

RANGITIKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Final proposal for representation arrangements for the 2019 local elections

Submissions

On 18 October 2018 the Rangitikei District Council considered the submissions received on its initial proposal regarding the representation arrangements for the Council and its constituent community boards to apply for the local elections to be held on 12 October 2019.

The Council received 12 submissions on its proposal.

Four submissions were in favour of the Council's proposal. Eight submissions contained objections to various elements of the proposal, as follows:

- three submitters considered that Ratana would not be represented fairly;
- one submitter considered the present five-ward structure allows a better chance of a representative from Ratana and/or the surrounding area;
- one submitter considered that Ratana needs a local representative;
- three submitters considered that the voice of the western areas of the District would less likely to be heard in the proposed Southern Ward and there needs to be representation by someone who understood the needs of the present Turakina Ward;
- one submitter considered that there was no commonality between Bulls and Turakina and the chance of someone from the western communities being elected in the proposed Southern Ward was small.
- one submitter considered that the proposed change to three wards put voting power in the hands of larger concentrations of population.

Final proposal

Having considered all of the submissions, the Council resolved to adopt its initial proposal as the Council's final proposal, subject to the following amendment:

- the boundaries for the Taihape Community Board be those for the proposed Northern Ward (rather than the boundaries of the current Taihape Ward).

The Council considers that this boundary change is appropriate for the following reason:

- it is logical that the proposed Northern Ward boundaries are those for the Taihape Community Board as the Northern Ward is the basis for electing the Ward Councillors who would be part of the membership of the Taihape Community Board.

The Council rejected the other matters raised in objections for the following reasons:

- The changes in relative population of the District's different communities have been addressed by the proposed three ward structure;
- The proposed three ward structure increases accessibility of elected members as each ward has at least three elected members. At present, the Turakina and Hunterville Wards have only one member each;
- Council considers that the number of elected members in each ward is sufficient to ensure representation of all communities of interest.
- Council considers that combining communities of interest for Hunterville and Marton is a more desirable solution than splitting these communities of interest (which is what occurs under the present five ward structure).
- The District's smaller communities in Turakina and Hunterville are represented well by their respective Community Committees (which Council intends to retain if supported by those communities);
- Council has proposed the continuation of the Ratana Community Board.

Therefore, the final proposal is as follows.

Council Representation

It is proposed that the Council comprise 11 members elected from three wards, and the mayor. The three wards reflect the following identified communities of interest:

Ward	Communities of interest
Northern Ward	Taihape Northern Villages - Mangaweka, Moawhango, Mataroa, Pukeokahu, Utiku
Central Ward	Marton Hunterville
Southern Ward	Bulls (including Scotts Ferry) Western Villages - Koitiata, Ratana, Turakina, Kauangaroa, Whangaehu

The population that each member will represent is as follows:

Ward	Population (2017 estimate)	Members	Population per member
Northern Ward	3,700	3	1,233
Central Ward	7,410	5	1,482
Southern Ward	3,890	3	1,297
Total	15,000	11	1,364

In accordance with section 19V(2) of the *Local Electoral Act 2001* the population that each member represents must be within the range of 1,364 +/- 10% (1,500 to 1,228), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise.

Community Board Representation

The Taihape and Ratana Community Boards will each elect four members. They will not be subdivided for electoral purposes. The Taihape Community Board will have two appointed members and the Ratana Community Board will have one appointed member as follows:

Community Board	Number of members from which ward
Taihape Community Board	4 members elected 2 members appointed (rotated around the three Northern Ward councillors)
Ratana Community Board	4 members elected 1 member appointed (one councillor from the Southern Ward)

Appeals and objections

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

Any person who objects to the final proposal may lodge an objection to the Council's final proposal. Any objection must identify the matters to which the objection relates.

Appeals and objections must be made in writing and must be received by Council no later than 11 December 2018.

Appeals and objections are to be forwarded to:

Attention – Michael Hodder, Community and Regulatory Services Group Manager

- Posted – Rangitikei District Council, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741
- Dropped off - Council's libraries in Marton, Bulls and Taihape, or the Administration Office, 46 High Street, Marton
- Emailed – info@rangitikei.govt.nz

Further information

Direct any queries regarding the Council's decision to Michael Hodder, Community and Regulatory Services Group Manager on 06 327 0099.

Ross McNeil
Chief Executive
1 November 2018