Single-response questions: importance of local decision-making, importance of iwi and hapū participation, amalgamation support and preferred governance model.
- Open-text questions enabling respondents to explain their reasoning and provide further feedback.

Interpretation

Percentages for single-response questions are calculated using the 33 completed responses as the denominator. For multi-response questions, respondents could select several options; percentages therefore show the proportion of respondents selecting each option and do not sum to 100%.

Where an “other” option was selected, the accompanying written response was retained as qualitative evidence. In several questions, respondents stated that the form required them to select options before progressing. This limitation is acknowledged when interpreting the opportunity and model questions.

Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative analysis

Quantitative analysis

The Excel response export was used as the source of truth. Each option was counted directly from the binary response fields. Counts and percentages were cross-checked across all 33 response records.

The analysis reports exact response counts and percentages to one decimal place. No weighting has been applied, and no missing demographic response has been imputed.

Qualitative thematic analysis

134 populated open-text fields were reviewed. Comments were coded against recurring themes including local voice, affordability, centralisation, identity, infrastructure, efficiency, environmental management, iwi and hapū relationships, and concerns about the reform process and timeframe.

A single comment could receive more than one theme code. Theme counts are therefore indicative of the breadth and recurrence of issues, rather than a measure of support or opposition. Representative quotations have been selected to illustrate themes and are presented without respondent names.

Sentiment analysis

Overall sentiment toward amalgamation is reported directly from the question regarding support, opposition or uncertainty. Written comments were used to interpret the reasons for those positions. The report avoids assigning a simplistic positive or negative label to comments where respondents expressed both opportunities and concerns.

"We need to invest in a more sustainable future and we can only do that if we all work together."

Survey respondent

Methodology

Limitations and responsible use

- The sample size is small (n=33) and participation was voluntary.
- The results should not be generalised as a statistically representative view of all district residents.
- Several respondents selected more than the stated number of options or indicated that form settings constrained their choices.
- Some participants were responding on behalf of organisations, while most responded as individuals.
- The findings are most useful as an early engagement evidence base and should be supplemented by further consultation as proposal details develop.

These limitations do not diminish the value of the engagement. The consistency of several themes across demographic groups and across different survey questions provides a strong indication of the matters Council should address transparently in future work.

Respondent profile

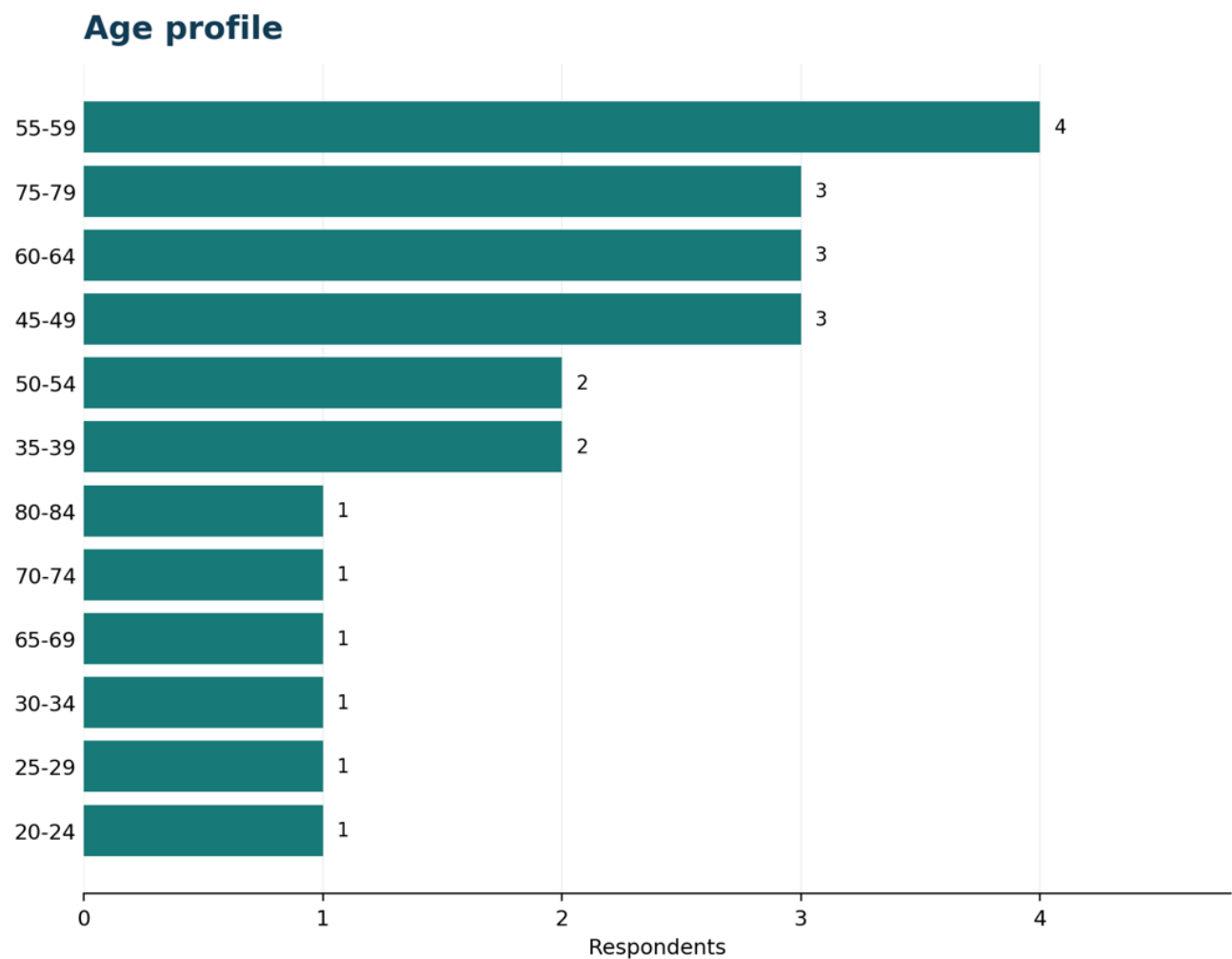


Figure 2. Age profile of respondents (n=33).

The survey attracted responses across a broad adult age range, with the largest concentration in the 45–64 and 75–79 bands. Eleven respondents did not record an age group, which should be considered when interpreting demographic patterns.

Respondent profile

Ethnicity and location

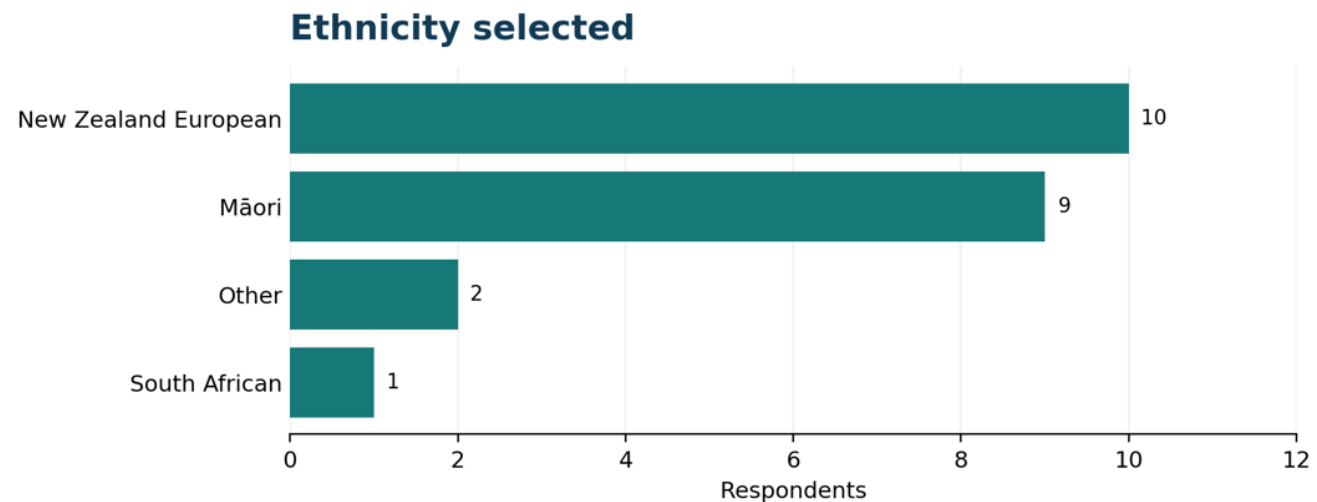


Figure 3. Ethnicity selected by respondents.

Ten respondents selected New Zealand European and nine selected Māori. Other recorded responses included South African and other ethnicities. Eleven respondents did not select a listed ethnicity.

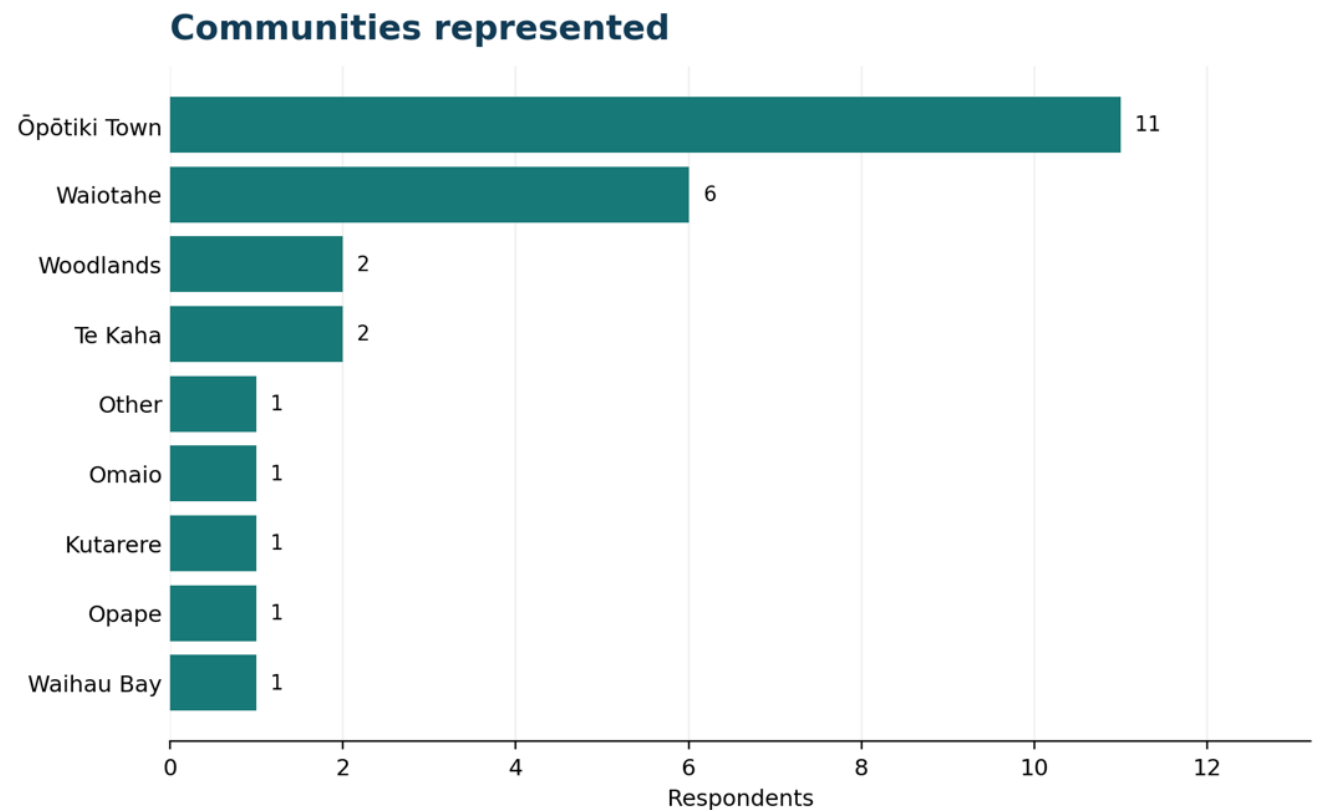


Figure 4. Communities represented in the survey.

Respondent profile

What the profile means

Eleven respondents identified with Ōpōtiki Town and six with Waiotahe. Responses were also received from Woodlands, Ōpape, Waihou Bay, Te Kaha, Ōmaio and Kutarere, together with one “other” response.

The participation of coastal and rural communities is important because many written comments focused on distance, access to services, rural investment and the risk that smaller communities could be overlooked in a larger authority.

“We are a small community in Kutarere, we are overlooked up on Hiwarau Rd now, what does our future hold”

Survey respondent

Community priorities and local decision-making

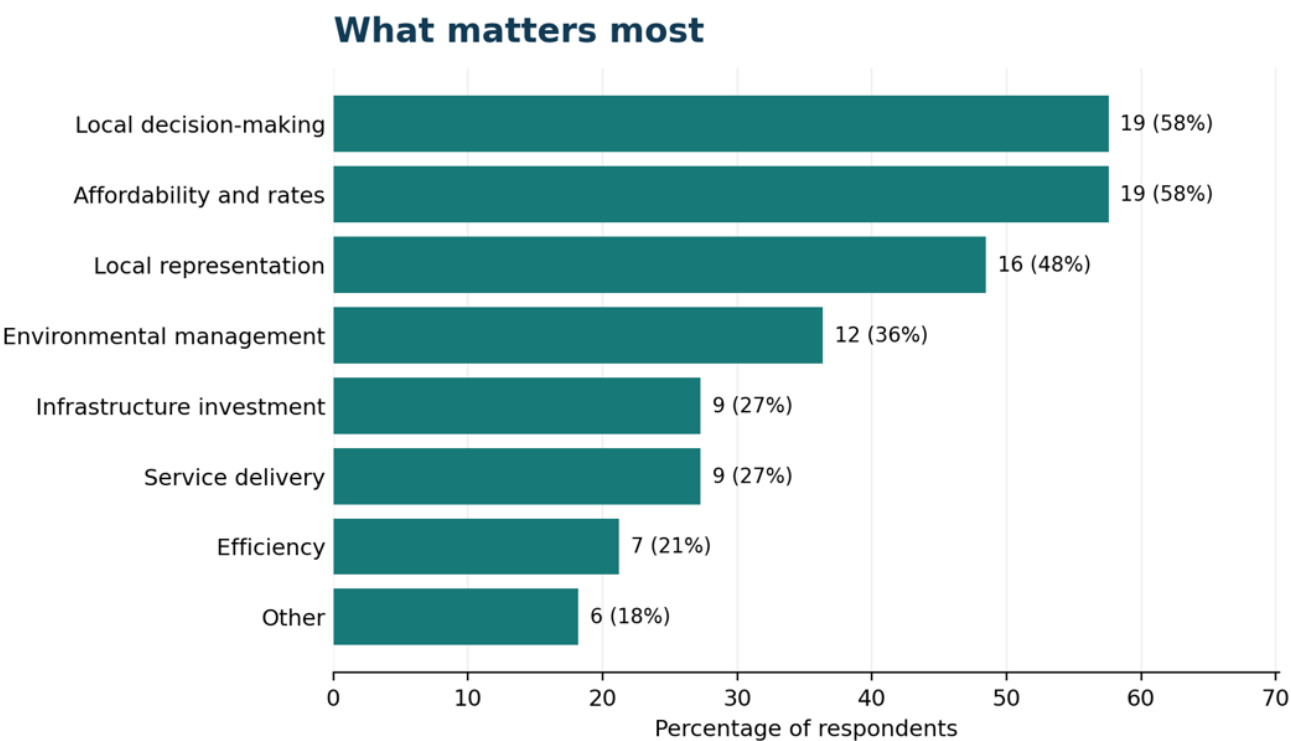


Figure 5. Top three matters identified by respondents. Multiple responses permitted.

Local decision-making and affordability and rates were each selected by 19 respondents (58%). Local representation was selected by 16 (48%), environmental management by 12 (36%), and service delivery and infrastructure investment by nine each (27%).

The pattern shows that respondents are assessing reform through both a democratic and a practical lens. They want local influence protected but also expect governance arrangements to remain affordable and capable of funding long-term infrastructure and environmental outcomes.

Community priorities

Exact results

What top three items matter most?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Affordability and rates	19	57.6%
Local decision-making	19	57.6%
Local representation	16	48.5%
Environmental management	12	36.4%
Infrastructure investment	9	27.3%
Efficiency	7	21.2%
Service delivery	9	27.3%
Other	6	18.2%

Multiple responses permitted. Percentages are based on all 33 respondents and do not sum to 100%.

Interpretation

The two equal highest priorities—local decision-making and affordability—show that respondents do not regard democratic voice and financial performance as competing goals. They expect both. Local representation, environmental management and infrastructure investment form a second tier of priorities and reinforce the expectation that any larger authority would need to remain locally responsive while strengthening technical capacity.

“ODC is doing a great job already so it's hard to choose a top 3. It achieves a lot with a small budget.”

Survey respondent

Local decision-making

A defining test for reform

Importance of local decision-making

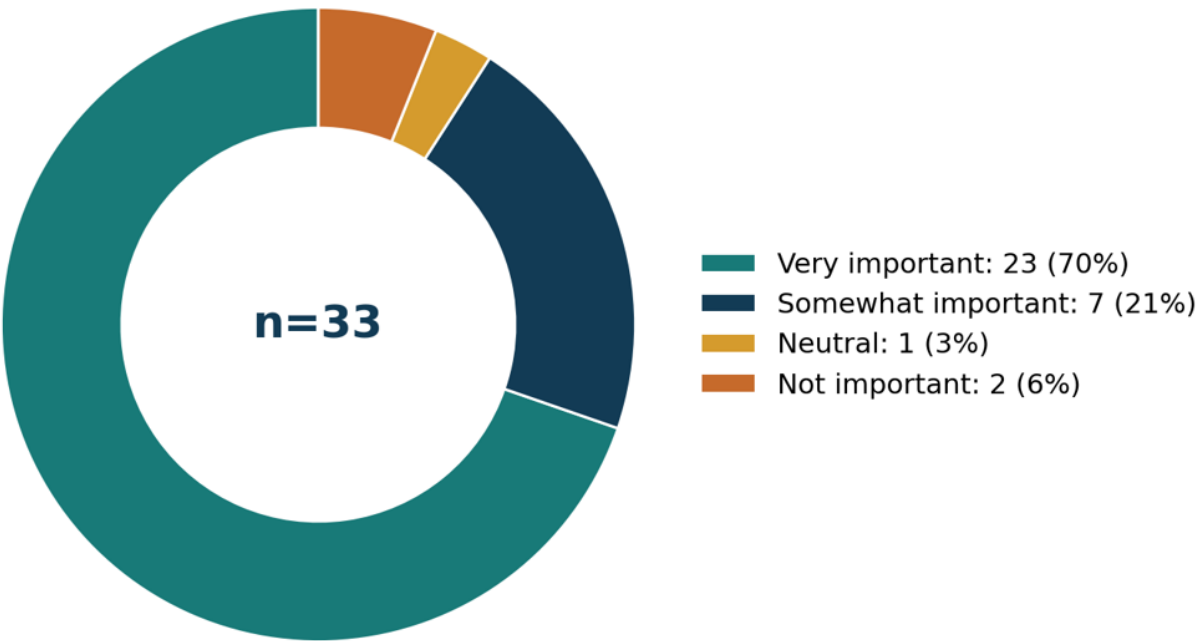


Figure 6. Importance that decisions affecting Ōpōtiki continue to be made locally (n=33).

Twenty-three respondents (70%) considered local decision-making very important and seven (21%) considered it somewhat important. Together, 30 respondents (91%) viewed local decision-making as at least somewhat important.

Written comments connect local decision-making with knowledge of local conditions, responsiveness, accountability and the ability to protect district-specific priorities.

“Only local residents understand the requirements of their locality.”

Survey respondent

Local voice and representation

What respondents expect

- Locally elected representatives who remain accessible to residents.
- Decision-making delegations that allow district and community matters to be resolved locally.
- Representation arrangements that recognise geography and communities of interest, not population alone.
- Community boards or similar structures with meaningful authority.
- Transparent reporting on how investment is distributed between communities.

These expectations suggest that retaining a local office or service centre, while important, would not by itself satisfy community concerns. Respondents are seeking influence over decisions and investment, not only access to administration.



“We need to retain as much local voice and local representation and local decision-making as possible.”

Survey respondent

Community priority heat map

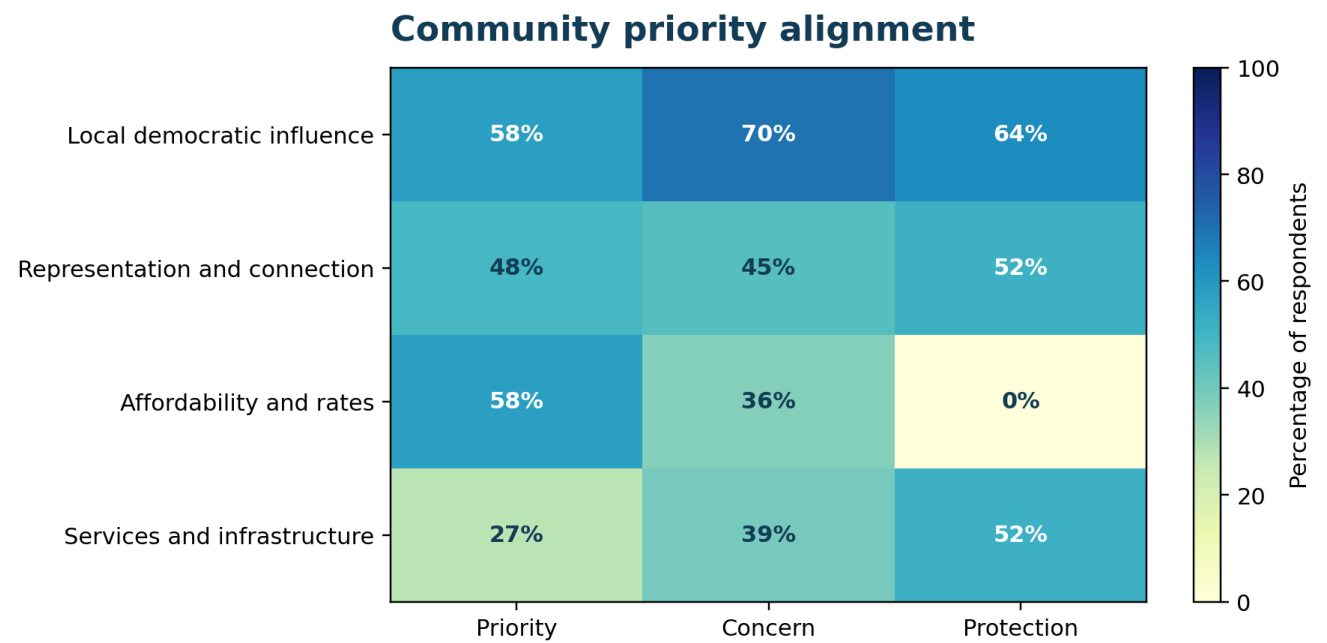


Figure 7. Alignment between selected priorities, related concerns and desired protections.

The heat map shows the convergence between what respondents value, what they fear losing and what they want protected. Local democratic influence is the strongest and most consistent pattern across the survey.

Concerns, opportunities and community protections

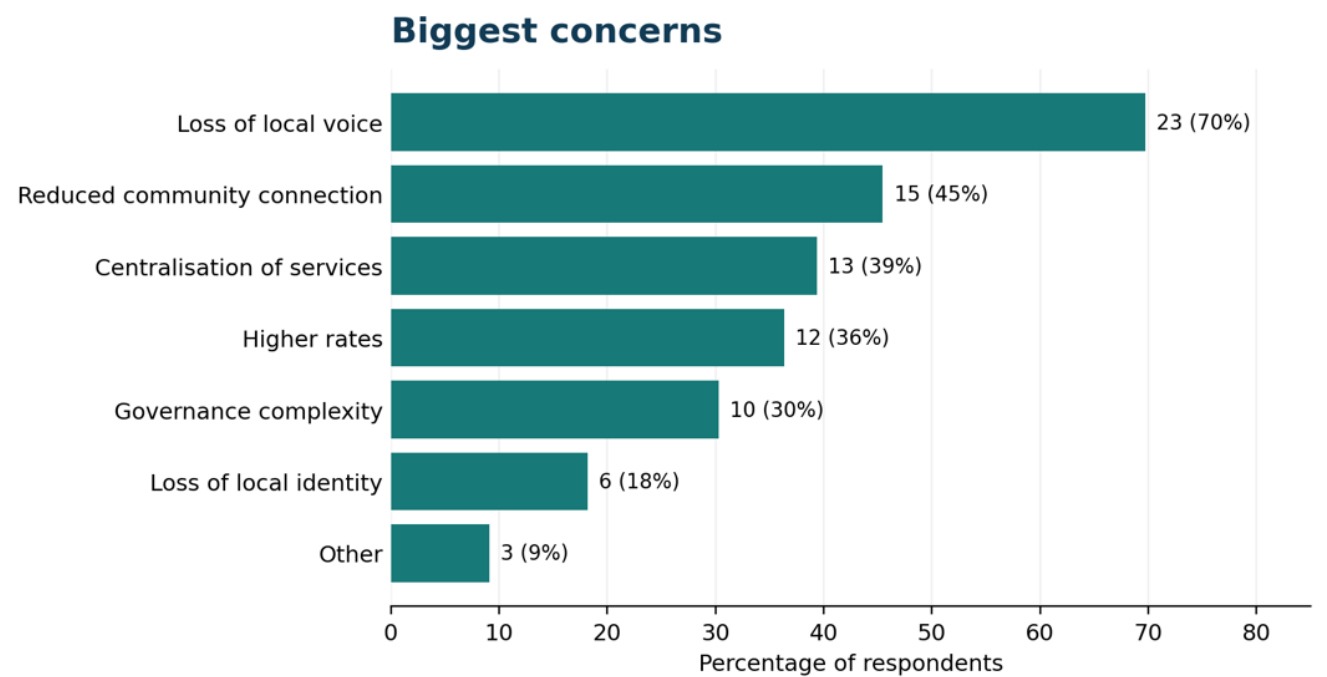


Figure 8. Biggest concerns identified by respondents. Multiple responses permitted.

Biggest concerns for Ōpōtiki District

Response option	Count	Percentage
Loss of local voice	23	69.7%
Reduced community connection	15	45.5%
Centralisation of services	13	39.4%
Higher rates	12	36.4%
Governance complexity	10	30.3%
Loss of local identity	6	18.2%
Other	3	9.1%

Loss of local voice was selected by 23 respondents (70%). Reduced community connection was selected by 15 (45%), centralisation of services by 13 (39%) and higher rates by 12 (36%).

The concern profile is consistent with the written feedback. Respondents repeatedly referred to the experience of other centralisation and amalgamation processes, the different circumstances of larger urban centres and the risk that district resources could be redirected elsewhere.

Community concerns

Exact results and interpretation

Biggest concerns for Ōpōtiki District

Response option	Count	Percentage
Loss of local voice	23	69.7%
Reduced community connection	15	45.5%
Centralisation of services	13	39.4%
Higher rates	12	36.4%
Governance complexity	10	30.3%
Loss of local identity	6	18.2%
Other	3	9.1%

Multiple responses permitted.

“The bigger government entities become, whether local, regional or national, the more distant they become from the communities that they exist to serve.”

Survey respondent

Opportunities

Potential benefits are conditional

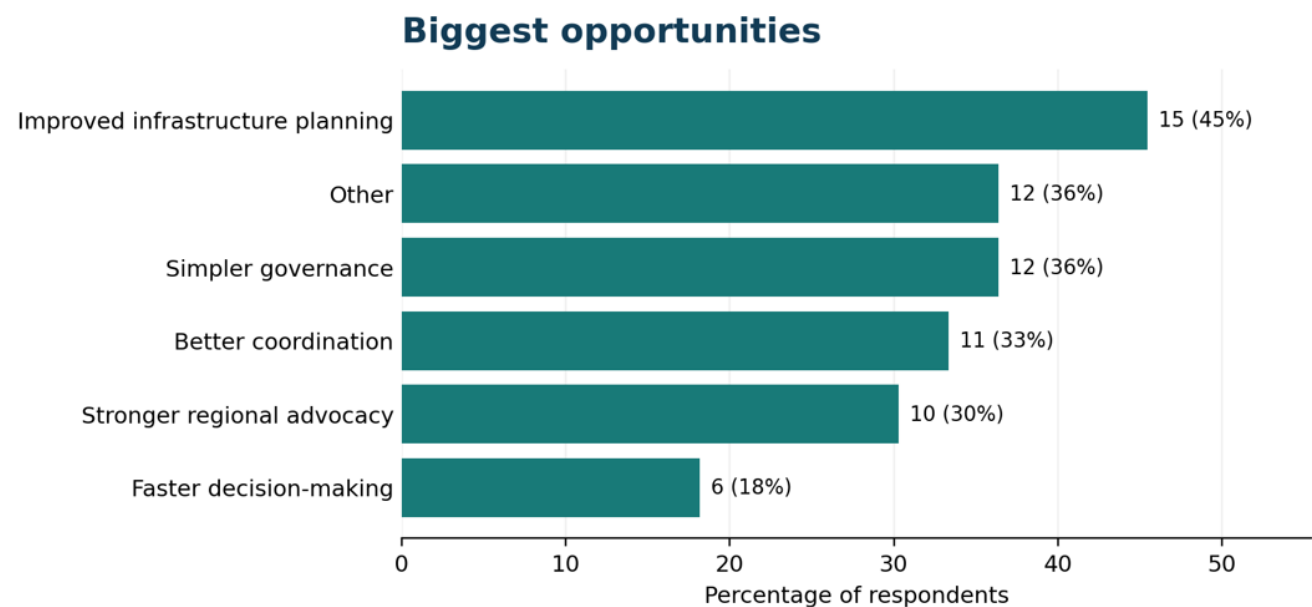


Figure 9. Biggest opportunities identified by respondents. Multiple responses permitted.

Opportunity	Count	Percentage
Improved infrastructure planning	15	45.5%
Simpler Governance	12	36.4%
Better Coordination	11	33.3%
Stronger regional advocacy	10	30.3%
Faster decision-making	6	18.2%
Other	12	36.4%

Improved infrastructure planning was the most frequently selected opportunity, chosen by 15 respondents (45%). Simpler governance was selected by 12 (36%), better coordination by 11 (33%) and stronger regional advocacy by 10 (30%).

The 12 “other” selections include both specific opportunities and comments that no clear opportunity had yet been demonstrated. They should therefore not be interpreted as a single positive category.

“Processes may be sped up/simplified. Maybe. Some of the functional infrastructure stuff, like upgrading sewerage networks, I could see maybe improving.”

Survey respondent

Protections and guarantees

What respondents want secured

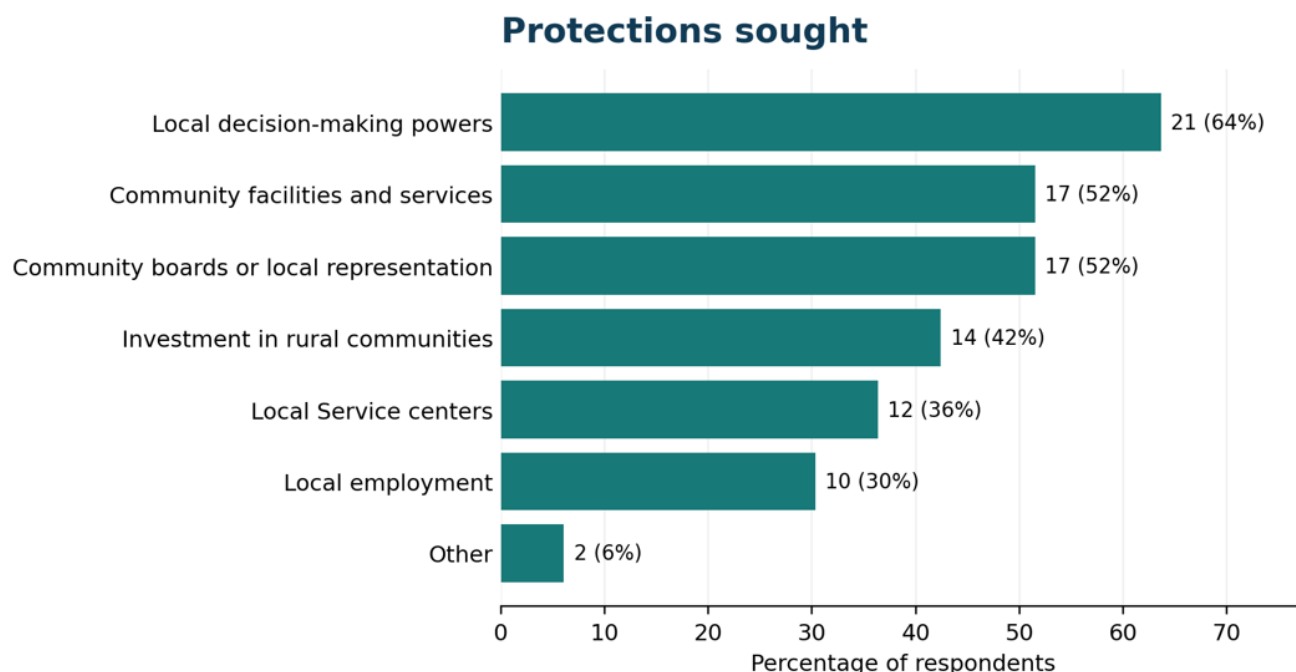


Figure 10. Protections sought for Ōpōtiki and East Coast communities. Multiple responses permitted.

What should be protected or guaranteed?

Opportunity	Count	Percentage
Local decision-making powers	21	63.6%
Community boards or local representation	17	51.5%
Community facilities and services	17	51.5%
Investment in rural communities	14	42.4%
Local Service centres	12	36.4%
Local employment	10	30.3%
Other	2	6.1%

Local decision-making powers were selected by 21 respondents (64%). Community boards or local representation and community facilities and services were each selected by 17 (52%), while investment in rural communities was selected by 14 (42%).

These results provide a practical framework for proposal design. Respondents want governance safeguards, service guarantees and investment commitments to be explicit rather than left to future organisational discretion.

Importance of iwi and hapū participation

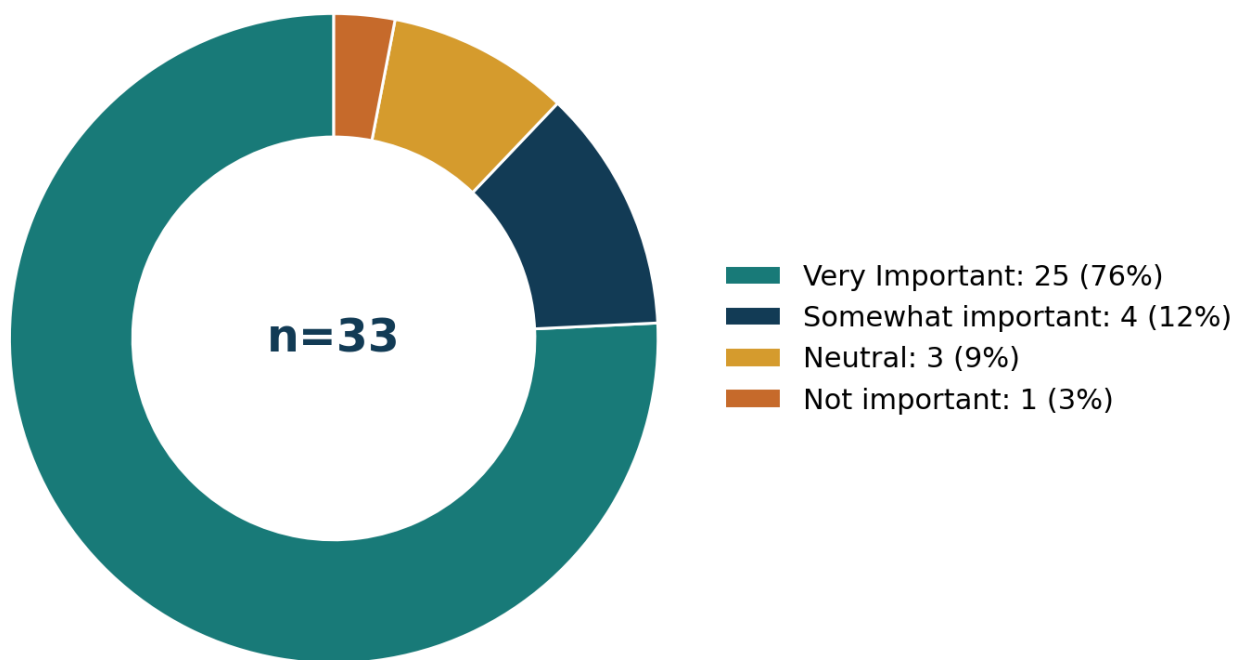


Figure 11. Importance of iwi and hapū participation.

Twenty-five respondents (76%) considered a strong iwi and hapū role very important and four (12%) considered it somewhat important. The results support carrying forward Treaty settlement commitments, co-governance arrangements and established relationships into any future structure.

Governance preferences

Support for Council merging under a new structure

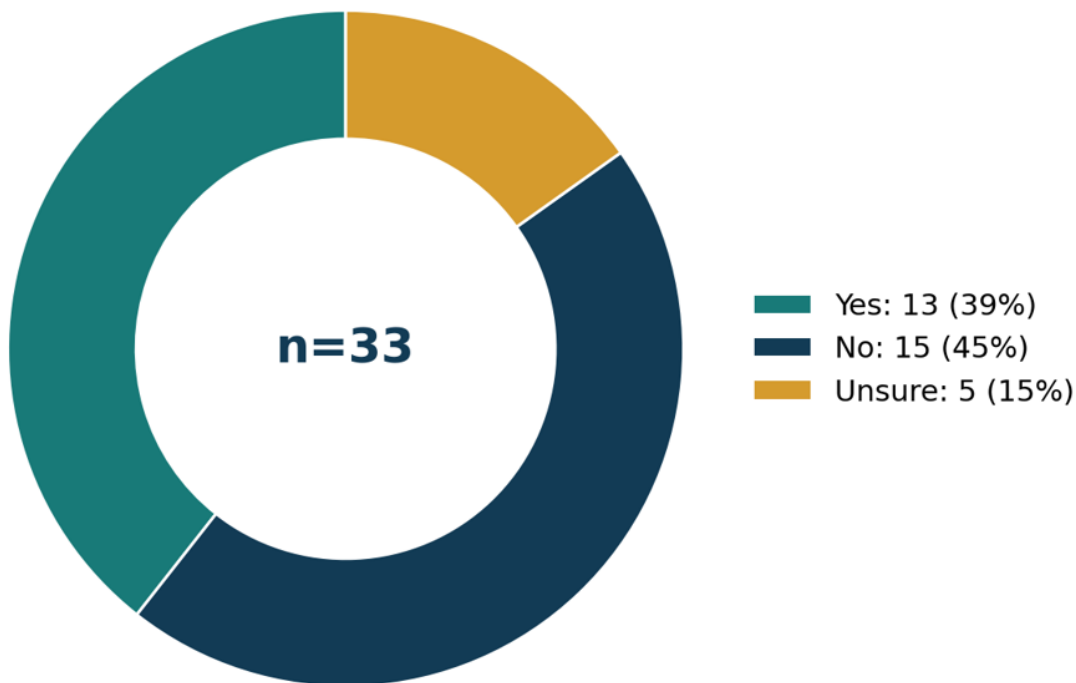


Figure 12. Support for Council merging under a new structure (n=33).

Views on amalgamation were divided. Thirteen respondents (39%) supported amalgamation, 15 (45%) opposed it and five (15%) were unsure. The result remains divided and does not show a clear community mandate either for or against structural change.

Written responses indicate that some opposition was directed at the process, timeframe or lack of evidence rather than at every possible form of collaboration. Conversely, several supportive respondents still required strong protections for local representation and local service delivery.

Preferred governance model

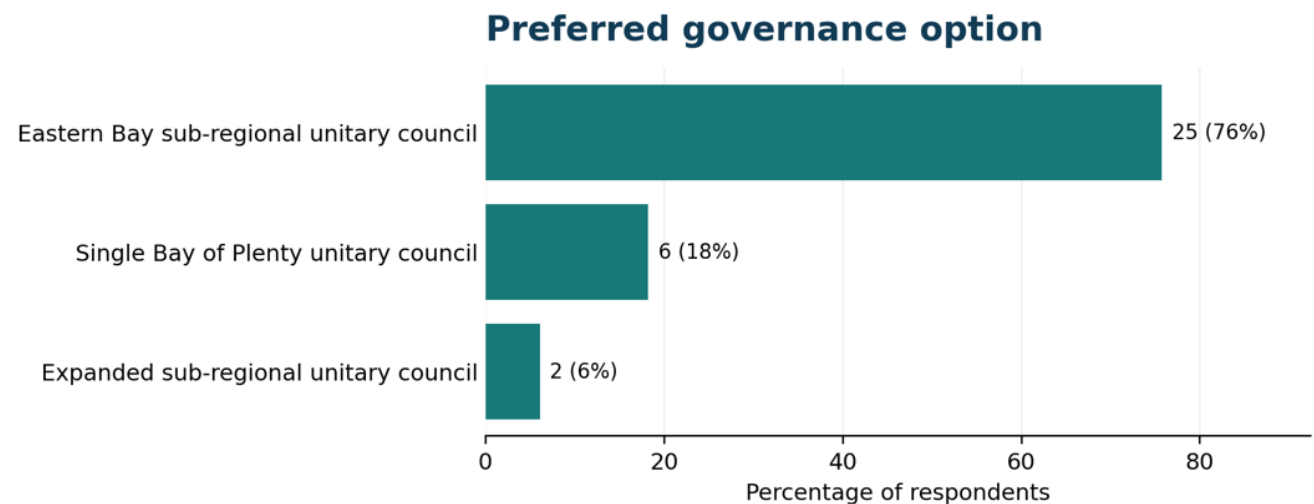


Figure 13. Preferred model among the three options presented (n=33).

Twenty-five respondents (76%) selected an Eastern Bay sub-regional unitary council covering the current Kawerau, Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki districts. Six (18%) selected a single Bay of Plenty unitary council and two (6%) selected an expanded sub-regional model.

The Eastern Bay preference is substantially stronger than the level of support for amalgamation. This indicates that some respondents who did not support structural reform still chose the Eastern Bay option as the most acceptable or least disruptive model if change is unavoidable.

“I would rather work with who we know, than who we don't know. Whakatane and Kawerau are our neighbors.”

Survey respondent

Preferred model by merger position

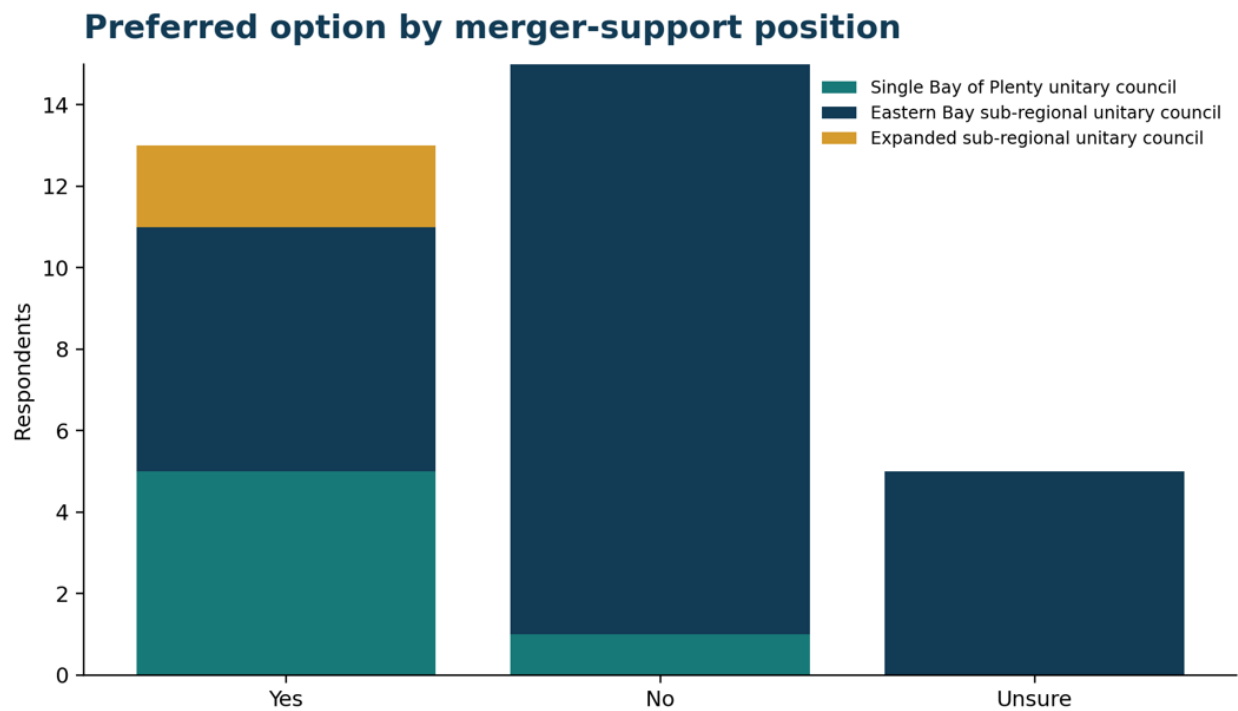


Figure 14. Preferred option by merger-support position

The cross-tabulation confirms that the Eastern Bay preference extends across supporters, opponents and respondents who were unsure about amalgamation. It should be interpreted as a conditional model preference rather than as a direct measure of support for structural change.

Respondents favouring the Eastern Bay model referred to geographic proximity, existing working relationships, similar rural and economic circumstances, shared catchments and the importance of avoiding dominance by larger urban centres.

Integrated qualitative analysis

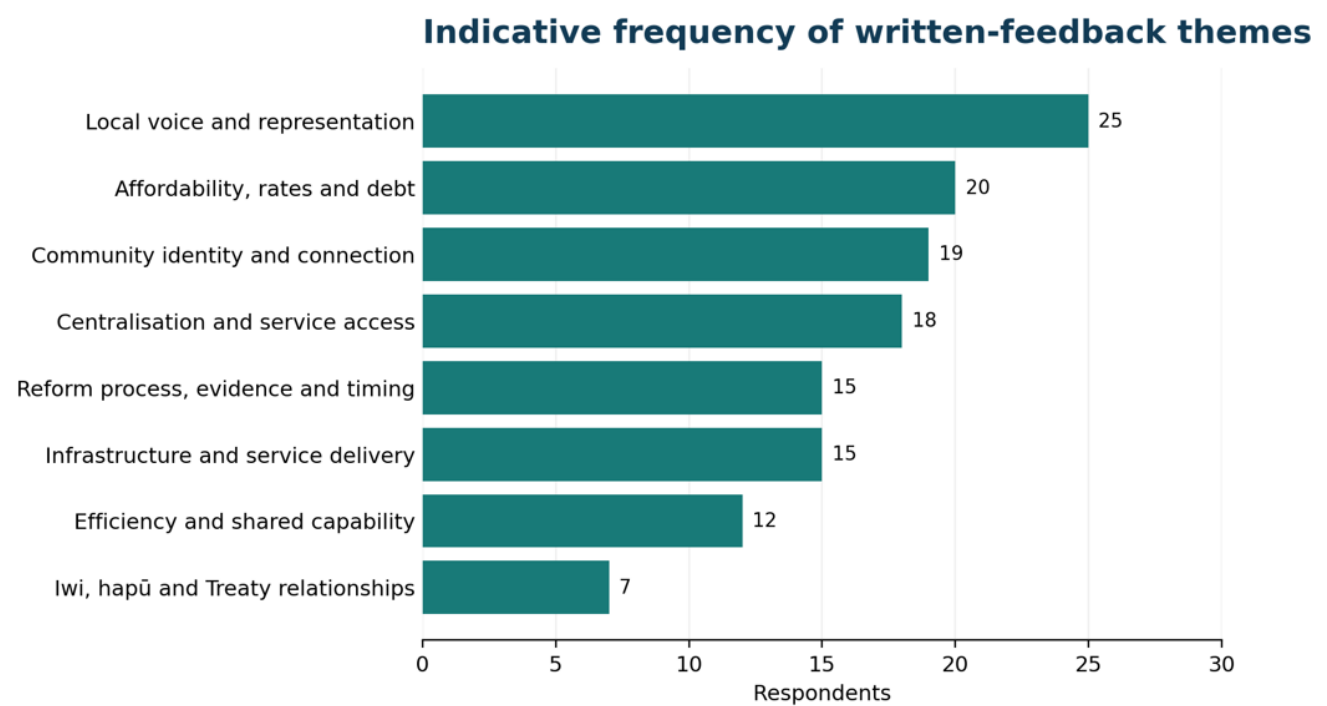


Figure 15. Indicative frequency of themes in 134 populated written-comment fields. Comments may receive multiple codes.

The qualitative feedback confirms that respondents are weighing potential organisational benefits against democratic, financial and service-delivery risks. Local voice and representation remains the most pervasive theme, followed by affordability, centralisation, infrastructure and concerns about reform process and timing.

Local voice and representation was the most pervasive theme. Affordability, rates and debt; centralisation and access; infrastructure and services; and concerns about the reform process also appeared frequently.

Sentiment analysis

A community weighing risk against opportunity



Overall sentiment toward merger is best described as divided and cautious. Positive comments generally referred to infrastructure planning, shared capability and stronger coordination. Negative comments focused on local influence, debt, rates, centralisation and examples of previous amalgamations. Mixed comments commonly accepted that reform may proceed but sought the most locally coherent model and strong protections.

A recurring mixed position was: reform may be imposed, and if so, Council should secure the most locally coherent model and the strongest possible protections.

“I don't agree with the whole amalgamation that is being forced by central govt - but I realise ODC doesn't have a choice and has to make the best of a bad decision.”

Survey respondent

Theme synthesis

What sits beneath the survey answers

Local voice and representation

This theme appeared in approximately 25 populated written-comment fields. Comments were often interconnected with other themes and should be interpreted as indicative rather than statistically weighted.

Affordability, rates and debt

This theme appeared in approximately 20 populated written-comment fields. Comments were often interconnected with other themes and should be interpreted as indicative rather than statistically weighted.

Community identity and connection

This theme appeared in approximately 19 populated written-comment fields. Comments were often interconnected with other themes and should be interpreted as indicative rather than statistically weighted.

Centralisation and service access

This theme appeared in approximately 18 populated written-comment fields. Comments were often interconnected with other themes and should be interpreted as indicative rather than statistically weighted.

Infrastructure and service delivery

This theme appeared in approximately 15 populated written-comment fields. Comments were often interconnected with other themes and should be interpreted as indicative rather than statistically weighted.

Reform process, evidence and timing

This theme appeared in approximately 15 populated written-comment fields. Comments were often interconnected with other themes and should be interpreted as indicative rather than statistically weighted.

Efficiency and shared capability

This theme appeared in approximately 12 populated written-comment fields. Comments were often interconnected with other themes and should be interpreted as indicative rather than statistically weighted.

Iwi, hapū and Treaty relationships

This theme appeared in approximately 7 populated written-comment fields. Comments were often interconnected with other themes and should be interpreted as indicative rather than statistically weighted.

“There is nothing wrong with restructuring and efficiencies, but it is vital to also ensure the vital functions of the organisation are still enabled and happening.”

Survey respondent

Representative community voices

“Only local residents understand the requirements of their locality.”

Survey respondent

“The stronger our voice is for local decision making and representation the better off our community will be.”

Survey respondent

“Shared professional services could be more efficient and cost-effective.”

Survey respondent

“We need to retain as much local voice and local representation and local decision-making as possible.”

Survey respondent

“I would only like to merge with other small towns in our area so we can up the numbers to be heard better while also supporting each other.”

Survey respondent

“In a nutshell we must maintain our autonomy in some areas, and not dilute, localized voice and decision-making powers.”

Survey respondent

The quotations above illustrate the range of perspectives in the survey. They should be read as representative examples rather than as statistically weighted statements.

Conclusions and recommendations

The engagement demonstrates that respondents are willing to consider reform but expect the case for change to be evidenced and the local consequences to be clearly understood.

The strongest conclusion is that local voice must be built into the design of any future authority. This requires more than maintaining an office in Ōpōtiki. It requires representation, delegations, service standards, investment transparency and continuing community engagement.

The Eastern Bay sub-regional model is the preferred option among those presented, but the divided amalgamation support result means Council should not describe this as unconditional community endorsement. A more accurate interpretation is that the Eastern Bay configuration aligns most closely with the communities of interest and safeguards described by respondents.

Recommendations

1. Use local decision-making, representation and equitable investment as explicit design principles in the Head Start proposal.
2. Develop detailed representation options, including ward, Māori ward, community board and delegation arrangements, for further community testing.
3. Publish clear financial information on transition costs, debt, rates, asset ownership and the allocation of regional income and expenditure.
4. Identify service-level and local-presence guarantees for Ōpōtiki and East Coast communities.
5. Map existing Treaty settlement, co-governance and iwi–Council relationships and ensure equivalent or stronger arrangements are carried forward.
6. Explain how regional functions such as river management, environmental monitoring, civil defence and transport planning would operate under each model.
7. Undertake further engagement when detailed governance and financial information is available.
8. Report back to participants on how their feedback has influenced the proposal.

Final conclusion

The Connect Hono Mai engagement presents a consistent message: respondents are not simply asking Council to preserve the status quo, nor are they offering unconditional support for amalgamation. They are asking for a reform approach that strengthens capability without weakening the local relationships and accountability on which community confidence depends.

For these respondents, the success of reform will be measured by whether Ōpōtiki retains a meaningful voice, whether rural and coastal communities receive fair investment, whether services remain accessible, and whether the new structure is demonstrably affordable and effective.

Those principles provide a strong framework for Council’s ongoing work and for the further engagement that will be required as the proposal becomes more detailed.

“Change isn’t the problem. Losing our local influence is.”

Summary of the dominant survey narrative

Appendix A

Detailed quantitative results

A1. Age group

Response option	Count	Percentage
20-24	1	3.0%
25-29	1	3.0%
30-34	1	3.0%
35-39	2	6.1%
45-49	3	9.1%
50-54	2	6.1%
55-59	4	12.1%
60-64	3	9.1%
65-69	1	3.0%
70-74	1	3.0%
75-79	3	9.1%
80-84	1	3.0%

A2. Ethnicity

Response option	Count	Percentage
New Zealand European	10	30.3%
Māori	9	27.3%
South African	1	3.0%
Other	2	6.1%

A3. District area

Response option	Count	Percentage
Ōpōtiki Town	11	33.3%
Waiotahe	6	18.2%
Te Kaha	2	6.1%
Waihau Bay	1	3.0%
Opape	1	3.0%
Woodlands	2	6.1%
Kutarere	1	3.0%
Omaio	1	3.0%
Other	1	3.0%

Appendix A

Priority, importance and concern questions

A4. Priorities

Response option	Count	Percentage
Local representation	16	48.5%
Affordability and rates	19	57.6%
Service delivery	9	27.3%
Environmental management	12	36.4%
Efficiency	7	21.2%
Local decision-making	19	57.6%
Infrastructure investment	9	27.3%
Other	6	18.2%

A5. Importance of local decision-making

Response option	Count	Percentage
Very important	23	69.7%
Somewhat important	7	21.2%
Neutral	1	3.0%
Not important	2	6.1%

A6. Concerns

Response option	Count	Percentage
Loss of local voice	23	69.7%
Reduced community connection	15	45.5%
Higher rates	12	36.4%
Centralisation of services	13	39.4%
Governance complexity	10	30.3%
Loss of local identity	6	18.2%
Other	3	9.1%

Appendix A

Opportunity, protection and governance questions

A7. Opportunities

Response option	Count	Percentage
Better coordination	11	33.3%
Simpler governance	12	36.4%
Faster decision-making	6	18.2%
Improved infrastructure planning	15	45.5%
Stronger regional advocacy	10	30.3%
Other	12	36.4%

A8. Importance of iwi and hapū role

Response option	Count	Percentage
Very Important	25	75.8%
Somewhat important	4	12.1%
Neutral	3	9.1%
Not important	1	3.0%

A9. Protections

Response option	Count	Percentage
Local Service centers	12	36.4%
Community boards or local representation	17	51.5%
Investment in rural communities	14	42.4%
Local employment	10	30.3%
Local decision-making powers	21	63.6%
Community facilities and services	17	51.5%
Other	2	6.1%

A10. Support for merger

Response option	Count	Percentage
Yes	13	39.4%
No	15	45.5%
Unsure	5	15.2%

A11. Preferred governance option

Response option	Count	Percentage
Single Bay of Plenty unitary council	6	18.2%
Eastern Bay sub-regional unitary council	25	75.8%
Expanded sub-regional unitary council	2	6.1%

Appendix B

Methodological notes

Source data: Simplifying Local Government Form responses Data Connect Hono Mai export.

Engagement period: 8 June to 24 July 2026.

Number of response records analysed: 33

Open-text fields reviewed: 134

Quantitative treatment: every selected binary option was counted. Percentages use 33 as the denominator. Multi-response questions do not sum to 100%.

Qualitative treatment: 134 populated open-text fields were reviewed. Comments were coded against recurring themes. Coding was non-exclusive, meaning a comment could contribute to several themes.

Privacy: names and contact details contained in the raw export have not been reproduced in this report. Quotations are attributed generically to survey respondents.

Rounding: percentages are generally shown to the nearest whole number in charts and to one decimal place in detailed tables.

Caution: this was a voluntary engagement exercise and the results are not statistically representative of the entire Ōpōtiki District population.

Quality assurance

- All quantitative charts and tables are generated from the Excel response export.
- Counts were checked against the 33 source response records.
- Narrative conclusions distinguish amalgamation support from preferred-model selection.
- Comments indicating survey design constraints have been acknowledged in interpretation.

“Whichever model is chosen, it should enable alignment and efficiency at scale, preserve strong local voice and community identity, and deliver equitable outcomes across diverse communities.”

Organisational respondent

COAST COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT

Date : 30 July 2026
To : Coast Community Board Meeting, 11 August 2026
From : Finance Manager, Billy Kingi
Subject : **COAST INITIATIVES FUND REPORT**
File ID : A1408496

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council will include a brief report on the Coast Initiatives Fund to every Coast Community Board meeting to provide information on the expenditure and balance of the fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) **That the report titled "Coast Initiatives Fund Report" be received.**

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a report on actual expenditure and the balance of the Coast Initiatives Fund.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

2. The matters detailed in this report relate to the following priorities from Ōpōtiki District Council's Long-Term Plan 2024-2034:
 - ☒ Community Priority One: Strong relationships and partners
 - ☒ Community Priority Two: Investment in our district
 - ☒ Community Priority Three: Wellbeing is valued
 - ☒ Community Priority Four: Our communities are resilient
 - ☒ Community Priority Five: Growth is sustained over time

TOTAL ASSURANCE

3. Ōpōtiki District Council recognises that there are many factors that contribute to assurance. The matters contained in this report relate closely to the following factors of assurance.



Elements of Assurance			
Business Continuity Management	Internal Audit	Quality Assurance/ Quality Standards & Compliance	Portfolio/ Programme/ Project office
Other Independent audit/ review	External Audit	IT Assurance	Investigation
Legislative Compliance	Large Project Assurance	Probity Assurance	Risk Management

BACKGROUND

4. The Council has provided funds in the Annual Plan for coastal initiatives over a number of years. Regular reports will be made to the Coast Community Board meeting to enable decision-making on any new projects to be funded from the Coast Initiatives Fund.

CRITERIA

5. The Coast Community Board has adopted the following **criteria in assessing funding** for projects:
- Marae facility development and upgrades excluding projects, or components of projects, that can attract funding from other funding sources.
 - Community facilities and sports fields.
 - Pride and beautification projects within the community.
 - Community events.
 - Coastal access excluding private access.
 - Infrastructure projects specific to coastal communities that may be outside of Council immediate priorities or that may add value to existing initiatives.
 - Education and training for organisations, or members of organisations, resulting in ongoing benefit or increased opportunities to the coast community.
 - Each application would be considered by the Board on a case by case basis.
 - If approved funding is not utilised within two years from the date of approval the applicant must reapply for funding consideration
 - Applications must be received by the Ōpōtiki District Council a minimum of 3 weeks before the Coast Community Board meets, at which a grant decision is required.
 - Grant applications will only be considered from organisations and not (an) individual(s).
 - Applications will only be accepted from those organisations that are established within the Coast Community Board ward. If such organisation proposes to provide assistance funding from a CIF grant then the reasons shall be outlined in the application.

CRITERIA

6. In preparing to assess applications to the CIF the Community Board Members shall at all times give due consideration to:

- (a) the **Coast Community Board Standing Orders** on the matter of financial conflicts of interest:

SO19.7 Financial conflicts of interests

Every member present at a meeting must declare any direct or indirect financial interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.

No member may vote on, or take part in, a discussion about any matter in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest unless an exception set out in s.6 LAMIA applies to them, or the Auditor-General has granted them an exemption or declaration under s.6.

Members with a financial interest should physically withdraw themselves from the table unless the meeting is in public excluded in which case they should leave the room.

Neither the Chairperson nor the meeting may rule on whether a member has a financial interest in the matter being discussed. The minutes must record any declarations of financial interests and the member's abstention from any discussion and voting on the matter.

AND (b) The Ōpōtiki District Council **Code of Conduct** in regard to Conflicts of Interest:

8. Conflicts of Interest

Elected members will maintain a clear separation between their personal interests and their duties as elected members in order to ensure that they are free from bias (whether real or perceived). Members therefore must familiarise themselves with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (LAMIA).

Members will not participate in any council discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the general public. This rule also applies where the member's spouse contracts with the authority or has a pecuniary interest.

Members shall make a declaration of interest as soon as practicable after becoming aware of any such interests.

If a member is in any doubt as to whether or not a particular course of action (including a decision to take no action) raises a conflict of interest, then the member should seek guidance from the chief executive **immediately**. Members may also contact the Office of the Auditor General for guidance as to whether they have a pecuniary interest, and if so, may seek an exemption to allow that member to participate or vote on a particular issue in which they may have a pecuniary interest. The latter must be done before the discussion or vote.

Please note: Failure to observe the requirements of the LAMIA could potentially invalidate the decision made, or the action taken, by the council. Failure to observe these requirements could also leave the elected member open to prosecution (see Appendix A). In the event of a conviction, elected members can be ousted from office.

CRITERIA

7. To meet the Council's **transparency and accountability requirements**:

- (i) Grant money shall only be paid on submission of an invoice with bank account and GST number (if GST registered) details on the organisation's invoice.
- (ii) Where applicable (e.g. where items are purchased) receipts and/or written quotes shall be provided to Council.

Coast Community Board Reserve	
Financial Year 2025-26	\$
Opening Balance 1 July 2025	150,438
Balance from Activity Statement as at 30 June 2026	(148)
Closing Reserve Balance 30 June 2026	150,290
Estimated interest on balance	5,849 *
Estimated closing reserve balance 30 June 2026	156,139

* Estimated

Community Board Initiative Activity Statement as at 30 June 2026	
	\$
Revenue Received	50,000
Community Development Grant 2025-26	
Less Funding Activities	
Te Waka Hoe o Pokohinu - Open Day and Waka Resoration Project	6,647
Distinction Christchurch Hotel - 4 nights accomodation & meals (4-17 July) for Linda Steel - attending Local Governemnt NZ annual conference 2025	953
Maungaroa Marae - safety ramp for pakeke to enter wharenuui and wharekai	3,927
Rutaia Hapu Komiti/Otuwhare Marae - contribution towards construction of Omaio walking track	7,898
Te Kura Mana Māori o Maraenui - annual fishing competition	5,000
Kauaetangohia Marae Committee - building Hapū capability programme.	4,200
Kauaetangohia Marae Committee - assist with costs of the Kauaetangohia Marae Anzac Commemorations	9,250
Te Kura o Te Whānau a Apanui - assist with costs of Auraki Tau 7-8, Tauranga Moana Haerenga	3,330
Te Whānau a Apanui RSA - contributions towards ANZAC Day celebrations	1,000
Te Whānau a Apanui Community Health Centre- assist with costs of Te Roopu Hauora Te Kaha Medical Upgrade project	5,443
Wairuru Marae Committee - contribution towards Kaumatua Ball 2026	2,500
Total grants / funding allocated	50,148
Balance Community Board Initiatives activity as at 30 June 2026	(148)

Community Board Initiative - Future Approved Funding	
	\$
	-

Coast Community Board Reserve	
Financial Year 2026-27	\$
Opening Balance 1 July 2026	156,139 *
Balance from Activity Statement as at 31 July 2026	45,465
Closing Reserve Balance 31 July 2026	<u>201,604</u>
Estimated interest on balance	580 *
Estimated closing reserve balance 31 July 2026	<u><u>202,184</u></u>

* Estimated

Community Board Initiative Activity Statement as at 31 July 2026	
	\$
Revenue Received	51,045
Community Development Grant 2026-27	
Less Funding Activities	
Conference Innovators Ltd - registration fees to attend LGNZ conference: Pāpā Wharewera, Gaylene Dudek, Te Ataarangi Parata, Tullulah Ross	5,580
Total grants / funding allocated	5,580
Balance Community Board Initiatives activity as at 31 July 2026	<u><u>45,465</u></u>

Community Board Initiative - Future Approved Funding	
	\$
	-

Financial/budget considerations

8. Costs and funding associated with the Coast Initiative Fund are appropriated to the Coast Community Board Reserve.
9. The Coast Community Board Reserve receives (approximately) \$50k per annum from Opotiki District Council, towards Coast Community Board initiatives.

Policy and Planning Implications

10. The recommendations in this report are consistent with Council's policies and plans.
11. Council is required to ensure it meets legislative requirements under the Local Government Act 2002 when developing the Long-Term Plan.
12. Council is required to ensure it meets legislative requirements and follows the prescribed formal process under the Local Electoral Act.

Impact on mana whenua

13. The recommendation in this report has no specific impact on Mana Whenua.
14. However, the matters included in the Long-Term Plan are consistent with enabling Council's obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Local Government Act 2002.

Climate impact considerations

15. The recommendation in this report has no specific climate impact.

Risks

16. There are no identified risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

Community wellbeing considerations

17. The purpose of Local Government includes the promotion of social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future ('the four well-beings').
18. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the four well-beings during the process of developing this report as follows:
 - Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural well-being is enabled through the Long-Term Plan as it sets the budget and activities for the organisation for the next 10 years.
 - Social, Economic, Environmental, and Cultural well-being is supported through fair and effective representation by ensuring the community views for Representation are considered.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Assessment of significance

19. On every issue requiring a decision, Council is required to determine how significant a decision is to the community, and what the corresponding level of engagement should be. Council uses the Significance Flowchart in the Significance and Engagement Policy to determine the level of significance.
20. The level of significance related to the decision of the matter in this report is considered to be **low**. Because the decision is determined to have low significance in accordance with the policy, the corresponding level of engagement required is **inform**.

Assessment of engagement

21. As the level of significance has been determined to be **low**, the level of engagement required is **Inform** according to the Engagement Framework of the Significance and Engagement Policy:

INFORM

To provide balanced and objective information to assist understanding about something that is going to happen.

22. The tools that Council will use for the 'Inform' level of engagement include a report in the public agenda of the Coast Community Board meeting and may include a combination of public notices in the newspaper and/or on Council's social media.

CONCLUSION

23. This report provides a brief report to the Coast Community Board regarding its Coast Initiatives Fund. Including transactions and running balance.

Billy Kingi

FINANCE MANAGER

Reference number	APP261243371
Submitted	02/07/2026 10:45 a.m.
Created by	ANONYMOUS

Coast Initiatives Fund Application

Please complete this application to apply for funding for coast community initiatives. Pūtea mō ngā kaupapa hapori rohe.

Part 1: Applicant Details

Full name of organisation:	Wherurere Lands Trust (Wharawhara 13 Lands)
Contact person:	Chris Karama Insley
Relationship to organisation:	Chair
Your address:	86 Mitiwai Road, State Highway 35. Omaio. Opotiki
Your daytime phone:	0272621718
Your email:	insleyc85@gmail.com

All correspondence will be sent to the above email or postal address.

Name on bank account:	Wherurere Lands Trust (Wharawhara 13 Lands Trust)
Bank account number:	38-9019-0791341-01

If you are successful your grant will be deposited into the bank account number you have provided if a verified deposit slip is included in this application.

You can upload a copy of a verified deposit slip here if you choose:

Would you like to speak in support of your application at the Coast Community Board meeting? No

Application requirements:

1. Deliberations on grant money applications will be conducted by the Coast Community Board and must meet criteria approved by the Board, see part 3 Application Criteria.
2. Applications must be received by the Ōpōtiki District Council a minimum of 3 weeks before the Coast Community Board meets, at which a grant decision is required.
3. Applications must be received in a timely fashion to allow a grant decision to be made prior to the anticipated date of expenditure for which funding is requested.
4. Grant applications will only be considered from organisations and not (an) individual(s).

5. Applications will only be accepted from those organisations that are established within the Coast ward. If such an organisation proposes to provide assistance funding from a Coast Initiatives Fund grant then the reasons shall be outlined in the application.

6. Grant money shall only be paid on submission of an invoice with a verified bank account deposit form and GST number (if GST registered) details on the organisation's invoice.

Part 2: Project Details

Event / Project name:

Wharawhara 13 Education Reserve

Brief description of event / project:

The Wharawhara 13 has set aside an area of the lands into a Conservation Area by way of a legal covenant on the lands. The purpose of the Conservation area is to protect the conservation and ecological attributes of the area. We have fenced the area off from stock. one of the objectives of the covenant is to provide a showcase to the shareholders, community and general public of active conservation especially on Maori lands. The Trust would like funding support to undertake weedspraying, pest control, fencing maintenance, and signage.

The venue or place where the event / project will take place:

Wharawhara 13 Lands on Mitiwai Road in Omaio

Date of event:

29/08/2026

Date grant requested:

01/08/2026

Event / Project details

1. The idea / Te kaupapa - What do you want to do?

A recent survey of the lands identified (1) some fencing maintenance is required principally to add battens to the fence to make the fence more stockproof, (2) Invasive Pampus, Wild Ginger and Wild Kiwifruit that needs spraying, (3) Opossums, rats and weasels and stoats, and (4) need for signage advertising and communicating the conservation area.

2. The process / Te whakatutuki - How will the project happen?

The Trust will arrange the skilled labour to undertake the work (fencing, pest control, weed control and signage) and provide all the essential equipment to undertake the work but seek funding to purchase all the materials.

3. The people / Ngā tāngata - Tell us about the key people and/or the groups involved:

The Wharawhara 13 Lands Trust represents all of the landowners in the block and provides the necessary governance to lead and coordinate all the activities on the lands. The Conservation area represents only a part of the lands. The Trust is actively exploring development options for the rest of the lands.

4. Timeframe / Taima - Tell us what the expected timeframe for completion of your project is:

Ideally The Trust would like this work completed by the end of August ahead of the Spring and Summer growing seasons (weeds)..

5. The budget / Ngā pūtea

Are you GST registered?

No

If you are GST registered - Do NOT include GST in your budget.

If you are not GST registered - Include GST in your budget.

Project costs - List all the costs of your project and include details of items this covers.

Project costs

Item (e.g. hall hire):

Fencing (battens and staples)

Detail (e.g. 3 days hire at \$100 per day)

500 battens and 10 posts

Amount (e.g. \$300)

\$800

Add another project cost below

Item (e.g. hall hire):

Herbicide for Weedspraying

Detail (e.g. 3 days hire at \$100 per day)

20 Litres Glyphosate, 500 grams Meturon, 1 litre Organosilican (surfactant)

Amount (e.g. \$300)

\$500

Add another project cost below

Item (e.g. hall hire):

Pest control

Detail (e.g. 3 days hire at \$100 per day)

Bait stations and Bait

Amount (e.g. \$300)

\$500

Add another project cost below

Item (e.g. hall hire):

Signage and posts

Detail (e.g. 3 days hire at \$100 per day)

two large signs 1.5 m x 1.5m (made by Opotiki signs) and 4 posts and frame timber

Amount (e.g. \$300)

\$1000

Total costs:

2800.00

Amount requesting from the Coast Initiative Fund:

2800.00

Upload quotes for your project costs (where applicable):

Have you applied to any other organization for funding for the same purpose as this application?

No

If your application is approved it is part of the criteria that a written report along with photos will be submitted to the Community Funding Initiative committee within one month of the project being completed.

Part 3: Application Criteria

The Coast Community Board has adopted the following criteria in assessing funding for projects:

1. Marae facility development and upgrades excluding projects, or components of projects, that can attract funding from other funding sources.
2. Community facilities and sports fields.
3. Pride and beautification projects within the community.
4. Community events.
5. Coastal access excluding private access.
6. Infrastructure projects specific to coastal communities that may be outside of Council immediate priorities or that may add value to existing initiatives.
7. Education and training for organisations, or members of organisations, resulting in ongoing benefit or increased opportunities to the coast community.

8. Each application would be considered by the Board on a case by case basis.
9. If approved funding is not utilised within two years from the date of approval the applicant must reapply for funding consideration
10. Applications must be received by the Ōpōtiki District Council a minimum of 3 weeks before the Coast Community Board meets, at which a grant decision is required.
11. Grant applications will only be considered from organisations and not (an) individual(s).
12. Applications will only be accepted from those organisations that are established within the Coast Community Board ward. If such organisation proposes to provide assistance funding from a CIF grant then the reasons shall be outlined in the application.

Part 4: Declaration

You must read and agree to the following. Please check each box to show that you have read the information and agree to each section.

- I/We declare that the details contained in this application are correct and that I/we have authority to commit to the following conditions. Yes
- I/We agree to the application requirements stated in application details on page one. Yes

If this application is successful, I/we agree to:

- complete the project as outlined in this application (or request permission in writing from the Coast Community Board for any significant change to the project). Yes
- utilise funding within two years from the date of approval (failure will require applicant to reapply). Yes
- return a project report within one months after the project is completed (failure may lead to further funding applications being declined). Yes
- return any unspent funds. Yes
- where applicable (e.g. where items are purchased) receipts and/or written quotes shall be provided to Council. Yes
- acknowledge Coast Initiative Funding at event openings, presentations or performances and provide photos. Yes
- I understand that the Opotiki District Council is bound by the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Yes
- I/we understand that my/our name and brief details about the project may be released to the media or appear in publicity material. Yes
- I/we undertake that I/we have obtained the consent of all people involved to provide these details. Yes
- I/we understand that I/we have the right to have access to this information. This consent is given in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993. Yes

To sign your agreement print name of contact Chris Karamea Insley

person/applicant here:

(If applicant is under 16 years of age parent/guardian
to print name here to show agreement):

Date:

02/07/2026

[Wharawhara 13 Map.pdf](#) (488 kb)



Land Use



Block Survey Area = 5.49 ha



Maize Planting Area = 2.66 ha