

Electoral System Review 2020

Whangarei District Council

Workshop

1pm, 20 August 2020

Dale Ofosoke, Electoral Officer

Electoral System Review 2020

- **Electoral system**

- every three-years Council considers electoral system
- Council can choose to either
 - retain FPP (current system)
 - adopt STV
 - hold a poll
- resolution by 12 September 2020
- mandatory public notice by 19 September 2020
- notice provides opportunity for public to demand a poll
- if resolve to change electoral system, resolution for two triennial elections (2022, 2025) but option can be re-considered in three-years, with public notice given in three-years for public to demand a poll

Electoral System Review 2020

- **Electoral system**
 - Council can resolve to hold a poll anytime
 - if by 12 September 2020
 - poll held by 21 May 2021
 - no public notice required
 - result binding for 2022 & 2025 elections
 - if by 28 February 2021
 - poll held by 21 May 2021
 - result binding for 2022 & 2025 elections
 - if after 28 February 2021
 - poll held after 21 May 2021 e.g. with 2022 elections
 - result binding for 2025 & 2028 elections

Electoral System Review 2020

- **Electoral system**
 - electors can demand a poll anytime
 - if received by 28 February 2021
 - poll held by 21 May 2021
 - result binding for 2022 & 2025 elections
 - if received after 28 February 2021
 - poll held after 21 May 2021 e.g. with 2022 elections
 - result binding for 2025 & 2028 elections
 - minimum 5% electors (3,080) required
 - estimated cost of stand-alone poll \$100-110k + GST

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- **Electoral system**

- First Past the Post (FPP)
 - electors tick their preferred candidate(s) up to number of vacancies
 - candidate(s) with highest number votes elected
 - i.e. to be elected, candidates only need to get more votes than the next highest polling candidate
 - widely used/understood, is familiar
 - transparent (know where vote has gone)
 - used by 86% local authorities in 2019 (67 of 78)

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- **Electoral system**

- Single Transferable Voting (STV)
 - form of preferential voting
 - electors have single vote and rank candidates in order they prefer
 - can encourage diversity/minority representation
 - candidates must achieve certain number of votes (quota) to be elected
 - results not so easy to understand (elected/unelected in descending order)
 - works better in 'at large' or larger wards (of 5-7 members)
 - used by all DHB elections (subject to Simpson Report)
 - used by 14% local authorities in 2019 (11 of 78)



Electoral System Review 2020

- **Electoral system**

- STV just adopted by Far North District Council, Hamilton City Council and Nelson City Council
- Hamilton City Council undertook one-month education and engagement campaign, including a survey
 - 4,100 visited website
 - 928 submissions received, 78.1% for STV, 21.9% for FPP
 - reasons respondents prefer STV were better representation of public opinion, less wastage of votes, opportunity for more diversity in the council
 - reasons respondents prefer FPP were simple majority voting, easy to understand and easier to vote

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- **Electoral system**

- Far North District Council education and engagement campaign, including a survey
 - 637 votes received, 63.7% for STV, 36.3% for FPP
 - reasons for STV: it was fairer, better and more representational
 - for councillors', to try something different
 - reasons for FPP: it was simple to understand and a fairer system
- 2017 New Plymouth District Council adopted STV for 2019
 - by resolution, no demand for a poll received
 - held 2019 successfully
 - very slight drop in voter turnout from 2016 (-2.5%)

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- **Electoral system**

- past polls:

- 2019 Whanganui DC (80% FPP, 20% STV)
 - 2019 Tasman DC (63% FPP, 37% STV)
 - 2013 Hamilton CC (70% FPP, 30% STV)
 - 2008 Wellington CC (49.45% FPP, 50.55% STV)
 - 2006 Hamilton CC (60.5% FPP, 39.5% STV)
 - 2002 Whangarei DC (65% FPP, 35% STV)

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