



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Representation Review Committee

Thursday 10 October 2024, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Quorum: *Seven Members*

Members

Daran Ponter (Chair)

David Bassett

Quentin Duthie

Chris Kirk-Burnnand

David Lee

Hikitia Ropata

Adrienne Staples

Ros Connelly

Penny Gaylor

Ken Laban

Thomas Nash

Yadana Saw

Simon Woolf

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Representation Review Committee

Thursday 10 October 2024, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Public Business

No.	Item	Report	Page
1.	Apologies		
2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
3.	Process for considering submissions on Council's initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections	24.471	3
4.	Consideration of submissions received on Council's initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections	24.472	12

Representation Review Committee
10 October 2024
Report 24.471



For Information

PROCESS FOR CONSIDERING SUBMISSIONS ON COUNCIL'S INITIAL REPRESENTATION PROPOSAL FOR THE 2025 TRIENNIAL LOCAL ELECTIONS

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Representation Review Committee (the Committee) on the process for considering submissions on Council's initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. At its meeting on 27 August 2024, Council resolved its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections ([Attachment 1](#)).
3. The initial representation proposal was publicly notified on 28 August 2024 and the submission period closed on 24 September 2024.
4. The submission process is prescribed by the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government Commission's [Guidelines for local authorities undertaking representation reviews](#) (9th edition, July 2023).
5. At its 27 August 2024 meeting, Council also adopted terms of reference for the Representation Review Committee ([Attachment 2](#)).

Public consultation

6. This meeting of the Committee completes the public consultation phase for Council's initial representation review proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections.

Principles of consultation

7. Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA) sets out six principles of consultation. One principle is that views presented to a local authority should be received with an open mind, and the local authority should give these views due consideration in making a decision¹.

¹ Section 82(1)(e) of the LGA.

8. The Committee should also take into account that persons who wish to have their views on the decision or matter considered by the local authority should be provided with a reasonable opportunity to present those views to the local authority.
9. It is consistent with best practice that Committee members are present for both the substantive part of the hearing and considerations of submissions, and for the deliberations, to enable them to participate in the Committee's decision-making.
10. Council's Standing Orders provide that members may not participate remotely when a meeting is convened to hear, consider, and deliberate on submissions when received as part of a consultation process.
11. These principles and best practice are reflected in the Committee's Terms of Reference ([Attachment 2](#)).

Submissions received

Written submissions

12. Two written submissions were received.
13. A separate report (Report 24.472) that includes these written submissions is being considered at this meeting. Officers suggest that the Committee takes these written submissions as read and discusses the matters raised in these submissions that warrant further consideration.

Oral presentation in support of written submissions

14. The purpose of this meeting is to consider all the written submissions received and to hear one oral presentation in support of the related written submission.
15. Council's standard practice is to allocate ten minutes to each submitter wishing to speak to their submission. This time covers both time for speaking and for the Committee members' questions of clarification.
16. It is proposed that deliberation (see paragraphs 18 to 20 below) commences following the oral presentation and consideration of submissions.

Consideration of submissions

17. The Committee must consider all written submissions, regardless of whether an oral presentation is made in support of a submission.

Deliberation

18. The Committee may recommend to Council, for consideration at its meeting on 31 October 2024, either:
 - a Any proposed amendments to Council’s initial representation proposal; these amendments must be based on the Committee’s consideration of issues raised in submissions; or
 - b That Council’s initial representation proposal is adopted as Council’s final representation proposal.
19. If the Committee considers issues not raised in the submissions, then:
 - a The community has not had an opportunity to give feedback on all aspects of Council’s initial representation proposal
 - b Proposed amendments that are not based on the submissions provide grounds for objection, by any person, against Council’s final representation proposal.
20. The report to Council on the Committee’s consideration must also state the reasons for any proposed amendments to Council’s initial representation proposal and for any rejection of submissions.
21. At Council’s 31 October 2024 meeting, it will resolve its final representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections. Depending on the nature of the final representation proposal, it will then be open to appeals and/or objections under the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Council’s resolution of the initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections (27 August 2024)
2	Terms of reference for the Representation Review Committee

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Will Ogier - Kaitohutohu Matua Principal Advisor Democratic Services
Approvers	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Uringi, Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

<p style="text-align: center;">He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</p>
<p><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></p> <p>Council has statutory responsibility for decisions on its representation arrangements under the Local Electoral Act 2001.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>The decisions in this report do not contribute to Council's or Greater Wellington's key strategies, policies and plans.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>No internal consultation was required.</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>There are no known risks or impacts arising from the decisions in this report.</p>



Council meeting, 27 August 2024

Resolution on Report 24.129 - Initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections

Moved Cr Staples / Cr Bassett

That Council:

1. Notes that as an outcome of the Council's resolution of 26 October 2023 to establish a Māori constituency for the 2025 and 2028 triennial local elections, the application of clause 4 of Schedule 1A to the Local Electoral Act 2001 provides for a single Māori constituency member to be elected from one Māori constituency covering the area of the Wellington Region.
2. Agrees that the seven scenarios for general constituencies outlined in paragraphs 59 to 83 of Report 24.129 represent the range of reasonably practicable general constituency options for Council's consideration.
3. Having assessed the general constituency options in terms of the requirements for effective and fair representation, and considering that it is necessary to depart from the population formula of section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 in order to provide effective representation for the distinct communities of interest of Kāpiti Coast, Porirua-Tawa, Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt, Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt, and Wairarapa, resolves its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections, providing for a Council of 14 members, of which one member is to be elected from one Māori constituency and 13 members are to be elected from six general constituencies, as follows:

Attachment 1 to Report 24.471

Constituency name	Number of members	Constituency area
Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency	1	The area of the Wellington Region
Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency	5	The area of Wellington City, excluding the area of the Tawa Community
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency	3	The area of Lower Hutt City
Porirua-Tawa General Constituency	2	The area of Porirua City, and the area of the Tawa Community of Wellington City
Kāpiti Coast General Constituency	1	The area of the Kapiti Coast District
Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt General Constituency	1	The area of Upper Hutt City
Wairarapa General Constituency	1	The area of South Wairarapa District, Carterton District and Masterton District, and that part of Tararua District that falls within the Wellington Region

4. Notes that this proposal changes the Council's existing representation arrangements into the general constituency arrangements, with the addition of a Māori constituency, through which the proposal:
- i. provides for a Council of 14 members, taking account of the geographic size of the Wellington Region, which encompasses both urban and rural areas, and the diversity of Greater Wellington's functions
 - ii provides consistency and familiarity for the electors of the general constituencies with the current representation arrangements

Attachment 1 to Report 24.471

- iii. facilitates the efficiency of elections' administration through the boundaries of the constituencies aligning with territorial authority boundaries, to the extent considered practicable.
5. Establishes the Representation Review Committee and adopts the terms of reference for the Committee, as set out in Attachment 3 to Report 24.129.
6. Appoints Crs Bassett, Connelly, Duthie, Gaylor, Kirk-Burnnand, Laban, Lee, Nash, Ponter, Ropata, Saw, Staples and Woolf to the Committee and appoints Cr Ponter as Chair.
7. Invites the Council Chair to write to the Minister of Local Government, requesting consideration of a law change to allow for two Wairarapa General Constituency seats.

The motion was **carried**.

Terms of Reference for the Representation Review Committee

Representation Review Committee

1 Purpose

To consider submissions on Council's initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections and recommend to Council any amendments for its final representation proposal.

2 Delegations

The Representation Review Committee (the Committee) has the powers to:

- a Consider any submission Council receives on its initial representation proposal, being any written submission and any oral presentation in support of that written submission
- b Seek clarification from officers on any technical matters
- c Make recommendations to Council on what, if any, amendments should be made to Council's initial representation proposal for inclusion in the final representation proposal. The report containing these recommendations should include reasons for any proposed amendments and for the rejection of any submissions.

3 Specific responsibilities

The Committee shall ensure that:

- a The consideration and hearing process is effective and timely
- b Submitters have the best possible opportunity to present in support of their submissions
- c Members review submissions with an open mind and give due consideration to each submission
- d The decision-making process is robust and transparent
- e The summary of the consultation process adequately, fairly and demonstrably reflects the submissions made
- f The process and advice that the Committee provides to Council is consistent with the legislative requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

4 Members

- 4.1 All thirteen Councillors.
- 4.2 The Committee Chair is Councillor Ponter.

5 Quorum

Seven Committee members.

6 Meeting procedures

- 6.1 All members have equal speaking rights and a deliberative vote.
- 6.2 Council's Standing Orders apply.
- 6.3 The Committee Chair has a deliberative vote; and, in the case of an equality of votes, does have a casting vote.
- 6.4 Members must be present for the substantive part of any hearing and deliberations to participate in the Committee's decision-making.
- 6.5 Members may not participate remotely.
- 6.6 Submitters may participate remotely to make an oral presentation in support of their written submission.
- 6.7 Meetings are open to the public, except where there are grounds to exclude the public under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

7 Duration of the Committee

The Committee is discharged once Council adopts its final representation proposal.

Representation Review Committee
10 October 2024
Report 24.472



For Decision

CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON COUNCIL'S INITIAL REPRESENTATION PROPOSAL FOR THE 2025 TRIENNIAL LOCAL ELECTIONS

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Representation Review Committee (the Committee) on the matters raised in submissions received on Council's initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1 **Considers** the information in this report, and in Attachments 1 to 3, to assist it in determining its recommendations to Council on the initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections.
- 2 **Recommends** to Council any:
 - a Proposed amendments to Council's initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections; and
 - b Reasons for any proposed amendments and for the acceptance or rejection of submissions.

Submission process

2. At its meeting on 27 August 2024, Council resolved its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections.
3. The initial representation proposal was publicly notified on 28 August 2024 and the submission period closed on 24 September 2024. In addition to public notice of the proposal in accordance with the statutory requirements¹, the opportunity for submissions was promoted through:

¹ Statutory public notice was provided to the nine territorial authorities wholly and in partly located in the Wellington Region, together with the Local Government Commission, the Surveyor-General, the Government Statistician, and the Remuneration Authority.

- a Greater Wellington's Have Your Say website
 - b The Council Chair's fortnightly public community newsletter
 - c Social media posts on LinkedIn and Facebook
 - d Short-form public notices issued in The Post and Wairarapa Times-Age newspapers
 - e An email to the 86 persons who participated in the preliminary engagement survey in March 2024 and wished to be advised when Council adopted its initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections.
4. A separate report on the process for considering submissions (Report 24.471) is being considered at this meeting.

Submissions received

5. There were 256 visits to the Have Your Say website during the submission period, and two written submissions were received. Both were personal submissions and propose changes to Council's initial representation proposal.
6. To enable the Committee to consider these written submissions, we include:
 - a A full set of written submissions, without submitters' contact details ([Attachment 1](#))
 - b The submitters' proposed amendments with officers' comments ([Attachment 2](#))
 - c An outline of the Council's initial representation proposal and submitters' alternative representation proposals ([Attachment 3](#)).
7. One submitter, Gwynn Compton, is scheduled to make an oral presentation in support of his written submission at today's meeting.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

8. There are no financial implications arising from the matters for decision.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

9. There are no implications for Māori arising from the submissions on Council's initial representation proposal.

Ngā tikanga whakatau

Decision-making process

10. The Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 set out the decision-making process for Council's representation review for the 2025 triennial local elections.

11. The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

**Te hiranga
Significance**

12. The subject matter of this report is part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Council making a decision of low significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002.

**Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement**

13. This report reflects the public consultation required under the Local Electoral Act 2001.
14. Engagement on Council’s final representation proposal will be undertaken in accordance with the process set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps**

15. The Committee’s recommendations will be considered by Council at its meeting on 31 October 2024, with Council then resolving its final representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections.

**Ngā āpitihanga
Attachments**

Number	Title
1	Full set of written submissions (without submitters’ contact details)
2	Submitters’ proposed amendments with officers’ comments
3	Outline of Council’s initial representation proposal and submitters’ alternative representation proposals

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writer	Will Ogier - Kaitohutohu Matua Principal Advisor Democratic Services
Approvers	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Uringi, Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> Council has statutory responsibilities under the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The decisions in this report do not contribute to Council's or Greater Wellington's key strategies, policies and plans.
<i>Internal consultation</i> No internal consultation was required for the preparation of this report.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks or impacts arising from the decisions in this report.

Full set of written submissions (without submitters' contact details)**Submission of Gwynn Compton on Greater Wellington Regional Council's initial proposal for its representation review****September 2024**1. *Background*

- 1.1. I am making this submission in my personal capacity as a resident of the Kāpiti Coast, as someone who has lived in Upper Hutt, Wellington, and Wairarapa.
- 1.2. As well as being a former districtwide councillor on the Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) from 2019 to 2022, I am also an experienced communications, policy, strategy, advocacy, and governance professional, and currently write about local government issues at Local Aotearoa.
- 1.3. I would like to speak to my submission before the Representation Review Committee.

2. *Comments on Greater Wellington Regional Council's initial proposal*

- 2.1. Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) initial proposal for its representation committee is fundamentally flawed.
- 2.2. It perpetuates grossly inadequate and worsening under-representation situation for its Kāpiti Coast constituency.
- 2.3. Since 2004, the percentage deviation for the Kāpiti Coast constituency has been as follows:

Year	Percentage deviation from the region average population per councillor:
2004	+32.71
2007	+33.75
2013	+33.75
2019	+33.31
2024	+37.4

- 2.4. Since the 2007 election, when the Porirua constituency was extended to include Tawa and granted an additional councillor by the Local Government Commission (LGC), Kāpiti has been the most under-represented constituency on GWRC.
- 2.5. Section 19V of the Local Electoral Act requires that the regional council, and the LGC, must ensure that the electors of constituencies receive fair representation across the whole council, hence the inclusion of the +/- 10% deviation rule.

Attachment 1 to Report 24.472

- 2.6. Typically councils and the LGC have sought to address this issue by adding an additional councillor once the deviation became too unsustainable which, unless there are sizeable boundary changes, results in over-representation for the relevant constituency.
- 2.7. This was the case in 2007 when the LGC instituted the aforementioned changes to the Porirua constituency.
- 2.8. However, due to GWRC's decision to include a Māori Ward for the 2025 election (a decision which I support), it means that without other changes to boundaries or the number of councillors in other constituencies, GWRC would exceed its 14 member cap under Section 19D of the Local Electoral Act if it tried to add an additional member to Kāpiti.
- 2.9. GWRC's resolution at its meeting on 27 August 2024 was to adopt an initial proposal that maintained the existing status quo of general constituencies and 13 members, and included an invitation for GWRC's Chair to write to the Minister of Local Government to request "consideration of a law change to allow for two Wairarapa General Constituency seats".
- 2.10. It should be noted that the Kāpiti Coast's under-representation at +37.4% is more than double that of Wairarapa's at +18.3%.
- 2.11. While Wairarapa has three territorial authorities for its single councillor to deal with, I note that from my own time on KCDC, the level of engagement our GWRC councillor felt they needed to have with KCDC would indicate that two additional territorial authorities wouldn't likely result in particularly more workload for them.
- 2.12. In terms of precedent, the LGC – [when making its determination on KCDC's 2022 representation review](#) – decided that a near two decade under-representation of KCDC's Waikanae Ward via a single councillor (which by then was forecast to reach +24.79%) could no longer be tolerated as being considered fair representation.
- 2.13. As such, the LGC determined that Waikanae was to have two councillors which – along with some other minor boundary changes, the additional of an additional ward councillor to the Paraparaumu Ward, and reducing the number of districtwide councillors by two – meant Waikanae's deviation was -5.52% over-represented, and all wards fell within the +/-10% rule.
- 2.14. In making their determination, and considering the rapid growth in the Waikanae Ward that was forecast by KCDC, the LGC specifically stated that "we do not believe it is reasonable to continue endorsing a non-compliance of this size".
- 2.15. GWRC should note that given the LGC could not endorsing the worsening non-compliance for Waikanae Ward, as the Kāpiti Coast's own non-compliance in GWRC's initial proposal is more than 50% higher the Waikanae situation, GWRC cannot reasonably claim that the non-compliance is acceptable any longer.

2.16. Given the above, it is clear that GWRC’s initial proposal which perpetuates the historic under-representation for the Kāpiti Coast can no longer be considered tolerable in adhering to the fair representation requirements of the Local Electoral Act, as such GWRC must put forward a different option.

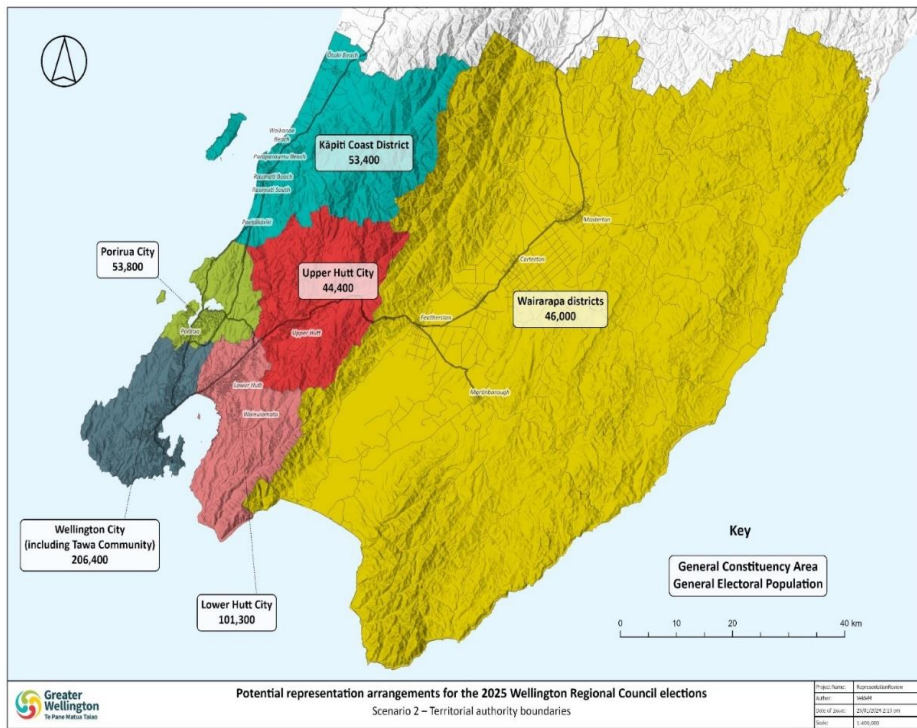
3. *A fairer alternative*

3.1. [GWRC’s agenda paper for its 27 August 2024 meeting](#) where it decided on its initial proposal included several alternative scenarios which provide for a far fairer balance of representation across the region.

3.2. Of these alternatives, Scenario 2 – which would switch Tawa back to Wellington City in order to align with territorial authority boundaries, presented an option with 10 constituency councillors that would have resulted in all but one constituency meeting the +/-10% rule, with that constituency – Upper Hutt – being over-represented at -12.1%.

3.3. Importantly, the subscript of the table considering options for 10, 11, and 12 councillors under the Scenario 2 boundaries stated that “Under this scenario, the option of a Council with 10 general constituency Councillors best complies with the “+/- 10 percent rule”, and more closely complies than the most compliant option under Scenario 1”.

3.4. Scenario 2 map:



Attachment 1 to Report 24.472

3.5. Scenario 2 with 10, 11, or 12 constituency councillors:

Attachment 4 to Report 24.129

B Scenario 2, with 10, 11, or 12 general constituency Councillors elected

General Constituency Area	10 Councillors		11 Councillors		12 Councillors	
	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (50,530)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (45,936)	Number of general constituency Councillors per general constituency area	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (42,108)
Kāpiti Coast District	1	+5.7	1	+16.2	1	+26.8
Porirua City	1	+6.5	1	+17.1	1	27.8
Wellington City (including Tawa Community)	4	+2.1	5	-10.1	5	-2.0
Lower Hutt City	2	+0.2	2	+10.3	3	-19.8
Upper Hutt City		-12.1	1	-3.3	1	+5.4
Wairarapa districts	1	-9.0	1	+0.1	1	+9.2

Under this scenario, the option of a Council with 10 general constituency Councillors best complies with the "+/-10 percent rule", and more closely complies than the most compliant option under Scenario 1.

- 3.6. While other scenarios in the paper (Scenario 3 with 10 councillors, Scenario 5 with 10 councillors, Scenario 7 with 10 councillors) may result in slightly less deviation across the constituencies, these other scenarios do not adequately allow for communities of interest – as expressed via territorial authority boundaries – to get representation, and the LGC previously determined in 2007 that such an approach in merging constituencies was unacceptable.
- 3.7. GWRC should also note there is precedent within its region for significantly amending its initial proposal, as KCDC went through in its representation review for the 2022 election.
- 3.8. In this case, KCDC had initially consulted on a proposal that would have seen its four wards redrawn into three larger wards – Kapiti ki te Raki/Northern, Kapiti ki Waenga/Central, and Kapiti ki te Tonga/Southern, and the abolition of community boards (which I voted against).
- 3.9. However, following the consultation, a final proposal was adopted that reflected the status quo in terms of wards and districtwide councillors (which I voted against), and retaining the existing community boards while also establishing an additional Raumati Community Board (which I voted for).
- 3.10. As KCDC's final proposal was non-compliant with the +/-10% rule, it would have gone to the LGC anyway for determination, but due to the ongoing and worsening under-representation of Waikanae, it also attracted a number of appeals, which eventually led to the LGC determining in favour of rectifying Waikanae's under-representation.
- 3.11. While the LGC has previously felt that 13 councillors is an appropriate number for GWRC, it has also indicated on previous occasions that the under-representation for the Kāpiti Coast would need to be addressed as the constituency grew and the under-representation worsened.

- 3.12. However, now that GWRC cannot address Kāpiti's under-representation relative to the rest of the region by adding an additional councillor (as per Porirua-Tawa previously via the LGC) seeing as it would breach its 14 member limit, the only reasonable step is to then rebalance representation across the region to ensure there is a fair balance between constituencies while still maintaining the required representation of communities of interest.
 - 3.13. Likewise, changes in the way local government meets since the last determination, including a far greater use and acceptance of remote attendance for formal meetings and the like, means that a slightly reduced number of councillors would still be able to adequately meet the requirements of their roles.
 - 3.14. A total of 11 councillors (the 10 constituency councillors under Scenario 2 and the Māori Ward councillor) would also still be adequate to allow GWRC's governing body and its various committees to function, especially as the existing governing pool would be re-distributed amongst a smaller number of councillors, resulting in an overall lift in remuneration that should assist in allowing elected members to dedicate more time to their roles to meet their workload.
4. *Recommendations*
- 4.1. GWRC should amend its initial proposal to be Scenario 2 with 10 councillors on the basis that:
 - 4.1.1. it provides a fairer balance of representation between the constituencies across the region than the initial proposal and most other scenarios considered
 - 4.1.2. its only incidence of non-compliance is in the Upper Hutt constituency, which would have a slight over-representation above the +/-10% rule, which is far better than the status quo which has three constituencies under-represented above the +/-10% rule, with Kāpiti Coast being an intolerable +37.4%
 - 4.1.3. it better aligns with communities of interest as expressed via the existing territorial authority boundaries by shifting Tawa back into Wellington City where it currently sits with Wellington City Council
 - 4.1.4. it also better reflects the changing growth patterns and distribution of population within the region, which has seen Wellington City's population growth nearly flat, while the other territorial authorities have all grown by more than 10% since 2017, with the exception of Lower Hutt at 8.9%.
 - 4.1.5. if GWRC has felt in the past that one councillor for more than 50,000 residents on the Kāpiti Coast is acceptable for representing their needs, then this same representative to population ratio should also be adequate for other constituencies in the region too

Attachment 1 to Report 24.472

- 4.1.6. should GWRC decide that reducing the number of constituency councillors to 10 is too low, then they should consider removing a councillor from another councillor and increasing the Kāpiti Coast District's representation by one.
- 4.1.7. Lower Hutt, as the most over-represented constituency on the council, or Wellington City, due to its proximity to GWRC's offices and stagnating population growth, would be the likely constituencies to lose a councillor in this scenario.
- 4.1.8. After all, if such horrendous under-representation for the Kāpiti Coast has been tolerable for two decades, surely it would only be fair that Kāpiti gets a period of over-representation and another – currently over-represented – constituency can experience what Kāpiti has for 20 years.

Submission on initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections

I do not believe that the current proposal provides fair and effective representation arrangements for the 2025 triennial local elections.

I believe that the Kāpiti Coast General Constituency is significantly disadvantaged by this proposal, at 37.4% above the regional average population per elected member. This is well outside the recommended +/- 10% that is being aimed for.

Indeed, Kāpiti is so far outside the norm, that you could reduce the number of Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency councillors from 5 to 4, and/or the number of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency councillors from 3 to 2, and both constituencies would still be better represented than the Kāpiti Coast General Constituency is.

Instead, I propose that Council use the 10-member option contained within the Officers' report. This has the advantage of being the most fair of all options presented, as well as the side-benefit of resulting in a net increase in remuneration for elected members, which over time will make being a Councillor a more accessible and appealing role, ensuring that high-calibre candidates can continue to put themselves forward for election.

If Councillors do not agree to the 10-member option, then I urge them instead to remove one councillor from either the Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency or the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency and add one councillor to the Kāpiti Coast General Constituency.

The Kāpiti Coast General Constituency has spent a significant number of years as the most underrepresented constituency on GWRC, and if councillors are unwilling to decide to choose a more evenly balanced (though smaller) council, then another constituency should instead take a turn at being underrepresented.

The difficulty created by underrepresentation will be significantly lessened for a constituency that is reduced to 4 councillors than for one that is reduced to 1, as there are still a number of points of view that can be represented and advocated for in council decision making.

I do not wish to speak before the Representation Review Committee on this issue. I do wish for my personal contact details to be removed from any publicly available copy of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Asher Wilson-Goldman

Submitters' proposed amendments with officers' comments

Submitter(s)	Proposed amendments to the initial representation proposal	Officers' comments
Gwynn Compton Asher Wilson-Goldman	<p>1 A different proposal</p> <p>Council of 11 members in total, with 10 general constituency members elected from six general constituencies whose boundaries align with the current territorial authority boundaries¹.</p>	<p>This alternative proposal achieves fair representation for electors through compliance with the '+/-10 percent rule', except for the general constituency area covering Upper Hutt City (12.1 percent over-representation) – see alternative proposal 1 in Attachment 3.</p> <p>The general constituency areas covering Porirua City (without the addition of the area of the Tawa Community), Wellington City (including Tawa Community), and Lower Hutt City would each have one fewer member than stated in Council's initial representation proposal.</p> <p>It is appropriate for the Committee to consider whether this proposal provides for overall Council membership and constituency representation that enables effective representation for communities of interest in the regional context. Relevant matters to consider include the²:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic size and diversity of the Wellington Region with its urban and rural areas • Diversity of Council's statutory functions • Need for efficient and effective governance of the Wellington Region • Enabling of community access to members and vice versa. <p>If the Committee supports this proposal, it will need to consider the names for the six general constituencies.</p>

¹ This is the 10-member general constituency option of Scenario 2 outlined in Report 24.129 – Initial representation proposal for the 2025 triennial local elections – to Council's meeting of 27 August 2024.

² Refer sections 2.18, 2.19 and 5.19 of the Local Government Commission's [Guidelines for local authorities undertaking representation reviews](#) (9th edition, July 2023).

<p>Gwynn Compton Asher Wilson-Goldman</p>	<p>2 Amendment to Council's initial representation proposal</p> <p>Increase the membership of the Kāpiti Coast General Constituency to two members by <u>either</u> reducing the membership of the:</p> <p>A. Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency from five to four members; <u>or</u></p> <p>B. Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency from three to two members.</p>	<p>Under either variant of this alternative proposal, the representation of the Kāpiti Coast General Constituency would change from the 37.4 percent under-representation (in Council's initial representation proposal) to 31.3 percent over-representation - see alternative proposals 2A and 2B in Attachment 3.</p> <p>The effect of these variants on representation for the:</p> <p>A. Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency is a change from 1.2 percent over-representation to 23.6 percent under-representation.</p> <p>B. Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency is a change from 13.1 percent over-representation to 30.3 percent under-representation.</p> <p>The proposed changes in representation for the three affected general constituencies are set out in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1062 667 1866 1037"> <thead> <tr> <th>General constituency</th> <th>Council's proposal</th> <th>Alternative proposal A</th> <th>Alternative proposal B</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kāpiti Coast General Constituency</td> <td>One member 37.4% under-representation</td> <td>Two members 31.3% over-representation</td> <td>Two members 31.3% over-representation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency</td> <td>Five members 1.2% over-representation</td> <td>Four members 23.6% under-representation</td> <td>Five members 1.2% over-representation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency</td> <td>Three members 13.1% over-representation</td> <td>Three members 13.1% over-representation</td> <td>Two members 30.3% under-representation</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is appropriate for the Committee to consider whether either of these variants of this alternative proposal provides effective representation for communities of interest in the regional context and fair representation for electors in comparison with Council's initial representation proposal.</p>	General constituency	Council's proposal	Alternative proposal A	Alternative proposal B	Kāpiti Coast General Constituency	One member 37.4% under-representation	Two members 31.3% over-representation	Two members 31.3% over-representation	Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency	Five members 1.2% over-representation	Four members 23.6% under-representation	Five members 1.2% over-representation	Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency	Three members 13.1% over-representation	Three members 13.1% over-representation	Two members 30.3% under-representation
General constituency	Council's proposal	Alternative proposal A	Alternative proposal B															
Kāpiti Coast General Constituency	One member 37.4% under-representation	Two members 31.3% over-representation	Two members 31.3% over-representation															
Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency	Five members 1.2% over-representation	Four members 23.6% under-representation	Five members 1.2% over-representation															
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency	Three members 13.1% over-representation	Three members 13.1% over-representation	Two members 30.3% under-representation															

Outline of Council's initial representation proposal and submitters' alternative representation proposals***Council's initial representation proposal***

14 members, with one member elected from a single Māori constituency and 13 members elected from six general constituencies:

Māori Constituency name	Māori Constituency area	Māori Electoral Population	Number of Māori constituency Councillors per constituency
Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency	The area of the Wellington Region	45,000	1

General Constituency name	General Constituency area	General Electoral Population	Percentage of Wellington Region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per constituency	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (38,869)	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor
Kāpiti Coast General Constituency	Kāpiti Coast District	53,400	10.6	1	53,400	+14,531	+37.4
Porirua-Tawa General Constituency	Porirua City + Tawa Community	68,100	13.5	2	34,050	-4,819	-12.4
Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency	Wellington City (excluding Tawa Community)	192,100	38.0	5	38,420	-449	-1.2
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency	Lower Hutt City	101,300	20.0	3	33,767	-5,102	-13.1
Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt General Constituency	Upper Hutt City	44,400	8.8	1	44,400	+5,531	+14.2
Wairarapa General Constituency	Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	+7,131	+18.3
	TOTAL	505,300	100.0	13			

Submitters' alternative proposals**1 11 members, with one member elected from a single Māori constituency and 10 members elected from six general constituencies**

This is Scenario 2 of officers' report to Council, with the option of 10 general constituency members (Report 24.129, 27 August 2024):

Māori Constituency name	Māori Constituency area	Māori Electoral Population	Number of Māori constituency Councillors per constituency
Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency	The area of the Wellington Region	45,000	1

General Constituency area ¹	General Electoral Population	Percentage of Wellington Region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per constituency	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (50,530)	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor
Kāpiti Coast District	53,400	10.6	1	53,400	+2,870	+5.7
Porirua City	53,800	10.6	1	53,800	+3,270	+6.5
Wellington City (including Tawa Community)	206,400	40.8	4	51,600	+1,070	+2.1
Lower Hutt City	101,300	20.0	2	50,650	+120	+0.2
Upper Hutt City	44,400	8.8	1	44,400	-6,130	-12.1
Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	-4,530	-9.0
TOTAL	505,300	100.0	10			

¹ Submitters did not suggest names for these general constituency areas.

2A Amending Council's proposal by reducing one member from the Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency and adding one member to the Kāpiti Coast General Constituency

14 members, with one member elected from a single Māori constituency and 13 members elected from six general constituencies:

Māori Constituency name	Māori Constituency area	Māori Electoral Population	Number of Māori constituency Councillors per constituency
Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency	The area of the Wellington Region	45,000	1

General Constituency name	General Constituency area	General Electoral Population	Percentage of Wellington Region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per constituency	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (38,869)	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor
Kāpiti Coast General Constituency	Kāpiti Coast District	53,400	10.6	2	26,700	-12,169	-31.3
Porirua-Tawa General Constituency	Porirua City + Tawa Community	68,100	13.5	2	34,050	-4,819	-12.4
Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency	Wellington City (excluding Tawa Community)	192,100	38.0	4	48,025	+9,156	+23.6
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency	Lower Hutt City	101,300	20.0	3	33,767	-5,102	-13.1
Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt General Constituency	Upper Hutt City	44,400	8.8	1	44,400	+5,531	+14.2
Wairarapa General Constituency	Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	+7,131	+18.3
	TOTAL	505,300	100.0	13			

2B Amending Council's proposal by reducing one member from the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency and adding one member to the Kāpiti Coast General Constituency

14 members, with one member elected from a single Māori constituency and 13 members elected from six general constituencies:

Māori Constituency name	Māori Constituency area	Māori Electoral Population	Number of Māori constituency Councillors per constituency
Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Māori Constituency	The area of the Wellington Region	45,000	1

General Constituency name	General Constituency area	General Electoral Population	Percentage of Wellington Region's General Electoral Population	Number of general constituency Councillors per constituency	Population per general constituency Councillor	Deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor (38,869)	Percentage deviation from regional average population per general constituency Councillor
Kāpiti Coast General Constituency	Kāpiti Coast District	53,400	10.6	2	26,700	-12,169	-31.3
Porirua-Tawa General Constituency	Porirua City + Tawa Community	68,100	13.5	2	34,050	-4,819	-12.4
Pōneke/Wellington General Constituency	Wellington City (excluding Tawa Community)	192,100	38.0	5	38,420	-449	-1.2
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt General Constituency	Lower Hutt City	101,300	20.0	2	50,650	+11,781	+30.3
Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt General Constituency	Upper Hutt City	44,400	8.8	1	44,400	+5,531	+14.2
Wairarapa General Constituency	Wairarapa districts	46,000	9.1	1	46,000	+7,131	+18.3
	TOTAL	505,300	100.0	13			