

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Administration Advisor
REFERENCE: E313
DATE: 24 July 2006
SUBJECT: Representation Review Submissions

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

To report on the submissions received to Council's Initial Proposal for Tasman District Council's Representation Review arrangements for the 2007 local body elections.

BACKGROUND

Council resolved on 1 June 2006 its initial representation review proposal as follows:

Council Representation

It is proposed that the Council will comprise 13 members elected from five wards, and the Mayor.

The five wards reflect the following identified communities of interest:

*Golden Bay Ward
Motueka Ward
Moutere/Waimea Ward
Lakes/Murchison Ward
Richmond Ward*

The population that each member will represent is as follows:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Population Per member</i>
<i>Golden Bay</i>	<i>5180</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2590</i>
<i>Motueka</i>	<i>11400</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3800</i>
<i>Moutere/Waimea</i>	<i>11950</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3983</i>
<i>Lakes/Murchison</i>	<i>2670</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1335</i>
<i>Richmond</i>	<i>14650</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4883</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>45850</i>	<i>13</i>	

Population figures are based on Estimated Residential Population as at 30/06/04, provided by Statistics New Zealand.

In accordance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 the population that each member represents must be within the range of 3527 ± 10% (3175 to 3880), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise.

Reasons for Departing from 19V(2)

Golden Bay Ward be treated as an isolated community for the following reasons:

- *Isolated community requiring specific representation in order to provide effective representation;*
- *Has a very clear geographic line that separates the Bay from the balance of the district;*
- *Weather patterns can vary considerably from the rest of the district with heavy rain causing flooding that can isolate the Bay;*
- *Council contracts for roading, parks and reserves etc. are all carried out from depots based in the Bay;*
- *The Bay has a relatively small permanent population which swells considerably during the holiday season with people using the camping grounds and many of the baches that remain empty for most of the year;*
- *Reduced number of members will compromise the rural voice;*
- *There are four distinct communities of interest within the Golden Bay Ward;*
- *There are significant distance and travel times;*
- *Elected members are the eyes and ears of the community, and often the first point of contact for the wards ratepayers and residents.*

Lakes/Murchison Ward be treated as an isolated community for the following reasons:

- *Very large geographic area separated from other Wards by hills;*
- *River catchments include the Buller District;*
- *Effective representation for this large geographic area would be difficult with reduced ward members;*
- *Reduced number of elected members will compromise the rural voice;*
- *There are three distinct communities of interest within the Lakes/Murchison Ward;*
- *Council roading contracts for this Ward are carried out from depots based in the Ward;*
- *Elected members are the eyes and ears of the community, and often the first point of contact for the wards ratepayers and residents;*
- *There are significant distance and travel times.*

Richmond Ward depart from Section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 for reasons of:

- *Is a small compact area with a large population, and can effectively be represented by three councillors.*

Moutere/Waimea Ward depart from Section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 for reasons of:

- *Exceeding the population formula by 310 is considered to be only minor departure from this section;*
- *By including the 310 into another ward would not change the representation for those wards.*

Generally Council considers:

- *that the \pm 10% formula for fair representation does not fit unitary authorities;*
- *there are five distinct communities of interest based on the areas of the former authorities; and*
- *the present system provides for fair and effective representation.*

Community Board Representation

It is proposed that two community boards will be elected. The two community boards will be:

<i>Golden Bay Community Board</i>	<i>Area covered by the present ward boundaries.</i>
<i>Motueka Community Board</i>	<i>Area covered by the present ward boundaries.</i>

The Golden Bay and Motueka Community Boards will each elect four members. They will not be subdivided for electoral purposes. They will each have two appointed members as follows:

<i>Golden Bay Community Board</i>	<i>Two members appointed from the Golden Bay Ward</i>
<i>Motueka Community Board</i>	<i>Two members appointed from the Motueka Ward</i>

Submissions Received

Subsequently Council's Initial Proposal was advertised, calling for submissions.

732 submissions were received by the closing period, with a further 29 since. A summary of submitters, their wards and a brief description of contents of their submission is appended.

Copies of most of these submissions are attached to the agenda. A large number of submitters have either added their name and address to a pre-printed form, filled out the standard submission form on the Council website, or have emailed a one or two lined submission in support of the status quo. I have only included examples of these in the agenda.

All original submissions will be available at the hearing, and if you require copies of any of these before that date, please advise and I will forward them to you.

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

All these submissions need to be considered, and a decision on a final proposal needs to be made. Once made the final proposal will be advertised, inviting objections or appeals.

An appeal against the final proposal can be lodged by any person or organisation that made a submission to the initial proposal

An objection can be made by anyone if the final proposal differs from the initial proposal.

If any appeals or objections are received, these are then forwarded to the Local Government Commission for consideration. The Commission may hold a hearing to allow people to speak to their appeal or objection, and will then issue a final determination for Council's Representation Review for the 2007 local body elections.

If no appeals or objections are received, Council's final proposal becomes the determination for the 2007 local body elections.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received, and that a decision be made on the final proposal for Tasman District Council's Representation Review Arrangements for the 2007 local body elections.

S E Hartley
Administration Advisor