

What about Community Boards?

It is proposed that there will be no Community Boards in Matamata-Piako.

Community boards were created by the local government reforms in 1989. A Community Board is an elected body that works at a grass-roots level in the specific geographic area that they represent, termed a "community of interest".



What does a Community Board do?

- Represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board
- Maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community
- Prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community
- Communicate with community organisations and specific interest groups within the community
- Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.

Powers and function of Community Boards

Community Boards carry out functions, duties and powers delegated to them by the Council. They must operate within governing legislation, including processes contained in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 as well as the Local Government Act 2002.

Usually Community Boards advise their Council of local concerns, overview any works and services in their area make submissions in terms of their local needs and priorities for the Council's Long Term Plans and establish contacts with local organisations and groups. They can work as the Council's communication link with the local community, for example by providing a public forum opportunity at Community Board meetings where members of the community can come to speak about any issues.

Cost of Community Boards

The rules for payment of salaries and expenses to elected members, including community board members, are set by the Remuneration Authority. The remuneration level set for each community board is linked to the population the board serves and the Chairperson's salary is set at twice that of a board member. The funding for community board salaries comes from rates.

There would be some additional administrative costs in providing support to community boards that relate to support for the meetings, for example preparing and distributing agendas for the meetings, attending and minuting the meetings, and additional officer time in preparing reports for the meetings. There could also be a small cost to pay for the meeting venues, depending on where Community Boards decided to hold their meetings within their respective communities.

