

# Representation Review

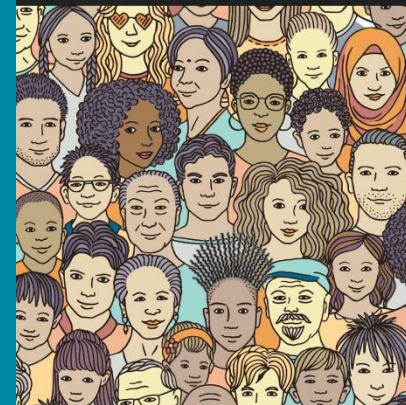
YOUR  
CHOICE

REPRESENTATION  
REVIEW

20  
22



MĀU E  
WHIRIWHIRI



2022  
TE AROTAKE  
WHAKAAHUAHANGA

ROTORUA  
LAKES COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua

2022 REPRESENTATION REVIEW

# AGENDA

- Zoom etiquette
- Representation review requirements
- Draft proposal
- Q&A

# What is a representation review?

“take a fresh look at the structure of its membership and the way they are elected”

Fair and effective representation

# 3 step process

**Electoral system** - First Past the Post (FPP) - 2017 following by-election. Set for 2019 2022 election

**Establish Māori ward - May 2021** – the Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2021 (the Amendment Act) came into effect.

**Representation Review** – May 2021 to April 2022

# Review considerations

- Number of councillors
- Framework - wards, at large or mixed model
- Boundaries of wards (if wards)
- Number of councillors per ward
- Should Community Boards be introduced/retained?

# Number of councillors?

How many councillors are required to lead the Rotorua district and represent the needs of the people of Rotorua?

Total number of councillors could be from:

# 5 to 29

**Excludes mayor – “at large”**

# Number of councillors?

The number of councillors we have should:

- Reflect our district's diversity
- Ensure voters can easily engage with councillors
- Balance the workload of councillors
- Bring a range of skills and knowledge to the table
- And represent communities' needs and interests across the district.



# Framework

## Wards, “at large” or a mixed model arrangement

Wards are created if it provides a **more effective and fairer way** for residents to obtain access to elected members to have their views heard.

Wards could be geographical i.e. suburbs or neighbourhoods, or established to give '**communities of interest**' the ability to be represented around the table.

The question is whether there are **distinct communities of interest** that will lack an opportunity for representation without wards.

# Communities of interest for fair and effective representation

A community of interest is a group of people who have a common geographical, economic, social, historical or other bond – they're where people feel they belong; where they live, work, shop, go to school and play.

Rotorua residents often move between communities while they 'live, work and play'.

# Communities of interest for fair and effective representation

## Fair representation

means if wards are established, each elected ward councillor should represent a similar number of people, within 10 percent.

# Communities of interest for fair and effective representation

## Effective representation

About the accessibility to elected members, and how councillors can get feedback from our communities.

# Community Boards

**Are they (or would be), an appropriate way to provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities in its district.**

Required decisions are:

- whether there is a need for a community board or boards within the district
- if the council decides that one or more community boards should be established (or retained) the council must consider:
- the nature of the community and
- the structure of the community board.

# Proposal

# Draft preferred proposal

## 31 August 2021

- 1 Mayor elected at large
- 1 Māori ward with 2 seats
- 1 General ward with 4 seats
- 4 “At large” seats

Rotorua Lakes Community Board  
Rural Community Board

# Number of Councillors

**Proposal** - 10 councillors in total

This keeps the same number of councillors as what we currently have  
In line with early community feedback  
Has served our community well  
10 Councillors: 2016 & 2019 elections



# Māori wards

Establish a Māori Ward – May 2021.

Not possible to revisit this decision in this part of the representation review

**Structure and form** of Māori representation is part of review

Establishment of Māori Ward by nature creates a wards based model and a disproportion between Māori electoral voters and General electoral voters

A **district wide Māori Ward** is proposed.

Multiple Māori Wards – requires more work - to establish distinct geographical division or communities of interest

Meet the “fairness” rule of each elected ward councillor representing a similar number of people, within 10 percent

# Framework – Wards, “at large” or a mixed model arrangement

**Proposal** - mixed model.

Establish one Māori Ward, one general ward and an **“at large”** component (candidates voted on from everyone across the district).

At large works to address (to some degree the disproportion between Māori electoral voters and general electoral ward voters a Māori Ward creates

**“At large”** - Everyone regardless of what electoral roll you are on will have the opportunity to vote for candidates

Early engagement – people want the opportunity to vote for the maximum number they possibly can to be seen to be “fair” and **represent needs and interests**

# Māori seats

**Proposal** - establish two Māori Ward councillors

Te Tatau's consultation undertaken when recommending the establishment of Māori Ward/s did not comment on **how many** elected members should come from the Maori ward, and did not make comment on how the rest of Council would be constituted

Representation review process looks at the structure and form of Māori representation

Proposal for 2 two Māori Ward councillors - directly related to the framework proposed as a mixed model and the ability for everyone to have as near an equal opportunity to vote for the same number of councillors

# Calculating the Māori seats

1. Establish the total number of councillors? – **10**
2. Select the “framework” – wards, “at-large”, mixed? – **mixed**
3. Remove “at large” councillors from the equation? –  **$10 - 4 = 6$**
4. Multiply the number of councillors (less ‘at large’) by the ratio of Māori electoral population to the total (Māori and general) electoral population?

$$0.28 \times 6 = 1.68 \text{ (rounded)} = 2 \text{ seats}$$

Māori electoral population, and general electoral population are calculated by Statistics New Zealand and are provided to each local authority – based on 2018 Census

Voting would therefore look like this out of a possible total of 10 votes:

Voter electoral roll	Māori ward	General ward	At large	Total votes
Māori electoral roll	2		4	6
General electoral roll		4	4	8
2019 elections			10	10

# Community Boards

**Proposal** – Retain both the Lakes Community Board and Rural Community Board

Provides representation not otherwise able to be represented by way of a ward.  
Due to small population sizes compared to the population of the urban area.  
Ensure the distinct interests and needs of these areas are voiced within council

Have proven very successful for Rotorua.

Community Boards have membership at both SPF and O&M

Community Boards are also actively involved alongside Te Tatau o te Arawa and Council in the development of all strategic direction setting for the district.

The Community Boards have a dedicated budget in Long-term Plan.

Administer this on behalf of the community to enhance capital projects within their areas that assist in the overall community wellbeing of the lakes and rural areas.

Community Boards will consist of a chair, three elected members and 1 nominated councillor.

# Timetable

Phase one	Awareness, engagement and development of initial proposal
May 2021 to Aug 2021	Develop a draft initial proposal that will be presented to council to consider releasing for consultation. The initial draft proposal will be developed from the input received from the elected members and the community.
31 August 2021	Council adopts the draft proposal for public consultation
Phase two	Consultation – have your say on the proposal
8 October 2021	<b>Feedback closes</b>
19 Oct 2021	You can attend a hearing if you want to tell the council in person what you think.
16 Nov 2021	After considering what people said in their submissions, the council will make a final decision on its representation arrangements for the 2022 elections and adopt a final proposal.
Phase three	Objection/appeals/final decision
19 Nov to 20 Dec 2021	The public has the right to make an objection or appeal during this period before the proposal is sent to the Local Government Commission (LGC)
By 10 Apr 2022	If objections or appeals are made, the LGC must make a final determination on the representation arrangements

# Questions