

To the Electorate Boundary Review Committee,

I submit to counter-object to changes suggested in objection N19001 and N19002. In summary, they suggest that the Otahuhu suburb should be added to Maungakiekie because “Otahuhu was an old Auckland City suburb”. They further suggest that part of Maungakiekie should be added to Epsom to account for a resulting population increase from adding Otahuhu to Maungakiekie.

This counter-objection raises six suggestions why these changes should not eventuate, and then concludes with my suggested solution.

1. Separate social and community connections

Firstly, it is important to note that contemporary Otahuhu sits as a suburb that is contained distinctly within South Auckland, with strong cultural connection with surrounding suburbs like Papatoetoe and Otara. These rich community networks can be observed with Pasifika church communities, cultural centres, and other events that target South Aucklanders.

Furthermore, people from the Otahuhu are more likely to interact with businesses, community centres, recreation, and other activities with the surrounding South Auckland area rather than any areas within the Maungakiekie electorate. An example of this is seen with Middlemore Hospital: residents of Otahuhu would more likely make use of this hospital, whereas residents in the current Maungakiekie suburbs would be admitted to the Auckland City Hospital.

A separation of Otahuhu from these more proximate communities would dilute the representation of the constituents in the area by way of splitting these close-knit communities between two electorates. The suggested inclusion of Otahuhu and exclusion of an area close to the Epsom boundary in Maungakiekie would also serve to weaken Maungakiekie’s strong community connections being represented under one electorate.

2. Separate education and transport connections

Moreover, the schooling connections in the area, such as Otahuhu College (school zone pictured to the right) and Southern Cross Campus, are strongly tied with the Otahuhu community, but do not have connections with any residential areas within the Maungakiekie electorate. This demonstrates a distinct separation of schooling communities between Otahuhu, and other communities within the Maungakiekie electorate.

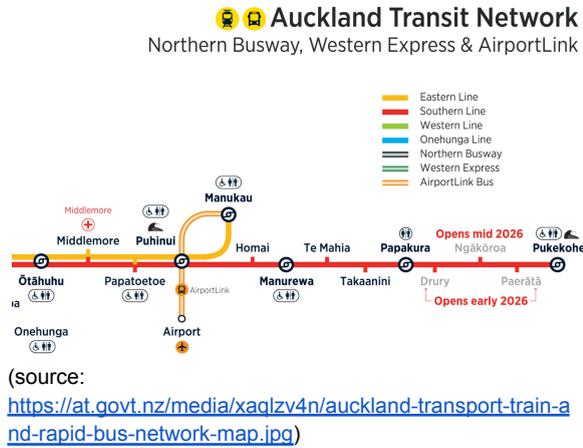
Otahuhu’s rail station and bus routes further serve to orient Otahuhu as a suburb towards south Auckland, with its Southern and Eastern Line connections toward Papatoetoe, Manukau, and Otara. Great South Road and Massey Road, major arterial roads that branch out from the town centre, further serve to link Otahuhu more naturally with the South Auckland roading grid.



(Image source: <https://www.otahuhucollege.school.nz/how-to-enrol>)

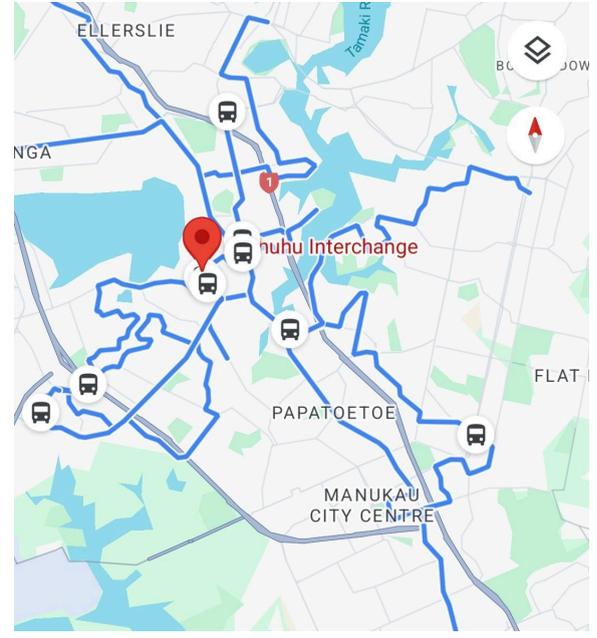
Connections south of Otahuhu Train Station:

(showing Otahuhu as a gateway into South Auckland transport connections)



Google Maps' overview (screenshot) of bus connections from the Otahuhu Bus Interchange:

(showing heavy connections with South Auckland)

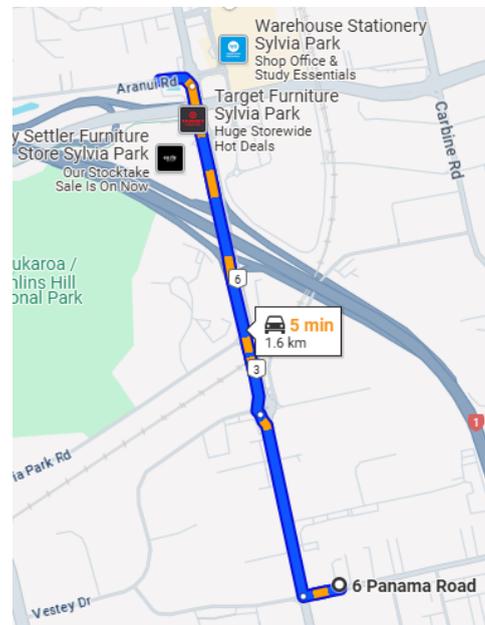


3. Geographic distance between respective residential areas

Furthermore, Otahuhu is separated from the rest of the Maungakiekie electorate's residential area by 1.6 kilometres (measured from 6 Panama Road to 5C Aranui Road – the closest distance between the Otahuhu and Mt Wellington residential areas).

Therefore, the proposed border between Maungakiekie and Otahuhu makes sense, as it is on the boundary between the industrial area of Southdown and the outskirt residential areas of Otahuhu (Richmond Quarry), ensuring all residents who identify as living in Otahuhu reside within the Otahuhu electorate, and that the vast majority of industrial sites sit within Maungakiekie.

Given that the rest of Maungakiekie sits on the Auckland isthmus, it would also be against any communities of interest criteria to include a suburb in an isthmus-based electorate that is not also on the Auckland isthmus.



(Image Source: Google Maps)

4. Long-established electoral boundary history already acknowledged by the Commission (in regard to the Otahuhu-Maungakiekie boundary and the Maungakiekie-Epsom boundary)

The Otahuhu township has not been in Maungakiekie since the 2005 election (change made in the 2007 electoral map redraw), and Richmond Quarry hasn't been in the Maungakiekie electorate since the 2017 election (change made in the 2020 electoral map redraw).

Furthermore, Epsom's southern boundary with Maungakiekie (including former areas of the western part of Maungakiekie that used to be a part of Mount Roskill) have been well established for many years. The shape of Epsom's southern boundary has been almost exactly the same since 2002. Shifting this boundary significantly to create an electorate that includes areas that haven't been a part of Maungakiekie for 20 years would risk forming electorates that contain communities that may share more in common with communities outside of their electorate than inside their own electorate.

Historical electorate boundary information:

2002: <https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/99645-general-electoral-district-2002/>

- The last time the Otahuhu township was part of Maungakiekie

2007: <https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/104065-general-electoral-district-2007/>

- None of Otahuhu within Maungakiekie.

2014: <https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/104062-general-electoral-district-2014/>

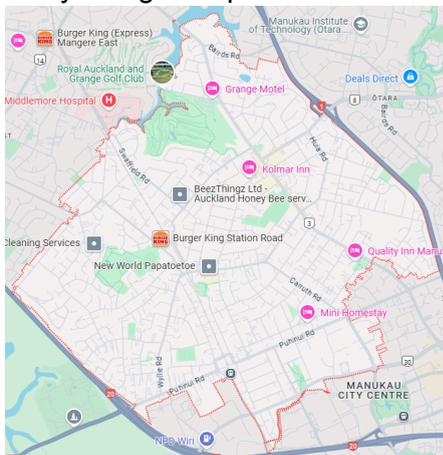
- Only Richmond Quarry within Maungakiekie.

5. Papatoetoe still having strong community representation under the proposed Otahuhu electorate

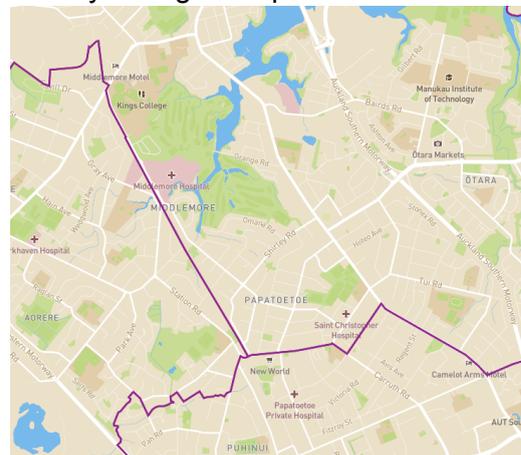
While I concede that some of the Papatoetoe suburb (as defined by Google Maps) is split between the proposed electorate boundaries of the Otahuhu, Mangere, and Manurewa electorates, the vast bulk of Papatoetoe (including the town centre) is situated in the Otahuhu electorate according to Google Maps, and thus grants sufficient representation for the greater Papatoetoe area within the current proposed Otahuhu electorate boundaries.

The boundaries drawn between electorates will never neatly fall along suburban boundaries. Regardless, the electorate boundaries that have been drawn in the Papatoetoe area, in my opinion, still work to represent a large portion of the constituents of Papatoetoe well.

Papatoetoe suburban boundaries, as defined by Google Maps:



The same area overlaid by the proposed boundary changes map:



6. Suggested additions of “Puhinui North, Puhinui South and papatoetoe south” not feasible with Mangere and Manurewa below electoral tolerance quota

If the objector’s suggested changes were to be implemented by uniting all of Papatoetoe under one electorate, including Puhinui North and Puhinui South, this would adversely impact the populations of the Mangere and Manurewa electorates, which would likely fall below the quota tolerance (lower than they already are). In other words, I do not believe that it is feasible for either Mangere or Manurewa to lose large populous swathes of residential area without falling below the 5% tolerance threshold. Therefore, I suggest that the boundaries between these three electorates stay the same.

North Island general Electorates		Electoral population	Variation from quota		Projected population variations	
Code	Name		Number	%	2026	2029
N19	Ōtāhuhu	70,343	+468	+0.7%	-0.1%	-0.7%
N20	Māngere	69,001	-874	-1.3%	-2.0%	-2.2%
N23	Manurewa	68,280	-1,595	-2.3%	-2.5%	-2.9%

My suggested solution

Keep the boundary between Otahuhu and Maungakiekie where it is as proposed by the Electoral Boundary Review Committee.

The only amendment I would make to this (as outlined in my objection N17003) is to include Mt Richmond in the Otahuhu electorate, given that residents of the area will be more frequent users of the mountain than any residents in the Maungakiekie electorate, given that they live much closer to the mountain.

Thank you.

Ryan Maguire