

FINAL PROPOSAL FOR REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2019 LOCAL ELECTIONS

On 30 May 2018 Horizons Regional Council's Strategy and Policy Committee considered the submissions received on its initial proposal, regarding the representation arrangements for the Council to apply for the local elections to be held on 12 October 2019.

Submissions

The Council received four submissions on its proposal, one in favour. Three submissions included the following objections to various elements of the proposal:

- Two submitters sought arrangements that give greater emphasis to achieving the fair representation criteria. One of these submitters considered there should be 14 representatives each representing approximately 17,000 people. The other considered that there should be more representatives for towns and urban areas, including representatives for the Levin and Feilding urban areas.
- One submitter sought the separation of the Rangitikei District into a separate constituency.

Final proposal

Having considered all of the objections, the Strategy and Policy Committee recommended that Council adopt its initial proposal as its final proposal. Council considers the existing arrangements are the most appropriate to ensure that all the Region's communities of interest are effectively represented, and the arrangements do not create barriers to participation.

Council representation

It is proposed that Council comprises 12 members elected from six constituencies, reflecting communities of interest identified through factors including shared territorial authority boundaries, identification with physical and topographical features and river catchments, and dependence on shared facilities and services including flood protection and drainage schemes.

Constituency	Description
Ruapehu	Ruapehu District and the parts of Waitomo and Stratford Districts in the Region
Wanganui	Whanganui District
Manawatu-Rangitikei	Rangitikei District, Manawatu District's current Feilding and Northern Manawatu Rural Ward, and the part of the Taupō District in the Region
Palmerston North	Palmerston North City
Horowhenua-Kairanga	Horowhenua District and Manawatu District's current Southern Manawatu Rural Ward.
Tararua	Tararua District except the part of the District in the Greater Wellington Region.

The population that each member will represent (rounded to the nearest hundred) is as follows:

Constituency	Population (2017 Statistics NZ estimate)	Members	Population per member
Ruapehu	12900	1	12900
Wanganui	44500	2	22250
Manawatu-Rangitikei	37400	2	18700
Palmerston North	87300	4	21825
Horowhenua-Kairanga	40300	2	20150
Tararua	17800	1	17800
Total	240300	12	20025

The population the members for Ruapehu, Wanganui and Tararua Constituencies represent does not fall within the range of 20025 +/- 10% (18022–22028) and therefore does not meet the requirements of Section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Appeals

Any person who made a submission on the Council's initial proposal may lodge an appeal against the Council's decision. The appeal must relate to the matters raised in that person's submission.

Appeals must be made in writing and must be received by Council no later than **5pm Monday 23 July 2018**.

Further information

Any queries regarding the Council's decision should be directed to:

- Craig Grant, Electoral Officer (Freephone 0508 800 800 or 06 9522 800)
- Physical address - Regional House Palmerston North (11-15 Victoria Avenue) and Regional House Whanganui (181 Guyton Street)
- Email – submissions@horizons.govt.nz
- Postal address - Freepost 217922, Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442.

Michael McCartney - CHIEF EXECUTIVE