

# Final Proposal for Representation Arrangements

## Submissions:

On 9 October 2018, the Hamilton City 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 12 October 2019.

The Council received 37 submissions on its initial proposal:

- 8 submissions supported the Council's initial proposal;
- 29 submissions opposed the Council's initial proposal.

Those that supported the initial proposal wished to maintain the status quo.

Those that opposed the initial proposal sought alternative arrangements, these being:

- a change from the existing ward structure to an "at large" system (11 submissions);
- a change from the existing ward structure to increase the number of wards (11 submissions);
- a reduction to the current number of councillors (5 submissions);
- an increase to the current number of councillors (2 submissions);
- the establishment of community boards (3 submissions).

## Final Proposal:

Having considered all of the submissions, the Council resolved on 1 November 2018 to adopt its initial proposal as its final proposal.

The Council considered all matters raised by submissions.

A number of submissions highlighted out of scope issues. These issues (the STV electoral system, where candidates should reside, maximum number of terms and the mayor's casting vote) were excluded as they fell out of the scope of factors available for consideration.

Reasoning around the decision to continue with the initial proposal and to decline submissions opposed to the initial proposal are:

- there were a diverse range of views expressed in the submissions and they were of a contradictory nature;
- the Waikato River is a distinct geographical feature which is a well-known reference point for communities of interest;
- the current wards continue to reflect Hamilton's communities of interest to at least the same extent as other representation structures advocated through submissions;
- the current ward structure does not create any more barriers to participation, either for voters or those standing as a candidate, than other representation structures advocated through submissions;
- the current ward structure provides a balance between the views of submitters proposing a better choice of candidates, and those seeking more knowledge and connections to local areas.

The final proposal is as follows:

- (i) Hamilton City Council comprises 12 councillors elected under the ward system, plus the mayor elected at large;
- (ii) Hamilton City Council is divided into two wards, consisting of the following communities of interest:
  - **East Ward** (six councillors) being the existing ward comprising the area to the east of the Waikato River delineated on SO Plan 1602;
  - **West Ward** (six councillors) being the existing ward comprising the area to the west of the Waikato River delineated on SO Plan 1601;
- (iii) no community boards are established.

The two wards, the number of councillors per ward, the ward populations (estimated as at 30 June 2017) and the population ratio per councillor are as follows:

| Ward | Population | Councillors | Average | % Variation |
|------|------------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| East | 87,100     | 6           | 14,516  | +5.32%      |
| West | 78,300     | 6           | 13,050  | -5.32%      |

In accordance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the population that each councillor represents must be within the population range of 13,783 plus or minus 10% (12,405 - 15,161).

## Appeals

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

Appeal forms can be provided through the Council's website [www.hamilton.govt.nz](http://www.hamilton.govt.nz), or in hardcopy from the Hamilton City Council, Garden Place from 5 November 2018.

Appeals should state your name, address, telephone number and email address (if you have one) and should reach the Council no later than **5pm on Friday 7 December 2018**.

Richard Briggs  
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Hamilton City Council  
Phone: 07 838 6699  
3 November 2018