

Representation Review 2020-21

Whangarei District Council

Workshop 1

1 April 2021

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer

Representation Review 2020-21

Discussion/guidance from councillors on

- Communities of interest
- Number of councillors
- Structure (wards/at large/mixture)
- Fair representation
- Community boards
- Other considerations
- Public feedback/decision time

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Communities of interest

- Need to identify both general and Māori
 - clean-slate approach (general)?
 - use existing 6 wards as base (general)?
 - talk to iwi/hapū (Māori)
- *Guidance 1: Have general communities of interest changed?*
- *Guidance 2: Should we look at clean-slate or existing approach?*

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Number of councillors

- Currently 13 (plus mayor) for 98,400 pop
 - is this too many, too few (in principle)?
 - 9 for Far North DC 71,000 pop (has CBs)
 - 10 for Tauranga CC 151,300 pop (no CBs)
 - 14 for New Plymouth DC 86,000 pop (has CBs)
 - 12 for Lower Hutt CC 112,000 pop (has CBs)
 - 15 for Palmerston North CC 90,350 pop (no CBs)

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- Between 8-13 councillors provides 2 Māori councillors
- Between 14-18 councillors provides 3 Māori councillors
- *Guidance 3: What is considered best number councillors for WDC?*

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Structure of representation

- Ability to elect councillors by:
 - wards, 'at large', mixture (wards/'at large')
- Must have minimum 2 wards (1 general, 1 Māori)
- General councillors elected from 1 or more general wards
- Māori councillors elected from 1 or more Māori wards
- *Guidance 4: How should councillors be elected?*
- *Guidance 5: If wards, how many wards should there be?*

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Fair representation

- If wards, must ensure each councillor represents about the same number of people (+/- 10%)
- Current wards comply with general wards criteria except for Whangarei Heads Ward (+17.1%)

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Community boards

- Need to consider
- Purpose of a community board (LGNZ) is to
 - represent and act as advocate for interests of community
 - consider and report on any matter referred to it by council
 - make annual submission to council on their expenditure
 - maintain overview of services provided by council in community
 - communicate with community organisations and special interest groups in the community

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- Would community boards deal with more local issues?
- If establish, number, boundaries, subdivisions, names, number elected/appointed
- Can match ward boundaries (FNDC) or reflect specific communities (Waikato DC)
- *Guidance 6: Should there be community boards?*
- *Guidance 7: If so, how many boards should there be?*

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Other considerations

- Workload
 - how is current workload on individuals – heavy/light?
- Remuneration
 - current remuneration for councillors is pool – more councillors, less remuneration per councillor and vice-versa
- Visibility/accessibility
 - would more councillors mean better direct access to communities and the public?

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- Decision-making
 - would fewer councillors enable quicker decision-making?
- Diversity
 - would the basis of election (wards etc) bring better diversity to council?
- Roles (governance vrs local issues)
 - if community boards, would role of councillors be more focused on governance and community boards on local issues?

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- Predetermination
 - need to be mindful not to predetermine the representation review before public viewpoint
- *Guidance 7: How should these other, non-statutory considerations, be reflected in the upcoming decisions?*

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Public feedback/decision time

- Community consultation April/May
- Feedback from this, together with Te Kārearea (21 April) and iwi/hapū to council on 1 June for consideration/decisions
- Initial Proposal Resolution 24 June

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