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**Media release**

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#### Commission announces decision on representation arrangements for Horizons Regional Council

The Local Government Commission today announced its decision that existing representation arrangements for Horizons Regional Council will largely apply for the 2019 local authority elections.

The Commission has endorsed the decision of Horizons Regional Council that the existing arrangements of 12 councillors elected from six constituencies will continue to apply for the October elections. However, there will be one boundary alteration with all of Manawatu District now included within an extended Manawatū-Rangitikei Constituency. Consequentially the area of Horowhenua District alone will form a new Horowhenua Constituency.

In endorsing the retention of six constituencies, the Commission also agreed with the council that, given the size and nature of the area, a separate Ruapehu Constituency electing one councillor should be retained. This is despite this constituency being significantly outside legislative fair representation requirements defined in terms of the ratio of population per councillor i.e. outside the permitted +/-10% of the average for the region as a whole. The Commission sees this decision as reflecting a good balance between both fair and effective representation requirements. This variation also applies in respect of several other approved constituencies.

Two appeals against the council’s proposal were received. However, the Commission has agreed with the council that the proposed non-compliance with fair representation requirements is necessary to provide effective representation for particular constituencies.

The decision means that for the 2019 local authority elections, Horizons Regional Council will continue to comprise 12 councillors elected from six constituencies as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Constituency** | **Councillors**  |
| Ruapehu | 1 |
| Whanganui | 2 |
| Manawatū-Rangitikei | 2 |
| Palmerston North | 4 |
| Horowhenua | 2 |
| Tararua | 1 |

The determination is available on the Commission’s website: [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz/)

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