

Proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 local elections

On Wednesday, 25 August 2021 the Hawke's Bay Regional Council reviewed its representation arrangements and resolved to consult on the following representation proposal to apply to the Council for the local elections to be held in October 2022 and 2025.

Council Representation

It is proposed that the Council comprise eleven (11) councillors elected from two (2) Māori constituencies and five (5) General constituencies reflecting the following identified communities of interest.

Māori Constituencies

Māori Constituency 1 (Northern) – name to be determined - the constituency boundary being that area which encompasses the Wairoa District Council and Napier City Council areas, parts of the Hastings District Council area north of the Ngaruroro River, as well as meshblocks within the regional boundary belonging to Taupō District Council.

Māori Constituency 2 (Southern) – name to be determined - the constituency boundary being that area which encompasses the Central Hawke's Bay District Council area, parts of the Hastings District Council area south of the Ngaruroro River, as well as meshblocks within the regional boundary belonging to Rangitikei District Council.

The population that each member will represent is in table 1 below.

In accordance with section 19V(2), Local Electoral Act 2001 the population that each member represents must be within the range of 14,013 +/- 10% (12,612 to 15,414), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise.

The representation of the Māori constituencies falls outside the stipulated range. The Council considers that exemption from meeting the s19V(2) requirement is warranted because:

- The boundary between the two constituencies is formed by Ngaruroro Awa as requested by tangata whenua due to its cultural relevance and being how iwi and hapū traditionally set boundaries
- the +/-10% threshold exceedance is less than 1%.

General Constituencies

Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay; the constituency boundary being the same as that for the Central Hawke's Bay District Council area – this being the existing constituency delineated on LG-06-2013-Con-4.

Heretaunga-Hastings; the constituency boundary being that area which encompasses the wards of Flaxmere, Hastings-Havelock North and most of Heretaunga within the Hastings District Council area – this being the existing constituency delineated on LG-06-2013-Con-4.

Ahuriri-Napier; the constituency boundary being the same as that for the Napier City Council area – this being the existing constituency delineated on SO Plan 9855.

Ngaruroro; the constituency boundary being that area which encompasses the ward of Kahuranaki, and parts of Mohaka and Heretaunga within the Hastings District Council area as well as area units within the Regional boundary belonging to Rangitikei District Council – this being most of the existing constituency with a change to its northern boundary to exclude area units in Esk Valley, Puketitiri and Tutira from the HDC Mohaka Ward.

Mohaka-Wairoa; the constituency boundary being the same as that for the Wairoa District Council area – delineated on SO Plan 9853 – plus the area that encompasses part of the Mohaka Ward (being area units in Esk Valley, Puketitiri and Tutira) within the Hastings District Council area and area units within the regional boundary belonging Taupo District Council. **(See table 2 below).**

In accordance with section 19V(2), Local Electoral Act 2001 the population that each member

represents must be within the range of 15,196 +/- 10% (13,676 to 16,716), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise.

Under this proposal, the +/- 10% rule will not be met in four constituencies. Council proposes to apply to the Local Government Commission for exemptions for those four constituencies based on the following rationale.

Tamatea - Central Hawke's Bay - Community of Interest

The constituency boundary coincides with the CHBDC territorial authority boundary as being representative of an area that electors closely identify with. Moreover, the Council considers that extending the boundary to achieve the population increase needed to comply with s.19V(2) would limit effective representation by requiring the grouping together of communities with few commonalities across an extensive area.

Ahuriri - Napier - Community of Interest

The constituency boundary coincides with the NCC territorial authority boundary as being representative of an area that electors closely identify with, which in turn encourages participation in local government.

Ngaruroro - Community of Interest

The Council considers that changing the boundary to achieve the population decrease needed to comply with s.19V(2) would limit effective representation as it would require further splitting this mostly rural community of interest, which shares the HDC's rural community board area that electors closely identify with.

Mohaka - Wairoa - Community of Interest

The Council considers that further extending the boundary to achieve the population increase needed to comply with s.19V(2) would limit effective representation for several communities of interest isolated from each other across geographically challenging landscapes and require the grouping together of communities with few commonalities across an extensive area.

Table 1: The population that each Māori Constituency member will represent

Constituency	Māori Electoral Population	Rep	Population per rep	Difference from average	% Difference from average
Māori Constituency 1 (Northern)	12,519	1	12,519	-1,494	-10.66%
Māori Constituency 2 (Southern)	15,507	1	15,507	1,494	10.66%
Totals	28,026	2	Av = 14,013		

Table 2: The population that each General Constituency member will represent

Constituency	General Electoral Population	Reps	Population per rep	Difference from average	% Difference from average
Tamatea - Central Hawke's Bay	11,955	1	11,955	-3,241	-21.33%
Ahuriri - Napier	53,940	3	17,980	2,784	18.32%
Mohaka- Wairoa	5,691	1	5,691	-9,505	-62.55%
Heretaunga-Hastings	47,928	3	15,976	780	5.14%
Ngaruroro	17,271	1	17,271	2,075	13.65%
Total	136,761	9	Av: 15,196		

Further Information

For more detail on the changes from the current representation arrangements and copies of the Council's resolution and maps setting out the areas of the proposed constituencies please visit hbrc.govt.nz or email Leeanne@hbrc.govt.nz

Submissions are invited

Persons with an interest in the proposed representation arrangements are invited to make a submission via:

hbrc.govt.nz, search: representation or email haveyoursay@hbrc.govt.nz