

Let's Talk Matamata-Piako

Local Government Change Community Feedback

Central government wants fewer councils and has indicated that regional councils, such as Waikato Regional Council, will not continue in their current form after 2028. Councils have been invited to put forward proposals for how local government could be reorganised. If councils choose not to do so, central government will determine future arrangements through a separate process. Before deciding what proposal to submit, we sought community feedback from **15 to 30 June 2026**.

How we promoted the consultation



Three public information sessions: Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha.



Three articles on the MPDC website were opened by **1473** people.



Four posts on Council's Facebook page were viewed by **40127** people.



Two e-newsletters included information.



Advertising in three local newspapers.



Four notifications reached around **4868** mobile phones. **744** people clicked through for more information.

Who we heard from

4097

Visits to the Let's Talk consultation page.

832

Submissions were received. Completed online or in hard copy.

106

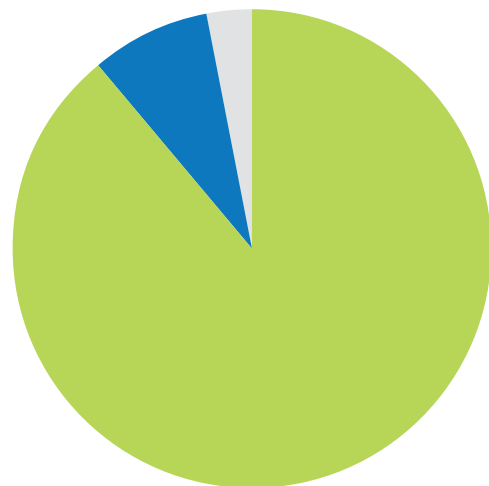
People attended the public information sessions. 162 people viewed the recording.

Level of support for the proposed options

- Eastern Waikato unitary authority **89%**
- Waikato-wide unitary authority **7%**
- Other/no selection **4%**

Where respondents live

- Te Aroha **28%**
- Matamata **33%**
- Morrinsville **36%**
- Outside the district **3%**



Top six feedback themes



Keep local decision-making, representation and community identity strong.



Shared rural values, industries and environmental challenges.



Concern about rural voices being outweighed by larger centres.



Protect local assets, debt positions and ratepayer interests.



Build on existing council partnerships and shared services.



More time needed to understand and influence proposed changes.

Further information and next steps

Following this consultation, Council will review the feedback received and decide how to respond to central government. This will include discussions with neighbouring councils and regional council. There is a deadline of **9 August** to submit a proposal to central government. Some respondents questioned why retaining the current structure was not an option. Under the Government's reform criteria, councils were asked to consider larger combined structures rather than the status quo. We will continue to update the community as this progresses.