

Horizons Regional Council

Final proposal for representation arrangements for the 2022 local elections

On 27 October 2021 Horizons Regional Council 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 8 October 2022.

Submissions

The Council received 12 submissions, including 1 late submission and 1 submission that was subsequently withdrawn.

On its proposal to have 14 regional councillors, 12 elected from 6 general constituencies and 2 from 2 Māori constituencies:

3 submissions were in favour and 8 opposed summarised as follows:

- One submitter supporting the maintenance of Ruapehu representation (accepted).
- One submitter sought a goal of 50 percent Māori councillors (rejected – legislation specifies how the number is calculated).
- Three submitters opposed increasing the total number of councillors. One submitter sought a reduction in the total number of councillors, to 10 (rejected – the Council considers 14 councillors provides fair and effective representation).
- One submitter sought that Horizons review the two Māori constituencies after two election cycles (accepted subject to any change in legislative requirements).
- One submitter proposed an alternative arrangement for general constituencies to achieve even population distribution between councillors, including: 4 councillors for Palmerston North; 2 for Whanganui urban; 1 each for Feilding and Levin and 1 each for 4 'districts' (Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western) (rejected – the submission does not meet the legislative requirements and the Council consider the proposal provides for fair and effective representation).
- One submitter proposed that the boundary between the 2 Māori constituencies should be at the Rangitikei River (rejected – there is no indication of support from iwi or hapū and to the extent that it is practicable, constituency boundaries should conform with the boundaries of territorial authority districts or wards).

On its proposal to support or oppose the names Raki Māori and Tonga Māori for Māori constituencies:

2 submissions were in favour and 4 opposed, 3 neither supported nor opposed and 2 supported either iwi engagement or a decision to be made by the electors concerned (the Council accepted the support and rejected the opposition).

Final proposal

Having considered all of the submissions, the Council adopted its initial proposal as its final proposal. Council considers the proposal is 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 14 members elected from 6 general and 2 Māori constituencies as shown in the tables below:

| Constituency | Description |
|----------------------------|--|
| Ruapehu | Ruapehu District and the parts of Waitomo and Stratford Districts located within the region. |
| Whanganui | Whanganui District. |
| Manawatū-Rangitīkei | Manawatū District, all of Rangitīkei District except the part located in the Hawkes' Bay Region, and including the part of Taupō District within the region. |
| Palmerston North | Palmerston North City. |
| Horowhenua | Horowhenua District. |
| Tararua | Tararua District except the part of the district located in Greater Wellington Region. |
| Raki Māori | All of Ruapehu District, Whanganui District and Manawatū District; all of Rangitīkei District except the part located in the Hawkes' Bay Region; and including those parts of Stratford District and Waitomo District located within the region. |
| Tonga Māori | Palmerston North City, all of Horowhenua District, and all of Tararua District except the part located in Greater Wellington Region. |

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

| Constituency | Population (2020 Statistics NZ estimate) | Members | Population per member |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------|-----------------------|
| General constituencies | | | |
| Ruapehu | 9130 | 1 | 9130 |
| Whanganui | 39700 | 2 | 19850 |
| Manawatū-Rangitīkei | 41800 | 2 | 20900 |
| Palmerston North | 80700 | 4 | 20175 |
| Horowhenua | 31000 | 2 | 15500 |
| Tararua | 16000 | 1 | 16000 |
| Total general constituencies | 218330 | 12 | 18194 |
| Māori constituencies | | | |
| Raki Māori | 18280 | 1 | 18280 |
| Tonga Māori | 17560 | 1 | 17560 |
| Total Māori constituencies | 35840 | 2 | 17920 |
| Total | 254170 | 14 | |

Section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires that the population each member represents for the general constituencies must be within the range of 18,194 +/- 10% (16,375–20,013), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise. Section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 also requires that the population each member represents for the Māori constituencies must be within the range of 17,920 +/- 10% (16,128 – 19,712), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise.

The representation of Ruapehu, Manawatū-Rangitīkei, Palmerston North, Horowhenua and Tararua Constituencies fall outside the stipulated range. Council considers that the existing arrangements are the most appropriate to ensure that Ruapehu, Manawatū-Rangitīkei, Palmerston North, Horowhenua and Tararua's communities of interest are effectively represented, and the arrangements do not create barriers to participation.

Appeals and objections

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 **11.59pm, Sunday 5 December 2021**.

Further information

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

- Katharine Tongs, Electoral Official (Freephone 0508 800 800 or 06 9522 800)
- Physical address – Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North 4442
- Postal address – Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025, Palmerston North 4442
- Email – submissions@horizons.govt.nz

Michael McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE