

Final Proposal for Representation Arrangements

On 20 October 2021, the Hamilton City Council considered the submissions received on its initial proposal regarding the representation arrangements for the Council to apply for at least the 2022 triennial local authority elections.

The Council received 451 submissions on its proposal, of which 177 (39%) supported the initial proposal in its entirety, and 274 (61%) did not support the initial proposal in its entirety. 12 submitters wished to present their submissions and a Hearing and Engagement Committee meeting was held on 13 October 2021.

Key findings from the submissions were:

- 143 of 296 submissions (48%) that commented on increasing the total number of councillors to 14 were in support of this;
- 105 of 175 submissions (60%) that commented on the East/West general ward arrangements with six councillors in each were in support of this;
- 41 of 52 submissions (79%) that commented on the introduction of a city-wide Maaori ward with two Maaori ward councillors were in support of this;
- 27 of 43 submissions (63%) that commented on the decision not to introduce community boards were against this, and instead sought to have community boards introduced; and
- 99 of 274 submissions (36%) were rejected on the grounds of being out of scope.

Reasons for the rejection of some submissions were:

- being outside of the representation review process;
- non-compliance with legislative requirements.

Final Proposal

Having considered all submissions, the Council resolved on 11 November 2021 to adopt its initial proposal as its final proposal for at least the Council's 2022 triennial elections, i.e. that:

- (i) Hamilton City Council comprises 14 councillors elected under the ward system, plus the mayor elected 'at large';
- (ii) Hamilton City Council is divided into three wards, consisting of the following communities of interest:
 - **East General Ward** (represented by six general ward councillors) being the existing ward comprising the area to the east of the Waikato River delineated on Plan LG-016-2013-W-3 deposited with the Local Government Commission;
 - **West General Ward** (represented by six general ward councillors) being the existing ward comprising the area to the west of the Waikato River delineated on Plan LG-016-2013-W-2 deposited with the Local Government Commission;
 - **Kirikiroa Maaori Ward** (represented by two Maaori ward councillors) comprising the whole Hamilton City Council area;
- (iii) no community boards be established, as:
 - (a) effective representation is unlikely to be enhanced by establishing community boards, having considered the identified communities of interest in terms of distinctiveness, representation, access and effective governance; and
 - (b) ward councillors are expected to provide sufficient representation of communities of interest and therefore ensure adequate representation and access between elected members and the population.

The reason the total number of councillors is proposed to increase to 14 is to provide for an additional two councillors to provide effective representation of the Maaori population of the city.

The two general wards, the number of councillors per ward, the ward populations (estimated as at 30 June 2020) and the population ratio per general councillor are as follows:

General Ward	Population	Councillors	Average	% Variation
East	81,940	6	13,657	+9.38%
West	67,890	6	11,315	-9.38%

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 12,486 plus or minus 10% (11,237 - 13,734).

Appeals

Any person who has made a submission on 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.

Appeals can be provided through the website www.hamilton.govt.nz/representationreview, or in hardcopy to Hamilton City Council, Garden Place or to the city libraries from 17 November 2021.

Appeals must be received by the Council by **5.00pm on Friday 17 December 2021**. For more information, see the consultation pages on our website: www.hamilton.govt.nz/representationreview

