



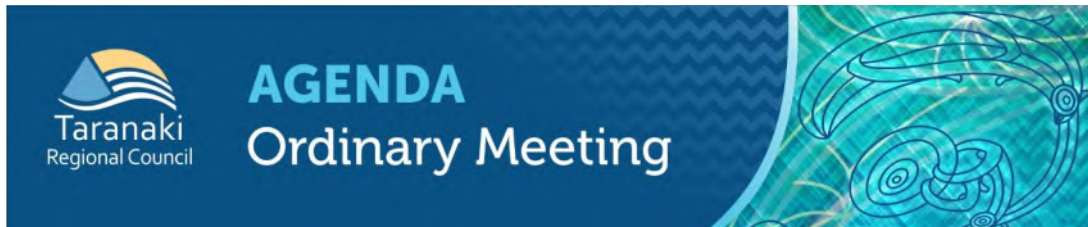
AGENDA Ordinary Meeting

Hearing on Representation Arrangements
for the 2022 Local Government Elections
Tuesday 24 August 2021, 9.30am

Hearing on Representation Arrangements for the 2022 Local Government Elections

24 August 2021 09:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Agenda Topic	Page
Purpose of Meeting, Membership and Health and Safety	3
Apologies An apology was received from Councillor D L Lean.	
Notification of Late Items	
1. Hearing of Submissions on Representation Arrangements for the 2022 Local Council Elections	4
2. Officers Report on Submissions on Representation Arrangements	8
3. Representation Arrangements Submissions	36
3.1 Submission #1 - Colin Bell	36
3.2 Submission #2 - Paul Mundt	38
3.3 Submission #3 - Paul Lamb	39
3.4 Submission #4 - Michael Prestidge	40
3.5 Submission #5 - Ken Davies	41
3.6 Submission #6 - Robert Waugh	42
3.7 Submission #7 - Grant Knuckey	43
3.8 Submission #8 - Emily Bailey	44
3.9 Submission #9 - Paora Laurence	47
3.10 Submission #10 - Emma Hislop	48
3.11 Submission #11 - Maria Hokopaura	49
3.12 Submission #12 - Catherine Cheung	51
3.13 Submission #13 - Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui Trust	52
3.14 Submission #14 - Federated Farmers	53



Purpose of Local Government

The reports contained in this agenda address the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to decision making. Unless otherwise stated, the recommended option outlined in each report meets the purpose of local government and:

- Promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.
- Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Membership of the Ordinary Committee

Councillor D N MacLeod (<i>Chairperson</i>)	Councillor M P Joyce (<i>Deputy Chairperson</i>)
Councillor M J Cloke	Councillor M G Davey
Councillor D L Lean	Councillor C L Littlewood
Councillor M J McDonald	Councillor D H McIntyre
Councillor E D Van Der Leden	Councillor N W Walker
Councillor C S Williamson	

Health and Safety

Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, please exit through the emergency door in the committee room by the kitchen.

If you require assistance to exit please see a staff member.

Once you reach the bottom of the stairs make your way to the assembly point at the birdcage.

Staff will guide you to an alternative route if necessary.

Earthquake

If there is an earthquake - drop, cover and hold where possible.

Please remain where you are until further instruction is given.



Date: 24 August 2021

Subject: **Representation Arrangements for the 2022 Local Government Elections**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director - Corporate Services
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2847425

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to receive and consider submissions on the proposal for Representation Arrangements for the 2022 Local Government Elections, to hear those submitters who wish to speak to their submission and then to consider changes to the Representation Arrangements.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum Representation Arrangements for the 2022 Local Government Elections
- b) receives and acknowledges with thanks the submissions received in response to the Representation Arrangements for the 2022 Local Government Elections and notes the views expressed therein
- c) hears and acknowledges with thanks the verbal submissions presented in response to the Representation Arrangements for the 2022 Local Government Elections
- d) advises the Chief Executive of any changes to be made to the Representation Arrangements for the 2022 Local Government Elections
- e) notes that the final proposal will be considered at the 21 September 2021 Ordinary Meeting.

Background

2. On 29 June 2021, the Council resolved the following:

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives this memorandum on the representation review for the 2022 local authority elections
- b) agrees to establish one Māori constituency, being the Taranaki Māori constituency

- c) *agrees to establish four general constituencies, being the New Plymouth, North Taranaki, Stratford and South Taranaki general constituencies*
 - d) *agrees to retain the number of elected members at eleven (11), being:*
 - *five (5) elected general members for the New Plymouth general constituency*
 - *two (2) elected general members for the North Taranaki general constituency*
 - *one (1) elected general member for the Stratford general constituency*
 - *two (2) elected general members for the South Taranaki general constituency*
 - *one (1) elected Māori member for the Taranaki Māori constituency*
 - e) *notes the procedural steps and timeline for the representation review process*
 - f) *agrees to publicly notify the representation review proposal within fourteen (14) days to comply with the Local Electoral Act 2001, being no later than 13 July 2021*
 - g) *notes that this proposal does not fully comply with the Local Electoral Act 2001 but that the proposal is considered the most appropriate solution for Taranaki*
 - h) *advises the Local Government Commission of the Stratford general constituency non-compliance with the ±10% rule.*
 - i) *determines that this decision be recognised as significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002*
 - j) *determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.*
3. Public notice of the proposal was made on 9 July 2021 and public submissions were then open until 13 August 2021.
 4. A total of 14 submissions were received. Of those, 5 of those submitters wish to present their submissions.

Discussion

5. Attached to this report are all the submissions received and an Officer's Report, which responds to the issues raised within those submissions.
6. The purpose of this hearing is to receive all the submissions, to hear those submitters that wish to present their submissions and to consider any changes to the proposal ahead of the Council considering a final proposal at its 21 September 2021 Ordinary Meeting.
7. A number of the submissions are addressing matters of policy or principle that are beyond the bounds of the current *Local Electoral Act 2001* to address. In particular, the formula for establishing how Māori constituencies are created and how many there should be are prescribed in the Act and the Council has no ability to deviate from these obligations. Rather, these matters need to be canvassed by review of local government and local government electoral legislation.
8. The focus of a representation review, and the decisions the Council ultimately needs to make, relate to the number of councillors and the number, name and boundaries of constituencies. In considering, Māori constituencies, the Council can only apply the

current law, which states that regional councils can only have between 6 and 14 councillors and, within this restriction, can only have 1 Māori constituency for between 6 and 12 members and 2 Māori constituencies for 13 or 14 councillors.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

9. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

10. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

11. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Iwi representatives on the Council's Policy and Planning and Consents and Regulatory committees were invited to and participated in the workshops that resulted in the Council adopting its Representation Review proposal.

Community considerations

12. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

13. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Speaking to submissions

Submission Number	Organisation/Individual
7	Grant Knuckey
8	Emily Bailey
9	Paora Laurence
13	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust
14	Federated Farmers (Mark Hooper)

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2846892: Officers Report

Individual submissions attached.

Officer's Report

Representation Review

Publication date: August 2021

Document: #2846892



Contents

Officer's summary	2
Submission 1: Colin Bell	4
Submission 2: Paul Mundt	6
Submission 3: Paul Lamb	7
Submission 4: Michael Prestidge	8
Submission 5: Ken Davies	9
Submission 6: Robert Waugh	10
Submission 7: Grant Knuckey (to be heard)	11
Submission 8: Emily Bailey (to be heard)	13
Submission 9: Paora Laurence (to be heard)	17
Submission 10: Emma Hislop	18
Submission 11: Maria Hokopaura	19
Submission 12: Catherine Cheung	21
Submission 13: Te Runanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust (to be heard)	22
Submission 14: Federated Farmers (to be heard)	24

Officer's summary

This report summarises points made in submissions on the Representation Review, including recommendations and responses to the points made and an explanation on the reasons for the response.

On 6 April 2021, the Council decided to establish a Māori Constituency for the 2022 local authority elections. This triggered the requirement to undertake a Representation Review. The Review commenced on 29 June 2021 with the following decisions by the Council. That the Council:

- agrees to establish one Māori constituency, being the Taranaki Māori constituency
- agrees to establish four general constituencies, being the New Plymouth, North Taranaki, Stratford and South Taranaki general constituencies
- agrees to retain the number of elected members at eleven (11), being:
 - five (5) elected general members for the New Plymouth general constituency
 - two (2) elected general members for the North Taranaki general constituency
 - one (1) elected general member for the Stratford general constituency
 - two (2) elected general members for the South Taranaki general constituency
 - one (1) elected Māori member for the Taranaki Māori constituency
- agrees to publicly notify the representation review proposal within fourteen (14) days to comply with the *Local Electoral Act 2001*, being no later than 13 July 2021
- notes that this proposal does not fully comply with the *Local Electoral Act 2001* but that the proposal is considered the most appropriate solution for Taranaki
- advises the Local Government Commission of the Stratford general constituency non-compliance with the $\pm 10\%$ rule.

Public notice was given on 9 July 2021 and submissions closed on 13 August 2021. A total of 14 submissions were received, with five of those submitters wishing to be heard. The purpose of this hearing is to hear those wishing to present their submissions and then to consider changes, if any, to the proposed representation arrangements.

A number of the submissions are addressing matters of policy or principle that are beyond the bounds of the current Local Electoral Act 2001 to address. In particular, the formula for establishing how Māori constituencies are created and how many there should be are prescribed in the Act and the Council has

no ability to deviate from these obligations. Rather, these are matters that need to be canvassed by review of local government and local government electoral legislation.

The focus of a representation review, and the decisions the Council ultimately needs to make, relate to the number of Councillors and the number, name and boundaries of constituencies. In considering, Māori constituencies, the Council can only apply the current law, which states that regional councils can only have between 6 and 14 councillors and, within this restriction, can only have 1 Māori constituency for between 6 and 12 members and 2 Māori constituencies for 13 or 14 councillors.

The Future for Local Government review panel terms of reference includes a requirement for them to consider issues relating to the role of Māori within local government. In this regard, the terms of reference explicitly note that the Minister is seeking recommendations from the panel on how to achieve:

- effective partnerships between mana whenua, and central and local government in order to better provide for the social, environmental, cultural, and economic wellbeing of communities
- a local government system that actively embodies the Treaty partnership, through the role and representation of iwi/Māori in local government, and seeks to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) and its principles through its functions and processes.

Given the above, there is effectively a process already underway to look at the issues being raised by the submitters. The Council could consider lodging a submission to the panel expressing any views that it may have on this topic.

In considering the submissions received, Councillors are reminded of the matters that need to be considered in the Representation Review. The Council needs to identify and consider communities of interest. This involves considering:

- area where one feels sense of community and belonging
- access to daily goods and services
- physical, geographical and topographical features
- similarities in economic or social activities
- attitude of attachment and/or identity
- similar communities can be grouped together
- can change over time.

NB: Regional councils have constituencies whereas district, city and unitary council have wards.

Submission 1: Colin Bell

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response																																					
General comments																																							
<p>1. Submission - Oppose</p> <p>This submission is in response to the proposed representation arrangements for 2022 as advertised in the Taranaki Daily News on Friday July 9. The proposed arrangement is for an 11 member Council with constituencies varying from 8980 voters per member to 14,600 voters per member.</p> <p>In my submission I propose a 10 member Council which will achieve a reduced disadvantage for electors in the Māori constituency. My proposal for a 10 member Council has the New Plymouth General constituency reduced from 5 members to 4. All other constituencies remain as proposed by the TRC.</p> <p>Given that the number of electors per elected member varies from 8980 to 14,600, there is no absolutely even handed way to arrange the election. Electors in some constituencies will inevitably have votes of a reduced value while others will have votes of increased value. However, the TRC proposal results in a relatively extreme reduction in the value of the 14,600 votes in the Māori constituency, a reduction of 22% compared with the average vote value. By comparison my proposal results in the Māori Constituency votes being valued only 15% below the average. The attached spreadsheet shows the results of my calculations.</p> <p>In the case of Stratford voters they will have an advantage of 26% as proposed by the TRC (11 councillors) and an advantage of 39% in my proposal. If it were possible to transfer 1900 to 2000 votes from the South Taranaki constituency to the Stratford constituency (Eltham township?) then the advantages for South Taranaki and Stratford would be approximately 15% in both cases.</p>	<p>Comments and Recommendations</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Reducing the number of members from 11 to 10 does achieve the submitter's objective of proportionally increasing the impact of the one Māori constituency.</p> <p>The Council considered the options of reducing the membership to 10 by reducing the New Plymouth Constituency from 5 to 4 members. This produces the following result:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>General constituency</th> <th>General population</th> <th>Councillors</th> <th>Average</th> <th>Fits Rule</th> <th>% Variation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New Plymouth</td> <td>55,900</td> <td>4</td> <td>13,975</td> <td>No</td> <td>14.36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Taranaki</td> <td>21,500</td> <td>2</td> <td>10,750</td> <td>No</td> <td>-12.03%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Taranaki</td> <td>23,600</td> <td>2</td> <td>11,800</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>-3.44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stratford</td> <td>8,980</td> <td>1</td> <td>8,980</td> <td>No</td> <td>-26.51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>109,980</td> <td>9</td> <td>12,220</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Three out of the four constituencies would be non-compliant. This is possible but would require Local Government Commission approval.</p>			General constituency	General population	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	% Variation	New Plymouth	55,900	4	13,975	No	14.36%	North Taranaki	21,500	2	10,750	No	-12.03%	South Taranaki	23,600	2	11,800	Yes	-3.44%	Stratford	8,980	1	8,980	No	-26.51%	TOTAL	109,980	9	12,220		
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Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
General comments	
<p>The problem of fair representation for voters in Māori constituencies is to be expected when there is only one Māori constituency in a Council of 10 or more members. Nevertheless, a 22% deficit in vote value in the TRC Māori constituency seems too extreme and I urge that the TRC reconsider the arrangements for the 2022 election.</p>	

Submission 2: Paul Mundt

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
2.	Submission - Oppose	Comments and Recommendations
	Because	Comments The submitter is opposed to the proposal but has not provided any rationale for the opposition.

Submission 3: Paul Lamb

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
3.	Submission - Support	Comments and Recommendations
	Stratford's electorate is clearly too small, but it's rural so that's okay with me.	Comments Support for the Stratford constituency is noted.

Submission 4: Michael Prestidge

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response																																			
General comments																																					
<p>4. Submission - Oppose</p> <p>I disagree with your proposal. TRC is not merely working for the general public of Taranaki. It is working for land owners. While the population in NP is higher than the provinces I see no need for there to be any more members on council. When issues are debated that impact the city and the provinces differently we have a problem. With your proposal NP councillors will vote one way, the rural councillors vote the other, and the Māori representative becomes the decisionmaker.</p> <p>Leave South Taranaki as 3, NP as 4. The provinces are broad-minded enough to consider for the city, unfortunately I can't say the same for city people. This is a broad generalisation with no reflection on the present members. Of course the government want the administration shifted to the cities! Please think for the whole province, and in particular for the people who put the money into it..... the Dairy farmers.</p>	<p>Comments and Recommendations</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The submitter is looking for increased rural representation.</p> <p>The proposal to have 3 members from the South Taranaki constituency and reduce the New Plymouth constituency to 4 members produces the following results:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>General constituency</th> <th>General population</th> <th>Councillors</th> <th>Average</th> <th>Fits Rule</th> <th>% Variation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New Plymouth</td> <td>55,900</td> <td>4</td> <td>13,975</td> <td>No</td> <td>27.06%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Taranaki</td> <td>21,500</td> <td>2</td> <td>10,750</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>-2.25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Taranaki</td> <td>23,600</td> <td>3</td> <td>7,866</td> <td>No</td> <td>-28.47%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stratford</td> <td>8,980</td> <td>1</td> <td>8,980</td> <td>No</td> <td>-18.35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>109,980</td> <td>10</td> <td>10,998</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Three of the four constituencies would not comply with the ±10% rule. New Plymouth would be significantly under-represented whilst South Taranaki would be significantly over-represented.</p> <p>The other method to increase rural representation is to reduce the urban boundary around the New Plymouth constituency. This would not necessarily produce the outcome the submitter is looking for.</p>	General constituency	General population	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	% Variation	New Plymouth	55,900	4	13,975	No	27.06%	North Taranaki	21,500	2	10,750	Yes	-2.25%	South Taranaki	23,600	3	7,866	No	-28.47%	Stratford	8,980	1	8,980	No	-18.35%	TOTAL	109,980	10	10,998		
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Submission 5: Ken Davies

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
5.	Submission - Support	Comments and Recommendations
	Proposal supported as is.	Comments Support for the proposal is noted.

Submission 6: Robert Waugh

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
6.	Submission - Oppose	Comments and Recommendations
	There is no need for a separately elected Māori. The Treaty of Waitangi states we are one people	Comments This submission is outside of the scope of the Representation Review. The Council has already consulted with the regional community and made a decision on a Māori constituency. This decision is not being revisited as part of this Representation Review.

Submission 7: Grant Knuckey (to be heard)

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
7.	<p>Submission - Oppose</p> <p>The proposal that is suggested by the TRC does not recognise the democratic rights of the local tangata whenua and the constituents on the Maori electoral roll as representatives of the Treaty of Waitangi giving local Maori rights over its people and land .</p> <p>The TRC proposal doesn't meet the minimum threshold of democracy of Maori but put Maori a limited position of marginalised politically this not the democratic rights that is a award to each NZ citizens in a general election . TRC proposal is clearly white nepotism and racist targeted again those Maori on the Maori electoral roll .</p> <p>The ward system maybe within in the statute of NZ Law but the distribution and calculations of the those citizens register on the Taranaki electoral roll are faulty and say very much racist in it process calculation.</p> <p>The Wards system as suggested by TRC is based on residential address and allows theses NZ citizens living some Wards to have more than 1 vote this is clearly set out in the TRC proposal if this pakeha democracy why is this not award the same respect to Maori constituents. I WONDER WHY ,Thoughtlessness, bigotry Racism, cultural arrogance or in deference.</p> <p>The Maori Ward is a given . I would insist that those Maori registered on the Taranaki Maori electoral roll are integrated in the Ward system the same as the rest of those on the Taranaki electors this based on residential address awarding the same number of votes as their nearest neighbours , much the same as the NPDC a separate box provision as we do for the Mayor this would for a Maori Ward vote for those on the Maori electoral roll only this provision would simply calculate into the overall Ward system.</p> <p>In my this would remove the cultural in difference or biases that as a country suffer from if Democracy is the corner stone of our justices system of fairness and kindness .</p>	<p>Comments and Recommendations</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>As noted in the Officer's Summary section of this report, there are a number of matters that are outside of the ability of the Council to make decisions on as they are prescribed in the Local Electoral Act 2001. This submitter's concerns would require a change in legislation to address. The determination of how Māori constituencies are created, the use of the Māori electoral roll and the use of constituencies and at large voting for regional councils are all matters covered by existing law and beyond the Council's ability to change at this juncture. The submitter's proposal cannot be legally delivered.</p>

Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
General comments	
The TRC should be seen to lead the way to strengthen hearten our path forward despite our current inferences and make this simple adjustment .Grant Knuckey	

Submission 8: Emily Bailey (to be heard)

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
8.	<p>Submission - Oppose</p> <p>It is unfair and ineffective for Māori.</p> <p>I object to the council's initial representation proposal as I do not believe having one Maori ward on the regional council is 'fair and effective representation for individuals and communities', nor does it uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.</p> <p>All reasonably informed Maori know this but we are forced to argue it out against current legislation that we had little to no input on. I am no lawyer but I will do my best.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Article two in Te Tiriti o Waitangi states clearly "<i>Ko te Kuini o Ingarani ka wakarite kawakaae ki nga Rangatira ki nga hapu – ki nga tangata katoa o Nu Tirani te tino rangatiratanga o ratou wenua o ratou kainga me o ratou taonga katoa.</i>" The Queen of England agreed to the sovereignty, tino rangatiratanga, of Hapu over their lands, villages and precious resources. The Queen was given the right to set up a government but sovereignty remained for Maori. This agreement was broken by the Crown as we all know and most of the land and resources in Taranaki were taken from Maori and we are still trying to rectify this 181 years later. The least we ask for at the moment is to be partners in governance and one seat at the table is insulting and continues the patronising, white supremacist attitude of the Crown and its allies towards Maori. In summary the principles in subsection (1) of the Local Government Act 2002 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>fair and effective representation for individuals and communities</i> • <i>reasonable and equal opportunities to:</i> 	<p>Comments and Recommendations</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The submitter's comments are noted. As noted in the Officer's Summary section of this report, there are a number of matters that are outside of the ability of the Council to make decisions on as they are prescribed in the Local Electoral Act 2001. The majority of the submitter's concerns would require a change in legislation to address.</p> <p>The one issue that could be addressed is to increase the number of Māori constituencies from one to two by raising the number of members to 13 or 14. This was considered as an option in the development of the preferred option.</p>

Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
<p>General comments</p>	
<p>o <i>vote</i> o <i>nominate, or be nominated as, candidates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>public confidence in, and public understanding of local electoral processes.</i> <p>Just touching on the second point here, around ability to vote and be nominated, it would be hard to argue that Maori have equal opportunity to non-Maori. Maori are sadly overrepresented in poor health statistics, imprisonment numbers, lower education and poverty. It is well proven that these are directly related to structural racism, theft of resource and oppression of Maori culture, language and family connections by the Crown, its agents and its communities of benefitting supporters.</p> <p>On the third point, it is well known in Maori communities that we have very low confidence in electoral processes and governance in general. Why would we have confidence, when we have been denied Maori representation and the councils have in the most part just continued to take from us? Without confidence and representation why would we spend much time trying to understand it.</p> <p>3. I want to focus now on the first point above around “fair and effective representation” and two more parts of the legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 10(1)(b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public service, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses; and • Section 14(1)(c) when making a decision, a local authority should take account of – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the diversity of the community, and the community’s interests, within its district or region; and (ii) the interests of future as well as current communities; and (iii) the likely impact of any decision on the interests referred to in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) 	

Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
General comments	
<p>Using the number of Maori on the Maori electoral roll to determine how many Maori wards we get is unfair since until now we have been denied by Non-Maori the opportunity to even elect Maori representatives on our councils. Hence, why would many Maori enrol in the Maori electorate when you only get to vote on Maori representatives for ridiculously large electorates that only get a small number of seats in central government anyway?</p> <p>And if we want to talk effectiveness and efficiency, then you should really look at how inefficient it is for Maori candidates to try and even reach their huge wards and electorates, often on their own. Maori candidates have to spend far more money than non-Maori to reach a wider region and generally have far less money to work with. Structural racism has also encouraged our own people to look down on ourselves and turn away from Te Ao Maori so we face barrier after barrier.</p> <p>It is more fair to base Maori wards on Maori population and give special consideration to Maori wards as was done for the Stratford constituency. This would allow for more Maori to switch over to the Maori electoral roll in the next electoral terms and to align better with future Maori populations that we are seeing grow, compared to other ethnicities. According to the Taranaki District Health Board's projections for 2020-21, the Maori population will be 20.2%. [https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/my-dhb/taranaki-dhb/population-taranaki-dhb]</p> <p>So, if we had population based representatives Maori would get 1/5 or at least two seats at the table rather than one. That would support more equal opportunity and effectiveness for those running Maori candidates if they only have to lobby say half the region rather than all the way from Mokau to Waitotora. It would encourage more Maori to feel slightly more confident in the governmental system if we can be more of a part of it. After an eternity of being locked out of local government, an extra seat with special consideration is the least Maori could be given.</p>	

Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
General comments	
<p>4. As to how another seat is created for Maori, I would suggest removing a seat from the New Plymouth district as they are already well represented if we look at things from a territory perspective which is what Maori do. The south have lost one seat to make way for one Maori ward so why not balance it out better by taking a seat from the north to make way for a second Maori ward. For decades rural communities have been forced into cities like New Plymouth as the government and businesses' economic system demands less workers on more land and therefore less services are provided for those communities to continue. We would have no housing shortage, better mental health and less of a political urban-rural divide if services, infrastructure and decision-making were spread more fairly across the country. Increasing decision-making power to New Plymouth residents only increases the problem.</p>	

Submission 9: Paora Laurence (to be heard)

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
9.	Submission - Oppose	Comments and Recommendations
	<p>I believe there a stronger need for more Maaori input, due to the racism, the lack of respect, systemic poor efforts around the consents, the process and enforcement. The role of the TRC is to protect air, land and water, you HAVE FAILED!</p> <p>Your lack of integrity is abysmal especially around the Treaty Of Waitangi and tangata whenua hopes and beliefs around kaitiakitanga of the taiao.</p> <p>The conflicts of interest within your body are controversial at the least and you are enablers of the systematic distruction of our environments. Enough is enough!</p>	<p>Comments</p> <p>The submitter's comments are noted. As noted in the Officer's Summary section of this report, there are a number of matters that are outside of the ability of the Council to make decisions on as they are prescribed in the Local Electoral Act 2001.</p> <p>To increase Māori representation would require the number of Māori constituencies to increase from one to two by raising the number of members to 13 or 14. This was considered as an option in the development of the preferred option.</p>

Submission 10: Emma Hislop

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
10.	Submission - Oppose	Comments and Recommendations
	It is not fair representation nor does it uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Do better.	<p>Comments</p> <p>The submitter's comments are noted. As noted in the Officer's Summary section of this report, there are a number of matters that are outside of the ability of the Council to make decisions on as they are prescribed in the Local Electoral Act 2001.</p> <p>To increase Māori representation would require the number of Māori constituencies to increase from one to two by raising the number of members to 13 or 14. This was considered as an option in the development of the preferred option.</p>

Submission 11: Maria Hokopaura

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
11.	<p>Submission - Oppose</p> <p>The proposed representation arrangements continue to perpetuate the systemic racism inherent in local government. Having one representative to represent the Māori constituents within the area means that, once again, Māori votes are 'worth less' than other constituents. Typically, there is low confidence and trust in electoral processes and governance from Māori resulting from the long list of past experiences. The current proposal from TRC only reaffirms that Māori cannot have confidence or trust in these systems.</p> <p>While I accept that representation is based on the electoral rolls, there are a number of on-going issues with the electoral roll system (as discussed in this news article here: https://www.nzherald.co.nz/whanganui-chronicle/news/maori-electoral-option-information-campaign-needed-ahead-of-2022-elections-councillor-says/4QGBCXG6SAU2CVEEPJFX3ZFBPU/). The Māori electoral numbers are misleading in that it does not reflect the number of Māori within Taranaki - Māori representation at TRC should reflect Taranaki Māori as a whole. Due to the barriers that Māori face in regards to local government representation (i.e. lack of opportunity to change rolls, mistrust in governments, lack of clear, accessible information about electoral processes, deliberate misinformation and racism), TRC should exercise its ability to apply discretion and create two members for the Māori constituency as there are considerations for Māori (as a particular community of interest) which justify this.</p> <p>This would be a gesture of good faith, would be evidence of how TRC honours their Treaty obligations and would show that Māori votes are important and valued. In addition, I believe it would have the effect of encouraging Māori to join the Māori roll as their interests are actually being provided for and their views presented.</p>	<p>Comments and Recommendations</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The submitter's comments are noted. As noted in the Officer's Summary section of this report, there are a number of matters that are outside of the ability of the Council to make decisions on as they are prescribed in the Local Electoral Act 2001. The majority of the submitter's concerns would require a change in legislation to address.</p> <p>The one issue that could be addressed is to increase the number of Māori constituencies from one to two by raising the number of members to 13 or 14. This was considered as an option in the development of the preferred option.</p>

Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
General comments	
While I would like to be heard in support of my submission, unfortunately I am unable to attend on 24 August.	

Submission 12: Catherine Cheung

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
12.	Submission - Oppose	Comments and Recommendations
	<p>My submission is that we should have two Māori seats for the region, such that the constituencies would be as follows:</p> <p>Māori - New Plymouth: 1 Māori - the rest of Taranaki: 1</p> <p>General constituencies:</p> <p>New Plymouth: 4 North Taranaki: 2 Stratford: 1 South Taranaki: 2</p> <p>This would reduce some of the unreasonable demand and resource strain on a single Māori representative for the entire region, and thus contribute to fairer and more effective and efficient representation of Māori.</p> <p>Having two seats (1 for New Plymouth, 1 for the rest of Taranaki) would give more equitable opportunities for rural Māori to be represented at the council table, thus reducing inequality and allowing the diverse interests of the communities to be considered for decision making. It would also help to encourage greater enrolment of the Māori electorate.</p>	<p>Comments</p> <p>The submitter's comments are noted. The only way that Māori constituencies can be increased from one to two is by increasing the number of members to 13 or 14. This was considered as an option in the development of the preferred option. The proposal of the submitter cannot be considered as it does not comply with the Local Electoral Act 2001.</p>

Submission 13: Te Runanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust (to be heard)

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
13.	Submission - Oppose	Comments and Recommendations
	<p>Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui Trust (Ngati Ruanui) welcome the opportunity to make a submission on the Representation Arrangements for the Taranaki Regional Council. The proposal that the Taranaki Regional Council has announced for consultation is a Taranaki Maori ward which will encompass the entire region. Ngati Ruanui disagree with this proposal and strongly encourage the Taranaki Regional Council to reconsider and implement two distinct Maori wards.</p> <p>The Regional Council encompasses a very large area. We believe that the proposal is not a fair division of land to logistically enable true and genuine representation for the Maori community. Ngati Ruanui highlights the need for two wards to ensure that areas of community interest can be maintained while still achieving adequate district wide coverage.</p> <p>Ngati Ruanui recognises that the current proposal does not ensure representation from South Taranaki for Maori. Ngati Ruanui encourages more genuine engagement for Maori across the whole region.</p> <p>Ngati Ruanui acknowledges the significant change that will occur in the 2022 elections with the establishment of Māori wards and wish to ensure that the establishment is beneficial to the core values of representation. The establishment of 2 Maori Wards guarantees that our Maori voice will be far reaching throughout Taranaki; as noted above community of interest is critical.</p> <p>Ngati Ruanui would also like to highlight that the review for the Option and frequency of the Maori general election roll is currently being reviewed. The outcome of that review could have large implications for the Taranaki Regional Council Maori electoral population for Taranaki. It is highly likely that the</p>	<p>Comments</p> <p>The submitter's comments are noted. The only way that Māori constituencies can increase from one to two is by increasing the number of members from 13 to 14. This was considered as an option in the development of the preferred option.</p>

Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
General comments	
<p>Maori general election roll and thus the Maori Electoral Population for the Regional Council and other Local Body Communities will increase. Ngati Ruanui strongly encourage that the Taranaki Regional Council establish two Maori Wards. Ngati Ruanui would also like to indicate their intention to speak to the Taranaki Regional Council in person on the 24th August 2021.</p>	

Submission 14: Federated Farmers (to be heard)

Submitter's requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
<p>14. Submission – Oppose</p> <p>1. OUR SUBMISSION</p> <p>1.1. Federated Farmers thanks Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) for the opportunity to submit on the proposed representation review.</p> <p>1.2. Federated Farmers is aware that there is significant ‘consultation fatigue’ out in the community following the Long-Term Plan and other important consultation processes throughout 2021. At this time of the year, farmers are also worrying about feed supply and are busy lambing and calving. This may affect the number of individual submissions towards the Representation Review from rural Taranaki.</p> <p>1.3. Our members do not want their busy silence to be misconstrued by Council as disinterest in rural representation or silent acceptance. Federated Farmers submission represents the views of hundreds of rural landowners in the district. We gently remind the Council of this so that their representation views, expressed here, are weighed appropriately.</p> <p>1.4. Federated Farmers respects that Council’s decision to establish Māori wards has triggered the need for a representation review in 2021.</p> <p>1.5. Federated Farmers wishes to address the importance of the Rural wards and the voice of the rural community. Rural Taranaki contributes heavily to the region’s economy and employment. Dairy farming alone contributes to over 10% of employment in the region and over \$1 billion in production generated within Taranaki.</p> <p>1.6. Federated Farmers acknowledges that representation legislation is not ideal for rural representation as low populations are scattered over such large areas compared to that of regional centres such as New Plymouth.</p> <p>Councillors</p> <p>1.7. Council has proposed to have 11 members, 10 from the general and one region wide Māori constituency.</p>	<p>Comments</p> <p>The submitter’s comments are noted. The submitter wishes to increase rural representation by increasing the number of members from 11 to 12. the South Taranaki constituency would increase from 2 to 3.</p> <p>The submitter also requests that the New Plymouth and North Taranaki constituency be split into smaller constituencies to prevent the domination of the Council by urban New Plymouth members. If this suggestion is supported, additional work will be required to determine what the new constituencies might look like and how they might comply with the Local Electoral Act 2001.</p> <p>Rural representation and particular representation from Federated Farmers, is already enhanced with the Policy and Planning Committee having a Federated Farmers member.</p>	

Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
General comments	
<p>1.8. Federated Farmers submits that council should look at adopting 12 councillors to consider the additional Māori ward member. Federated Farmers does not have a concern regarding the intention to include the Māori constituency however, we submit that it shouldn't be at the expense of rural representation. We understand that one rural seat will be lost under the current proposal, and this is not supported.</p> <p>1.9. It is understood that council must attempt to adhere to the 10% ruling set out in the Local Electoral Act however, Federated Farmers feels that this formula doesn't work well for Taranaki within the context of sparsely populated rural communities that contribute significantly to the region. The South Taranaki District is over 1,000km² larger than that of the New Plymouth District which will hold an extra three councillors under the proposal. Losing one councillor from South Taranaki will, in our view, provide insufficient representation within South Taranaki. Federated Farmers asks that council consider the risk of insufficient representation for the range of distinct communities in the South Taranaki district.</p> <p>Wards</p> <p>1.10. We need rural councillors to provide a rural voice for policy setting, regulatory decisions, and fiscal matters affecting rural catchments. To make fair and representative decisions a councillor needs to know the catchment they represent. New Plymouth likewise, to be represented fairly the option to split the catchment into two or three catchments must be considered. Five at large from New Plymouth will mean that one catchment within Taranaki will almost have a majority vote.</p> <p>1.11. Federated Farmers are neutral on the decision to have the Māori ward councillor taken from the whole district.</p> <p>1.12. It is understood that council should aim to meet the +/- 10% standard set out by the Local Electoral Act however, there is full discretion to deviate</p>	

Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
General comments	
<p>if a community of interest is not fairly represented. This will be an increasingly controversial issue moving forward with the trend for urbanisation into larger cities such as New Plymouth. Federated Farmers asks that Council consider the size and significance of the area represented as well as the population to ensure fair representation.</p> <p>Summary</p> <p>1.13. Federated Farmers wants the adoption of a 12th councillor to include the Māori Ward constituency.</p> <p>1.14. To ensure that all communities are fairly represented Federated Farmers recommends considering falling outside of the 10% rule to have 3 South Taranaki councillors.</p> <p>1.15. To consider the separation of New Plymouth into smaller Wards to ensure that the communities of interest on the outskirts of the city are fairly represented.</p> <p>2. ABOUT FEDERATED FARMERS</p> <p>2.1. Federated Farmers of New Zealand is a primary sector organisation that represents farmers, and other rural businesses. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the needs and interests of New Zealand farmers.</p> <p>2.2. The Federation aims to add value to its members' businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:</p> <p>2.2.1. Our members may operate their businesses in a fair and flexible commercial environment;</p> <p>2.2.2. Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and</p> <p>2.2.3. Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.</p>	

Submitter's requests	Officers' recommendations and response
General comments	
This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities	

Document No:

23 JUL 2021

Taranaki Regional Council - Representation Arrangements for the 2022 Elections

This submission is in response to the proposed representation arrangements for 2022 as advertised in the Taranaki Daily News on Friday July 9. The proposed arrangement is for an 11 member Council with constituencies varying from 8980 voters per member to 14,600 voters per member.

In my submission I propose a 10 member Council which will achieve a reduced disadvantage for electors in the Maori constituency. My proposal for a 10 member Council has the New Plymouth General constituency reduced from 5 members to 4. All other constituencies remain as proposed by the TRC.

Given that the number of electors per elected member varies from 8980 to 14,600, there is no absolutely even handed way to arrange the election. Electors in some constituencies will inevitably have votes of a reduced value while others will have votes of increased value. However, the TRC proposal results in a relatively extreme reduction in the value of the 14,600 votes in the Maori constituency, a reduction of 22% compared with the average vote value. By comparison my proposal results in the Maori Constituency votes being valued only 15% below the average. The attached spreadsheet shows the results of my calculations.

In the case of Stratford voters they will have an advantage of 26% as proposed by the TRC (11 councillors) and an advantage of 39% in my proposal. If it were possible to transfer 1900 to 2000 votes from the South Taranaki constituency to the Stratford constituency (Eltham township?) then the advantages for South Taranaki and Stratford would be approximately 15% in both cases.

The problem of fair representation for voters in Maori constituencies is to be expected when there is only one Maori constituency in a Council of 10 or more members. Nevertheless, a 22% deficit in vote value in the TRC Maori constituency seems too extreme and I urge that the TRC reconsider the arrangements for the 2022 election.

Colin Bell



Taranaki Regional Council

TRC Reresentation alternatives

As proposed by TRC

Constituency	Voters	Reps	V/R	Ave/(V/R)	Value per voter	
					minus	plus
Maori	14600	1	14600	0.776	22%	
NP urban	55900	5	11180	1.013		1%
NP rural	21500	2	10750	1.054		5%
Stratford	8980	1	8980	1.261		26%
South Taranaki	23600	2	11800	0.960	4%	
Total	124580	11				
Ave. Votes/Rep	11325					

Alternative proposed

Constituency	Voters	Reps	V/R	Ave/(V/R)	Value per voter	
					minus	plus
Maori	14600	1	14600	0.853	15%	
NP urban	55900	4	13975	0.891	11%	
NP rural	21500	2	10750	1.159		16%
Stratford	8980	1	8980	1.387		39%
South Taranaki	23600	2	11800	1.056		6%
Total	124580	10				
Ave. Votes/Rep	12458					

A further alternative

Constituency	Voters	Reps	V/R	Ave/(V/R)	Value per voter	
					minus	plus
Maori	14600	1	14600	0.853	15%	
NP urban	55900	4	13975	0.891	11%	
NP rural	21500	2	10750	1.159		16%
Stratford & Eltham	10880	1	10880	1.145		15%
South Taranaki	21700	2	10850	1.148		15%
Total	124580	10				
Ave. Votes/Rep	12458					

Name	Paul Mundt
Address	████████████████████ ██
Email	████████████████
Phone	██████████
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	No
I support the Council's initial proposal	No
Comments	Because

Name	Paul Lamb
Address	██████████ - ██████████
Email	██████████
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	No
I support the Council's initial proposal	Yes
Comments	Stratford's electorate is clearly too small, but it's rural so that's okay with me.

Liesl Davidson

From: Michael Prestidge | Nevada [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 August 2021 11:20 AM
To: Have Your Say
Subject: Elected members

I disagree with your proposal.

TRC is not merely working for the general public of Taranaki. It is working for land owners.

While the population in NP is higher than the provinces I see no need for there to be any more members on council.

When issues are debated that impact the city and the provinces differently we have a problem.

With your proposal NP councillors will vote one way, the rural councillors vote the other, and the Māori representative becomes the decisionmaker.

Leave South Taranaki as 3, NP as 4.

The provinces are broad-minded enough to consider for the city, unfortunately I can't say the same for city people.

This is a broad generalisation with no reflection on the present members.

Of course the government want the administration shifted to the cities! Please think for the whole province, and in particular for the people who put the money into it..... the Dairy farmers.

Kind regards,

Michael Prestidge | Nevada

P: 0800 464 393 M: [REDACTED] E: [REDACTED] W: nevadagroup.co.nz

NZ's Leading Dairy Effluent
Management Specialists

nevadagroup.co.nz
0800 464 393



Name	Ken Davies
Address	██████████ ██████████ ██████████████████████.
Email	██████████████████
Phone	██████████
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	No
I support the Council's initial proposal	Yes
Comments	Proposal supported as is

Name	Robert Waugh
Address	██████████ ████████████████████
Email	██████████████████
Phone	██████████
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	No
I support the Council's initial proposal	No
Comments	There is no need for a separately elected Maori. The treaty of waitangi states we are one people.

Name	Grant Knuckey
Address	████████████████████ ████████████████████
Email	████████████████████
Phone	████████
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	Yes
I support the Council's initial proposal	No
Comments	<p>The proposal that is suggested by the TRC does not recognise the democratic rights of the local tangata whenua and the constituents on the Maori electoral roll as representatives of the Treaty of Waitangi giving local Maori rights over its people and land .</p> <p>The TRC proposal doesn't meet the minimum threshold of democracy of Maori but put Maori a limited position of marginalised politically this not the democratic rights that is a award to each NZ citizens in a general election . TRC proposal is clearly white nepotism and racist targeted again those Maori on the Maori electoral roll .</p> <p>The ward system maybe within in the statute of NZ Law but the distribution and calculations of the those citizens register on the Taranaki electoral roll are faulty and say very much racist in it process calculation.</p> <p>The Wards system as suggested by TRC is based on residential address and allows theses NZ citizens living some Wards to have more than 1 vote this is clearly set out in the TRC proposal if this pakeha democracy why is this not award the same respect to Maori constituents. I WONDER WHY ,Thoughtlessness,bigotry Racism,cultural arrogance or in deference.</p> <p>The Maori Ward is a given . I would insist that those Maori registered on the Taranaki Maori electoral roll are integrated in the Ward system the same as the rest of those on the Taranaki electors this based on residential address awarding the same number of votes as their nearest neighbours , much the same as the NPDC a seperate box provision as we do for the Mayor this would for a Maori Ward vote for those on the Maori electoral roll only this provision would simply calculate into the overall Ward system.</p> <p>In my this would remove the cultural in difference or biases that as a country suffer from if Democracy is the corner stone of our justices system of fairness and kindness .</p> <p>The TRC should be seen to lead the way to strengthen hearten our path forward despite our current inferences and make this simple adjustment .Grant Knuckey</p>

Name	Emily Bailey
Address	██████████ ██████████ ██████████
Email	██████████
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	Yes
I support the Council's initial proposal	No
Comments	It is unfair and ineffective for Maori.
Attach supporting documents	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/11135255370

Submission on Taranaki Regional Council Representation Review 2021

Name: Emily Tuhi-Ao Bailey

Residence: Pungarehu, Taranaki

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou,

I object to the council's initial representation proposal as I do not believe having one Maori ward on the regional council is 'fair and effective representation for individuals and communities', nor does it uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

All reasonably informed Maori know this but we are forced to argue it out against current legislation that we had little to no input on. I am no lawyer but I will do my best.

1.

Article two in Te Tiriti o Waitangi states clearly "*Ko te Kuini o Ingarani ka wakarite ka wakaae ki nga Rangatira ki nga hapu – ki nga tangata katoa o Nu Tirani te tino rangatiratanga o o ratou wenua o ratou kainga me o ratou taonga katoa.*"

The Queen of England agreed to the sovereignty, tino rangatiratanga, of Hapu over their lands, villages and precious resources. The Queen was given the right to set up a government but sovereignty remained for Maori. This agreement was broken by the Crown as we all know and most of the land and resources in Taranaki were taken from Maori and we are still trying to rectify this 181 years later. The least we ask for at the moment is to be partners in governance and one seat at the table is insulting and continues the patronising, white supremacist attitude of the Crown and its allies towards Maori.

2.

In summary the principles in subsection (1) of the Local Government Act 2002 are:

- *fair and effective representation for individuals and communities*
- *reasonable and equal opportunities to:*
 - *vote*
 - *nominate, or be nominated as, candidates*
- *public confidence in, and public understanding of local electoral processes.*

Just touching on the second point here, around ability to vote and be nominated, it would be hard to argue that Maori have equal opportunity to non-Maori. Maori are sadly over-represented in poor health statistics, imprisonment numbers, lower education and poverty. It is well proven that these are directly related to structural racism, theft of resource and oppression of Maori culture, language and family connections by the Crown, its agents and its communities of benefitting supporters.

On the third point, it is well known in Maori communities that we have very low confidence in electoral processes and governance in general. Why would we have confidence, when we have been denied Maori representation and the councils have in the most part just continued to take from us? Without confidence and representation why would we spend much time trying to understand it.

3.

I want to focus now on the first point above around "fair and effective representation" and two more parts of the legislation:

- Section 10(1)(b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public service, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses; and
- Section 14(1)(c) when making a decision, a local authority should take account of –
 - (i) the diversity of the community, and the community's interests, within its district or region; and
 - (ii) the interests of future as well as current communities; and
 - (iii) the likely impact of any decision on the interests referred to in subparagraphs (i) and (ii)

Using the number of Maori on the Maori electoral roll to determine how many Maori wards we get is unfair since until now we have been denied by Non-Maori the opportunity to even elect Maori representatives on our councils. Hence, why would many Maori enrol in the Maori electorate when you only get to vote on Maori representatives for ridiculously large electorates that only get a small number of seats in central government anyway?

And if we want to talk effectiveness and efficiency, then you should really look at how inefficient it is for Maori candidates to try and even reach their huge wards and electorates, often on their own. Maori candidates have to spend far more money than non-Maori to reach a wider region and generally have far less money to work with. Structural racism has also encouraged our own people to look down on ourselves and turn away from Te Ao Maori so we face barrier after barrier.

It is more fair to base Maori wards on Maori population and give special consideration to Maori wards as was done for the Stratford constituency. This would allow for more Maori to switch over to the Maori electoral roll in the next electoral terms and to align better with future Maori populations that we are seeing grow, compared to other ethnicities. According to the Taranaki District Health Board's projections for 2020-21, the Maori population will be 20.2%. [<https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/my-dhb/taranaki-dhb/population-taranaki-dhb>]

So, if we had population based representatives Maori would get 1/5 or at least two seats at the table rather than one. That would support more equal opportunity and effectiveness for those running Maori candidates if they only have to lobby say half the region rather than all the way from Mokau to Waitoteroa. It would encourage more Maori to feel slightly more confident in the governmental system if we can be more of a part of it. After an eternity of being locked out of local government, an extra seat with special consideration is the least Maori could be given.

4.

As to how another seat is created for Maori, I would suggest removing a seat from the New Plymouth district as they are already well represented if we look at things from a territory perspective which is what Maori do. The south have lost one seat to make way for one Maori ward so why not balance it out better by taking a seat from the north to make way for a second Maori ward. For decades rural communities have been forced into cities like New Plymouth as the government and businesses' economic system demands less workers on more land and therefore less services are provided for those communities to continue. We would have no housing shortage, better mental health and less of a political urban-rural divide if services, infrastructure and decision-making were spread more fairly across the country. Increasing decision-making power to New Plymouth residents only increases the problem.

Name	Paora Laurence
Address	████████████████████ ██████ ████████████████
Email	████████████████████
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	Yes
I support the Council's initial proposal	No
Comments	<p>I believe there a stronger need for more Maaori input, due to the racism, the lack of respect, systemic poor efforts around the consents, the process and enforcement. The role of the TRC is to protect air, land and water, you HAVE FAILED!</p> <p>Your lack of integrity is abysmal especially around the Treaty Of Waitangi and tangata whenua hopes and beliefs around kaitiakitanga of the taiao. The conflicts of interest within your body are controversial at the least and you are enablers of the systematic distruction of our environments. Enough is enough!</p>

Name	Emma Hislop
Address	██████████ ██████ ██
Email	████████████████████
Phone	██████████
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	No
I support the Council's initial proposal	No
Comments	It is not fair representation nor does it uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.Do better.

Name	Maria Hokopaura
Address	██████████ ██████ ██████████████████
Email	██████████████████
Phone	██████████
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	No
I support the Council's initial proposal	No

Comments

My submission is in opposition to the Council's proposal for representation. My objection specifically concerns the misconception that one Maori ward on the regional council is 'fair and effective representation for individuals and communities'. Additionally, the proposal does not uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The proposed representation arrangements continue to perpetuate the systemic racism inherent in local government. Having one representative to represent the Māori constituents within the area means that, once again, Māori votes are 'worth less' than other constituents. Typically, there is low confidence and trust in electoral processes and governance from Māori resulting from the long list of past experiences. The current proposal from TRC only reaffirms that Māori cannot have confidence or trust in these systems.

While I accept that representation is based on the electoral rolls, there are a number of on-going issues with the electoral roll system (as discussed in this news article here:

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/whanganui-chronicle/news/maori-electoral-option-information-campaign-needed-ahead-of-2022-elections-councillor-says/4QGBCXG6SAU2CVEEPJFX3ZFBPU/>).

The Māori electoral numbers are misleading in that it does not reflect the number of Māori within Taranaki - Māori representation at TRC should reflect Taranaki Māori as a whole. Due to the barriers that Māori face in regards to local government representation (i.e. lack of opportunity to change rolls, mistrust in governments, lack of clear, accessible information about electoral processes, deliberate misinformation and racism), TRC should exercise its ability to apply discretion and create two members for the Māori constituency as there are considerations for Māori (as a particular community of interest) which justify this.

This would be a gesture of good faith, would be evidence of how TRC honours their Treaty obligations and would show that Māori votes are important and valued. In addition, I believe it would have the effect of encouraging Māori to join the Māori roll as their interests are actually being provided for and their views presented.

While I would like to be heard in support of my submission, unfortunately I am unable to attend on 24 August.

Liesl Davidson

From: Catherine Cheung [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 13 August 2021 1:16 PM
To: Have Your Say
Subject: Council representation arrangements

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Tēnā koutou,

my submission is that we should have two Māori seats for the region, such that the constituencies would be as follows:

Māori - New Plymouth: 1
Māori - the rest of Taranaki: 1

General constituencies:

New Plymouth: 4
North Taranaki: 2
Stratford: 1
South Taranaki: 2

This would reduce some of the unreasonable demand and resource strain on a single Māori representative for the entire region, and thus contribute to fairer and more effective and efficient representation of Māori.

Having two seats (1 for New Plymouth, 1 for the rest of Taranaki) would give more equitable opportunities for rural Māori to be represented at the council table, thus reducing inequality and allowing the diverse interests of the communities to be considered for decision making. It would also help to encourage greater enrollment of the Māori electorate.

Nāku noa,
Catherine Cheung

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI RUANUI TRUST

74 Princes Street
P O Box 594, HAWERA
Phone: 06 278 0148 Fax: 06 278 1358
Email: office@ruanui.co.nz



11th August 2021

Representation Review
Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
STRATFORD, 4352

Tēnā Koe Steve,

REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust (Ngāti Ruanui) welcome the opportunity to make a submission on the Representation Arrangements for the Taranaki Regional Council. The proposal that the Taranaki Regional Council has announced for consultation is a Taranaki Māori ward which will encompass the entire region. Ngāti Ruanui disagree with this proposal and strongly encourage the Taranaki Regional Council to reconsider and implement two distinct Māori wards.

The Regional Council encompasses a very large area. We believe that the proposal is not a fair division of land to logistically enable true and genuine representation for the Māori community. Ngāti Ruanui highlights the need for two wards to ensure that areas of community interest can be maintained while still achieving adequate district wide coverage.

Ngāti Ruanui recognises that the current proposal does not ensure representation from South Taranaki for Māori. Ngāti Ruanui encourages more genuine engagement for Māori across the whole region.

Ngāti Ruanui acknowledges the significant change that will occur in the 2022 elections with the establishment of Māori wards and wish to ensure that the establishment is beneficial to the core values of representation. The establishment of 2 Māori Wards guarantees that our Māori voice will be far reaching throughout Taranaki; as noted above community of interest is critical.

Ngāti Ruanui would also like to highlight that the review for the Option and frequency of the Māori general election roll is currently being reviewed. The outcome of that review could have large implications for the Taranaki Regional Council Māori electoral population for Taranaki. It is highly likely that the Māori general election roll and thus the Māori Electoral Population for the Regional Council and other Local Body Communities will increase.

Ngāti Ruanui strongly encourage that the Taranaki Regional Council establish two Māori Wards. Ngāti Ruanui would also like to indicate their intention to speak to the Taranaki Regional Council in person on the 24th August 2021.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Rae', is positioned above the printed name.

Rachel Rae
Kaiw'aka'aere
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui

Name	Shaun Hazelton
Address	████████████████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████
Email	████████████████████
Phone	
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 24 August, 2021 in Stratford	Yes
I support the Council's initial proposal	No
Comments	Please refer to our Submission attached for detail.
Attach supporting documents	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/11143601808

SUBMISSION



To: Taranaki Regional Council

Submission on: Initial proposal – Representation review 2021

Date: 16 August 2021

Contact: Mark Hooper – Taranaki Provincial President
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
m: [REDACTED] | e: [REDACTED]

Shaun Hazelton - Policy Advisor
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
m: [REDACTED] | e: [REDACTED]

Submission to Whangarei District Council on its representation review 2021

1. OUR SUBMISSION

- 1.1. Federated Farmers thanks Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) for the opportunity to submit on the proposed representation review.
- 1.2. Federated Farmers is aware that there is significant 'consultation fatigue' out in the community following the Long-Term Plan and other important consultation processes throughout 2021. At this time of the year, farmers are also worrying about feed supply and are busy lambing and calving. This may affect the number of individual submissions towards the Representation Review from rural Taranaki.
- 1.3. Our members do not want their busy silence to be misconstrued by Council as disinterest in rural representation or silent acceptance. Federated Farmers submission represents the views of hundreds of rural landowners in the district. We gently remind the Council of this so that their representation views, expressed here, are weighed appropriately.
- 1.4. Federated Farmers respects that Council's decision to establish Māori wards has triggered the need for a representation review in 2021.
- 1.5. Federated Farmers wishes to address the importance of the Rural wards and the voice of the rural community. Rural Taranaki contributes heavily to the region's economy and employment. Dairy farming alone contributes to over 10% of employment in the region and over \$1 billion in production generated within Taranaki.
- 1.6. Federated Farmers acknowledges that representation legislation is not ideal for rural representation as low populations are scattered over such large areas compared to that of regional centres such as New Plymouth.

Councillors

- 1.7. Council has proposed to have 11 members, 10 from the general and one region wide Māori constituency.
- 1.8. Federated Farmers submits that council should look at adopting 12 councillors to consider the additional Māori ward member. Federated Farmers does not have a concern regarding the intention to include the Māori constituency however, we submit that it shouldn't be at the expense of rural representation. We understand that one rural seat will be lost under the current proposal, and this is not supported.
- 1.9. It is understood that council must attempt to adhere to the 10% ruling set out in the Local Electoral Act however, Federated Farmers feels that this formula doesn't work well for Taranaki within the context of sparsely populated rural communities that contribute significantly to the region. The South Taranaki District is over 1,000km² larger than that of the New Plymouth District which will hold an extra three councillors under the proposal. Losing one councillor from South Taranaki will, in our view, provide insufficient representation within South Taranaki. Federated Farmers asks that council consider the risk

of insufficient representation for the range of distinct communities in the South Taranaki district.

Wards

- 1.10. We need rural councillors to provide a rural voice for policy setting, regulatory decisions, and fiscal matters affecting rural catchments. To make fair and representative decisions a councillor needs to know the catchment they represent. New Plymouth likewise, to be represented fairly the option to split the catchment into two or three catchments must be considered. Five at large from New Plymouth will mean that one catchment within Taranaki will almost have a majority vote.
- 1.11. Federated Farmers are neutral on the decision to have the Māori ward councillor taken from the whole district.
- 1.12. It is understood that council should aim to meet the +/- 10% standard set out by the Local Electoral Act however, there is full discretion to deviate if a community of interest is not fairly represented. This will be an increasingly controversial issue moving forward with the trend for urbanisation into larger cities such as New Plymouth. Federated Farmers asks that Council consider the size and significance of the area represented as well as the population to ensure fair representation.

Summary

- 1.13. Federated Farmers wants the adoption of a 12th councillor to include the Māori Ward constituency.
- 1.14. To ensure that all communities are fairly represented Federated Farmers recommends considering falling outside of the 10% rule to have 3 South Taranaki councillors.
- 1.15. To consider the separation of New Plymouth into smaller Wards to ensure that the communities of interest on the outskirts of the city are fairly represented.

2. ABOUT FEDERATED FARMERS

- 2.1. Federated Farmers of New Zealand is a primary sector organisation that represents farmers, and other rural businesses. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the needs and interests of New Zealand farmers.

- 2.2. The Federation aims to add value to its members' businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:
- 2.2.1. Our members may operate their businesses in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
 - 2.2.2. Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
 - 2.2.3. Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.
 - 2.2.4. This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.

Ends