

## Attachment 2-

Online & Written Submissions - Presenting at the Hearing

## Submissions to be heard

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1 October 2021

Mayor Chadwick and Councillors  
Rotorua Lakes Council  
Private Bag 3029  
Rotorua Mail Centre  
Rotorua 3046

Tena koutou katoa

**Bay of Plenty Regional Council's submission on Rotorua Lakes Council's proposed representation structure**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on your proposed representation structure.

While Toi Moana strongly **support** the implementation of a Māori Ward as part of the representation structure of Rotorua Lakes Council, we **do not support** the initial proposal comprising of four representatives elected under the General Ward; four representatives elected "at large" and two representatives elected under the Māori Ward.

We believe the intent to establish a Māori Ward is to substantively represent the importance of the Māori voice and distinct perspective in local government decision making.

We note from our own experience the importance and value of tangata whenua as decision makers in representing Māori issues, and providing an understanding of the wider issues with real implications for the Māori community that is uniquely engaging of and with Māori communities.

While the framework identified in your proposal document seeks to achieve equity among the voting members of your community, it also recognises that Māori comprise 40% of Rotorua's total population. We believe establishing three dedicated representative seats for Māori at the Council decision making table, guarantees stronger representation for Māori.

As signalled in the Future for Local Government Review Terms of Reference, the current government's direction is seeking a system of local government that actively embodies the Treaty partnership, through the role and representation of iwi/Māori in participative decision-making.

On this basis, and in discussion with representatives of Te Tatau o Te Arawa, we respectfully submit that Rotorua Lakes Council reconsider the initial proposal and **increase the number of Māori Ward representatives from two to three Councillors** by either reducing the number of representatives elected from the General Ward or reducing the number of those elected "at large." We believe this will result in fairer representation across the Māori community.

Finally, we congratulate Rotorua Lakes Council on continuing to progress the establishment of a Māori Ward, and recognising the value this brings for both your district and our region.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council – Toi Moana **wish to speak** to our submission.

Heoi ano, na



Doug Leeder  
Chairman

## **SUBMISSION TO ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATION REVIEW**

### **BY ROTORUA DISTRICT RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS**

Via [LetsTalk@rotorualc.nz](mailto:LetsTalk@rotorualc.nz) 2 October 2021

Faye Jensen, RDRR Secretary,

#### **Mandate**

Rotorua District Residents and Ratepayers (RDRR) was launched on 25 September 2015, replacing its predecessor, the Rotorua Pro-Democracy Society, with a wider mandate. The RDRR is an interest group that speaks for residents and ratepayers in the local government of Rotorua.

#### **Method**

This submission was initially compiled from feedback solicited and subsequently refined by email and by comments at the RDRR Facebook page. It therefore represents the views of 1,125 current members and associates and the opinions of many thousands of Facebook followers.

#### **Overview**

We oppose the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the next local election, that is, Option 3, on four main grounds:

1. Option 3 is not democratic because it is not based on 'one person, one vote, one power' or equal representation from actual electoral populations of real people.
2. Option 3 is not democratic because it uses a fictional ward with 'At Large' seats to double the voting power of those on the Māori Roll while adding 14% to the voting power of those on the General Roll.
3. Option 3 violates the "same rights and responsibilities of citizenship" guaranteed to "all of the ordinary people" by Hugh Kawharu's translation of Article 3 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

4. Option 3 breaches the principle of equal suffrage guaranteed by New Zealand's Bill of Rights. It is technically an attempted gerrymander because it proposes to manipulate representation structures to advantage a selected electoral population.

RDRR members urge Council to default to Option 1 because it is simple, straight forward and obviously democratic. It would honour the same democratic rights of all real citizens listed in the Māori and General wards.

### **Electoral Populations**

The Māori Electoral Population (MEP) for the Rotorua District is 19,791. The voters in Rotorua's MEP are 28% of the total electoral population and are democratically entitled to have three votes (30%) to elect three councillors out of ten on Council.

Rotorua's General Electoral Population (GEP) is 51,618. The voters on the GEP are 72% of the total electoral population and are democratically entitled to have seven votes (70%) to elect seven out of ten councillors to Council.

### **Equal Suffrage**

Democratic rights guaranteed by s12 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights include equal suffrage, definable as 'one person, one vote, one value'. Each person is promised the right to vote and that each vote cast will have the same voting power or value. The number of the votes each voter will get will depend on the number of councillors to be elected from the ward they are members of.

An example illustrates the democratic principle of equal suffrage applied to real wards.

The Bay of Plenty Region has seven districts (Kawerau, Ōpōtiki, Rotorua, Tauranga City, Western Bay, Whakatāne, and part of Taupō). The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has 14 councillors. Voters on the General Roll elect 11 of these councillors from four wards – Tauranga City (five councillors), Rotorua, Western Bay and Whakatāne (two each). Voters on the Māori Roll elect one councillor each from the three Māori Wards – Kōhi, Mauao and Ōkurei.

The number of councillors elected from each ward varies to take account of electoral populations. There is less than plus or minus 10% variance in the number of eligible voters that elect each councillor.

This representation structure is regarded as democratic and fair.

## **Te Tatau o Te Arawa's Preferred Option 2**

Te Tatau prefers Option 2 which, at its heart, offers a Māori Ward with 3 seats because it would reflect the size of the Māori Electoral Population. That is a democratic preference and should be honoured.

However, Te Tatau also supports one seat being taken from the General Ward and converted into an "at large" seat that everyone on the Māori and General rolls can vote for. Those on the General roll would stay with having 7 votes while those on the Māori Roll would advance from having 3 to having 4 votes, an increase of 33.3% in voting power.

This would undermine equal suffrage and create an undemocratic advantage. Option 2 is unacceptable to RDRR's members.

## **Option 3**

Option 3 is the initial, current, and sole preference of a 7: 4 majority of elected members on Council. It has been widely promoted under the guise of consultations, to boost support. RDRR is dismayed by the explicit degree of predetermination and the politicisation of officials involved.

Option 3 was created by taking 1 seat from the Māori ward and 3 seats from the General ward to create 4 "At Large" seats that everyone on the Māori and General rolls can vote for. It is a contrived equivalent to a ward. The purpose of manufacturing the 'At Large' ward is most evident in the measurable differences to voting power that will accrue to the real voters on the Māori and General wards.

Compared to Option 1, those on the General Roll would advance from having 7 votes to 8, an increase of 14% in voting power. Those on the Māori Roll would advance from having 3 votes to having 6 votes, doubling their voting power. This would undermine equal suffrage. Option 3 is even less democratic than Option 2 and is even less acceptable.

## **The Flaws in Options 2 and 3**

There are three major problems with Options 2 and 3. First, they both set aside equal suffrage to propose unfair representation based on an invented ward with "At Large" seats to favour those on the Māori Roll.

Second, seven incumbents on Council apparently consider that these two options are justified by the Treaty of Waitangi which they believe guarantees partnership with the

Crown and 50/ 50 co-governance. Neither guarantee is evident is any version of Te Tiriti. Four other elected members probably do not share their belief, as might be expected by the majority of the 72% on the General Roll.

The third problem with Options 2 and 3 is that candidates can select voters by nominating the ward (Māori, General or “At Large”) they want to stand in, rather than having voters select representatives. It would be like an election in reverse. Voters usually get to pick their representatives. By adding the imaginary “At Large” ward, local politicians will get to pick voters to their own advantage.

### **Gerrymandering**

The most serious problems with gerrymandering are that it corrupts democratic processes and further alienates voters. The more complex the options, the more cynical and alienated voters will become. An even lower turnout will favour populist politics intended to divide the electoral population to reinforce factional power bases.

Another problem with gerrymandering is that marginalized groups will continue to be ignored, further undermining the legitimacy of local government. One example, highlighted by recent demonstrations, is that farmers do not have representation on Council, regard the Rural Community Board as largely controlled, and struggle to have their voices heard.

### **Summary and Implications**

RDRR is the legitimate voice of a significant number of residents and ratepayers.

Members used democratic values, such as equal suffrage, and founding values embedded in Te Tiriti, to reject Options 2 and 3.

It appears that Option 3 was predetermined. This possibility was reinforced when it became the sole option actively promoted by officials under the pretense of being public consultations.

Options 2 and 3 are similarly objectionable because they use a complicated gerrymander to propose increasing the voting power of those on the Māori Roll. Residents and ratepayers ask all elected members to default to Option 1.

RDRR would be dismayed if further scarce public resources were used to defend Council’s final decision if it violates democratic and Tiriti principles.

Finally, given the degree of disquiet at Council indicated by the 7: 4 votes, there is considerable potential damage to Council’s credibility if the final resolution does not attract a stronger consensus reflecting the voice of the citizens.

### **Concluding Note**

RDRR has nominated Mr Denys Caves to lead a small delegation and to speak on members’ behalf at the Public Hearings on 19 October. He may be contacted at .... or at ....



Rotorua Lakes Council  
Civic Centre  
1061 Haupapa St  
Rotorua

7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### **Rotorua Lakes Council Representation Review**

The Reporoa Residents and Ratepayers Association wish to thank Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) for providing the opportunity to submit on the 2021 Representation Review and we make the following comments for your consideration for the model for the 2022 elections:

RLC advises that the current number of councillors provides effective representation of communities of interest, and that the mixed model arrangement is required to establish a degree of equity with regards to the total number of votes individuals can make depending on which electoral role they are on.

Reporoa Residents & Ratepayers Association (RRRA) does not accept that this model offers fair and equitable representation for the rural community at the decision-making table. Although members of the Rural Community Board provide a rural point of view in important Council committees this is not where final decisions are made, which is one reason why the Maori Ward was established. So, we feel that the same opportunity should be provided for Rotorua ratepayers who live rurally.

Reporoa Residents & Ratepayers supports a mixed model approach however considers the following changes are needed to improve representation of rural communities:

- Māori Ward (2 Councillors)
- Rural Ward (1 Councillor)
- General Ward (3 Councillors)
- At large (4 Councillors)
- Rotorua Lakes Community Board and Rural Community Board

A rural ward could be established based on being a community of interest and would include those living in the lakes and rural communities. Combining these two communities into one would go some way to meet the 10% rule for fair representation. The proposal also includes the retention of both the Lakes and Rural Community Boards, but their role would be more as a support mechanism for the rural candidate and their separate communities.

We thank you for taking the time to consider our submission and we would like then opportunity to speak at the Council in person at a hearing.

Yours sincerely

Karen Barker  
Secretary Reporoa Residents & Ratepayers Association



## INTRODUCTION

1. We appreciate the opportunity to submit on Council's Initial Proposal for the 2022 Representation Review – Te Taura Hou Kia Whakatakoto.
2. Te Tatau o Te Arawa (Te Tatau) is lodging this submission on behalf of the hundreds of Te Arawa uri and those enrolled on the Māori roll who provided feedback directly to Te Tatau during our own engagement process on Māori wards and the Representation Review as well as the many Te Arawa uri represented by the Te Arawa mandated entities (including hapū and iwi trusts, land trusts, incorporations and pan-iwi rōpū) that endorse this submission.
3. Te Arawa mandated entities in support of this submission include:

▲ Te Pūkenga Koeke o Te Arawa

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▲ Te Arawa Lakes Trust

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▲ Te Kotahitanga o Te Arawa Waka Fisheries Trust

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▲ Te Arawa Federation of Māori Authorities – representing a cross section of Te Arawa business and commercial entities

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▲ Arataua – Te Arawa Primary Sector Group – representing over 40 Te Arawa land trusts and incorporations (members and affiliates)

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▲ Pūkenga Koeke o Ngāti Pīkiao

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▲ Te Huinga Koeke o Whakapoungākau – representing Ngāti Uenukukōpako, Ngāti Tūteniu and Ngāti Te Roro-o-te-rangi koeke

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▲ Te Paetapu o Ngāti Whakaue

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▲ Te Whare Kōrero o Tūhourangi

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▲ Ngāti Mākinu Iwi Authority

---

▲ Tūhourangi Tribal Authority

---

▲ Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rangiteaorere

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▲ Ngāti Hurungaterangi Marae Trust

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▲ Rotoiti 15 Trust

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▲ Pukeroa Ōruawhata Trust

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▲ Rotomā No. 1 Incorporation

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▲ Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands

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- ▲ Pukahukiwi Kaokaoroa No 2 Block Incorporation

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  - ▲ Kaokaoroa 3B6 Trust

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  - ▲ Te Taumata o Ngāti Whakaue Iho Ake

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  - ▲ Ngāti Whakaue Education Endowment Trust

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  - ▲ Whakarewarewa Village Development Trust

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4. As such, we consider this submission to be one made on behalf of Te Arawa whānui i te rohe o Rotorua (Te Arawa whānui).
  5. This submission is also made in alignment with the Te Arawa 2050 Vision, in particular the Te Arawa Rangatiratanga | Leadership and Influence whāinga tawhiti of:
    - ▲ Our future has the best leaders making and effectively implementing the best decisions about our resources to continuously achieve the best outcomes for our people. We lead, create and shape kōrero, partnerships and opportunities that bring about positive change on kaupapa that affect us.
  6. Below we set out the Te Arawa whānui response to the proposed new model.
  7. We wish to speak to our Submission.

## TE TAUIRA HOU KIA WHAKATAKOTO - THE PROPOSED NEW MODEL

8. Te Arawa whānui do not support Council's proposed new model of 4 General Ward councillors elected by ward, 4 "at large" councillors elected across the district and 2 Māori Ward councillors elected by one district-wide ward, plus the Mayor elected at large.
9. Te Tatau o Te Arawa undertook its own engagement process on the same three shortlisted models Council canvassed prior to reaching its proposed model.
10. Council's proposed new model was the least supported of the three.
11. While the proposed new model did score second in Te Tatau's online survey at 13.7%, overwhelmingly, feedback directly received from Te Arawa uri and those enrolled on the Māori electoral roll during Te Tatau's engagement on Māori Wards and the Representation Review did not show support for any model that reduces the number of Māori ward councillors around the Council table.
12. The greatest concern is that the proposed new model limits Māori Ward seats to two when the 28% population on the Māori electoral roll should provide for three dedicated Māori Ward seats on council.
13. We acknowledge that Council has tried to design a model that "aims to restore equity" for those enrolled on the Māori Electoral Roll following the Council's 21 May 2021 decision to introduce Māori Wards.
14. It seems then, that through Council's lens, 'equity restoration' is made by maximising the number of votes possible that can be cast by those enrolled on the Māori roll at election time – across both Māori Ward seats and At Large seats.

15. However, the Te Arawa whānui lens (informed by feedback, a survey and polls open to all those in the rohe enrolled on the Māori roll), has maximising the number of Māori ward seats around the Council table as the best means of achieving ‘equity restoration’ for those on the Māori roll.
16. We would suggest to Council that the lens of those for whom ‘equity restoration’ is being sought, should be the guiding perspective when making decisions on matters of this nature.

## TE ARAWA WHĀNUI PREFERRED MODEL

17. The Te Arawa whānui preferred model is of 6 General Ward councillors elected by ward, 1 “at large” councillor elected across the district and 3 Māori Ward councillors elected by one district-wide ward, plus the Mayor elected at large.
18. From the online survey alone, 77.4% of participants preferred this model. Additionally Te Arawa uri and those enrolled on the Māori electoral roll who directly provided their feedback supported this model above the other two.
19. Endorsement of this model has been received from a range of Te Arawa entities – pan-iwi, iwi, hapū and whenua Māori based.
20. The Te Arawa whānui preferred model is one of the three shortlisted models already canvassed with the public by Council, therefore there is already some community awareness of the model and Council will likely have already considered operational implications – thereby likely making it as easy as Council’s proposed model to implement.

## FALLBACK MODEL

21. If asked to provide a fallback model (i.e. an alternative model should the Te Arawa whānui preferred model not be adopted), we still could not support Council’s proposed option as it is the least supported by Te Arawa whānui (and those on the Māori roll who participated during our engagement process)
22. While the remaining shortlisted model - 7 General Ward councillors and 3 Māori Ward councillors plus Mayor, scored lowest in our online survey at only 8.9%, with the addition of direct feedback from Te Arawa whānui, our results clearly show that a minimum of 3 Māori ward councillors is preferred.
23. We would therefore instead recommend as a fallback, that Council is reduced from 10 councillors plus Mayor to 9 councillors plus Mayor. Councillors to then be made up of 6 General Ward councillors and 3 Māori Ward councillors. It is noted that this 6:3 model most closely resonates with the Governance proportions of the Fenton Agreement.
24. This fallback model would maximise the number of seats around the council table and their level of influence thus aligning with the Te Arawa whānui perspective on ‘equity restoration’ and with closely related feedback directly received from Te Arawa uri about the need for Council - in its governance structure, to better reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi (and He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirene) by recognising tino rangatiratanga of Māori.

25. As stated in the Report of Matike Mai Aotearoa,<sup>1</sup> there needs to be equal and equitable political relationships between Māori and the Crown. Indeed, it was accepted that without such relationships Te Tiriti could not be honoured and a stable and respectful way of governing according to Te Tiriti would be impossible to achieve. This equal and equitable political relationship is just as relevant at the local government level as it is at the Crown level.
26. While a 50/50 split of power would be preferred we recognise that such a change to local government arrangements is out of scope of this Representation Review and representation legislation under the Local Electoral Act.

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<sup>1</sup> The Independent working group on Constitutional Transformation



08 October 2021

The Chief Executive  
Rotorua Lakes Council  
ROTORUA

Delivered by email

## **YOUR CHOICE – REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2022**

1. The Ngāti Whakaue Economic Entities – Pukeroa Oruawhata Trust, Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands, Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Whakaue Assets Trust, and Ngāti Whakaue Education Endowment – wish to take up the opportunity to provide a submission on the Representation Review 2022 being undertaken by Rotorua Lakes Council. Ngāti Whakaue are Mana Whenua in our rohe and collectively represent the largest landholding and therefore ratepayer base in Rotorua.
2. We wish to present our submission at the hearing scheduled for 19 October 2021. We ask that virtual attendance is made available should COVID lockdown levels prevent any of our representatives from attending in person.
3. We note that Te Tatau o Te Arawa have provided a submission. The Ngāti Whakaue Economic Entities were asked to support that submission which we respectfully declined in order to provide our own separate submission.
4. For the purposes of providing a submission, Rotorua Lakes Council advises that the following needs to be considered:
  - a. How many councillors should the district have?
  - b. Should councillors be elected from across the whole district or split into wards?
  - c. If we have wards, how many councillors should we have per General and per Māori Ward?
  - d. Should Community Boards be introduced?
5. While not the immediate subject of the Representation Review 2022, we want to make it clear that Mana Whenua should have, and always should have had, equal status in all local authority governance decisions.
6. That means a 50:50 role on all governance decision making bodies in our rohe which is consistent with our rights under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and reflective and reciprocal in light of our generosity and trust set out in the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement. Outside of the Representation Review 2022 we would welcome a korero with Council on that.
7. Turning to the Representation Review 2022 itself we commend Council for taking the bold step of establishing a Māori Ward in May 2021 and note that this will not be revisited in this review.

- 8. We note that, with the confirmation of the establishment of a Māori Ward, this automatically creates a ward based model. In that regard, the answer to 4(b) above has been determined.**
9. Given that, it is important that our submission addresses our thoughts on the number of councillors, and that the number of councillors per ward is determined in an equitable way. Equity should take full account of both the articles and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and that a broad and generous approach to interpretation is required (refer recent Supreme Court Taranaki Ironsands case).
10. Equity for Ngāti Whakaue includes accounting for the spirit, intent and generosity of Ngāti Whakaue provided in the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement that permitted establishment of the Rotorua Township with the approval of Ngāti Whakaue.
11. The agreement was signed by the Crown and 47 persons of Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Rangiwewehi, and Ngāti Uenukukōpako on 25 November 1880 (Manley, B), and specifically a Mana Whenua representative model ensued. Mana Whenua is a tikanga-based customary right and interest – and tikanga as law has to be taken into account in decision-making where recognition and application is appropriate. As it was when we, in partnership with the Crown, established the township and activated the establishment of the district – Mana Whenua remains appropriate and relevant to district representation and this Representation Review 2022. It is against this background that we expect our voice and view herein to carry weight and influence
12. We note that Rotorua Lakes Council’s preferred model is as follows:
- a. 1 Mayor elected at large
  - b. 1 Māori Ward with 2 seats
  - c. 1 General Ward with 4 seats
  - d. 10 councillors in total
  - e. 4 “at large” seats
- 13. We agree with the Mayor being elected at large.**
14. We note that the Māori Ward proposed will be named Te Ipu Wai Taketake referring to a collection of waters that is originally sourced from the area, while the General Ward proposed will be named Te Ipu Wai Auraki referring to a collection of water that has travelled from different areas. We commend the Council for using a Māori narrative to describe the wards.
15. It is important that the names are engaged in the overarching kaupapa of the review to give them purpose. The meanings behind these names as stated are significant in that they represent a bringing together of two collections of waters on equal terms – one collection originally in Rotorua, one collection from outside. In our view, reflecting that equality would suggest each Ward having an equal number of seats.
- 16. In that regard, it is our proposal that the 1 Māori Ward and the 1 General Ward have the same number of seats.** We understand that the number of seats in the Māori Ward is determined by the Electoral Act 1993 so that would determine the number of General Ward seats also.
17. We therefore move onto the total number of councillors which will determine the number of at large councillors. **The Ngāti Whakaue Entities are agnostic on what the total number of councillors should be as long as the equality of seats between the Māori Ward and the General Ward is agreed to.**

18. We agree that with the election of a Lakes Community Board and a Rural Community Board both having a composition of 4 elected members and 1 appointed member (councillor).

**19. We propose that the collection of water narrative is also used for the Community Boards with 2 members elected to each Board by the Māori Ward electors, and two by the General Ward electors.**

20. We have included the kōrero on the Fenton Agreement by Ben Manley, Kairangahau of Rotorua Lakes Council and respected Ngāti Whakaue historian as an Appendix.

Malcolm Short  
Pukeroa Oruawhata  
Trust

David Thomas  
Ngāti Whakaue Tribal  
Lands Inc

Hemi Rolleston  
Ngāti Whakaue Assets  
Trust

Malcolm Short  
Ngāti Whakaue Education  
Endowment Trust



## **Appendix – Korero on the Fenton Agreement by Ben Manley to support our submission**

Chief Judge Francis Dart Fenton (or Penetana as he was known by Māori) of the Native Land Court is often credited with helping to establish Rotorua township. He originally discussed the proposal with local iwi in 1877 and, by direction of the Government, Fenton returned for detailed negotiations in 1880. From the Crown's point of view, there were two main objectives behind the establishment of a township at Rotorua: preserve access to the natural thermal wonders of the district and to halt problems and arguments regarding land.

The proposed township would also have the added benefit of opening up the area to further settlement and improving accommodation, supplies and transport to the burgeoning tourist trade. Up until this time, this was reliant upon a haphazard collection of European style hotels and shops that developed in and around the old Māori settlement of Ōhinemutu.

Negotiations were held with Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Rangiwewehi and Ngāti Uenukukopako. In late November 1880, the agreement was negotiated over a number of days, culminating in the signing of the agreement document at Ōhinemutu on 25 November 1880 between 47 persons of the three iwi and Chief Judge Fenton on behalf of the Crown. 'Fenton's Agreement' or 'the Fenton Agreement' is the popularised name given to the signed document.

For the Māori owners, it would see an increase in visitors into the area, and a major source of income, without the need of permanently selling land. As iwi refused to sell the land to the Crown, it was instead agreed that the Crown would lease lots in the township out to the public for 99 years on behalf of the owners. The agreement was split into 16 clauses which set out the area for the township, how ownership would be determined, reserves that were gifted by the owners to the Crown for both races, survey costs, rates and composition of the town board.

The Native Land Court awarded the majority of the town block, taking in the area between the Utuhina and Puarenga Streams from the lake front to Tihiotonga and called Pukeroa-Oruawhata, to Ngāti Whakaue with a section of the block called Tarewa being awarded to Ngāti Tuara and Ngāti Kearoa.

While the township scheme was widely publicised, and initially successful in attracting leasees, the delay in the establishment of the promised railway, a national economic downturn, the Tarawera eruption in 1886 and a string of defaulting leasees all contributed to an enormous loss in expected revenue.

Starting in 1889, the Crown sought to purchase shares from owners in the block. The alienation of the block from the last few owners, and vesting of the township block (Pukeroa-Oruawhata Block) in the Crown, was completed through the compulsorily acquirement of shares via the Thermal Springs Act of 1910. The Crown later sold these interests between 1930 and 1950, opening up the township lands to private ownership. Over the next few decades, Ngāti Whakaue sought answers from the Crown over the failure of the township scheme and care of the gifted reserves.<sup>[2]</sup>

We should never forget that the city's foundation was built upon a unique relationship between the Crown and local tāngata whenua; the good, the bad and the ugly. The Fenton Agreement should be remembered as being an integral part of our shared, communal history as a city, an example of great generosity by iwi and a forward thinking willingness to work together. Rotorua's 130 year anniversary passed quietly and largely unnoticed, with Rotorua perhaps still mourning the loss of local historian Don Stafford. Let us hope though that Rotorua 2030 will be a different story and that we will choose to remember, and celebrate loudly, our 150 years.

**Kairangahau, Rotorua Lakes Council**  
Ben Manley



**SUBMISSION TO ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL**

**REPRESENTATION REVIEW**

I SUPPORT the Council’s proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 election  
Because .....

I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council’s proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 election  
Because Option 3 is not democratic. It is a gerrymander – where representation structures have been manipulated to favour one group.

As an alternative I propose Option 1 because it is democratic. The Māori Ward and the General Ward are real wards with real electoral populations. The Māori Electoral Population (MEP) for the Rotorua District is 19,791. The voters in Rotorua’s MEP are 28% of the total electoral population and are democratically entitled to have three votes (30%) to elect three councillors out of ten on Council.

Rotorua’s General Electoral Population (GEP) is 51,618. The voters on the GEP are 72% of the total electoral population and are democratically entitled to have seven votes (70%) to elect seven out of ten councillors to Council.

Why is Option 1 democratic? Democratic rights are based on equal suffrage - one person, one vote, one value. Each person has the right to vote and every vote must have the same value. The number of the votes each voter gets depends on the number of councillors to be elected from the ward they belong to. Option 1 is simple, common sense and democratic.

Te Tatau prefers a Māori Ward with 3 seats because it would reflect the size of the Māori Electoral Population. That would be democratic.

However, Te Tatau also supports one seat being taken from the General ward and converted into an “at large” seat that everyone on the Māori and General rolls can vote for. Those on the General roll would stay with having 7 votes while those on the Māori roll would advance from having 3 to having 4 votes, an increase of 33.3% in voting power. This would undermine equal suffrage and create undemocratic voting. It is unacceptable.

Option 3 was created by taking 1 seat from the Māori ward and 3 seats from the General ward to create 4 “at large” seats that everyone on the Māori and General rolls can vote for.

Compared to Option 1, those on the General roll would advance from having 7 votes to 8, an increase of 14% in voting power. Those on the Māori roll would advance from 3 votes to having 6 votes, doubling their voting power. This would significantly undermine equal suffrage. Option 3 is even less democratic than Option 2. It is even less acceptable.

There are three major problems with Options 2 and 3. They both set aside equal suffrage to propose unfair representation based on a phony ward with “at large” seats to favour mana whenua. Seven incumbents on Council consider that these two options are justified by the Treaty of Waitangi which they believe guarantees partnership with the Crown and 50/ 50 co-governance.

The second problem with Options 2 and 3 is that candidates can select voters by selecting one ward (Māori, General or “At Large”) to stand in, rather than having voters selecting representatives from actual electoral populations. It would be like an election in reverse. Voters usually get to pick their representatives. By adding the fake “At Large” ward, local politicians will get to pick voters.

The most serious problem with gerrymandering is that it corrupts democratic processes. The more complex the options, the more cynical and alienated voters will become. An even lower turnout will favour factional activism. Another is that disaffected groups, like farmers, will continue to be ignored.

Finally, although New Zealand citizens are guaranteed democracy in law, adopting Option 3 or Option 2 will erode democratic rights for six years, at least. They are unacceptable.

Do wish to present your comments to the Council in person at a hearing?  Yes  No

I understand that hearings are scheduled for 19 October 2021 and that I will be notified of the time and place.

Add Name, Address, Contacts

Rob Duthie



**Respondent No:** 63

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 03, 2021 11:23:20 am

**Last Seen:** Oct 03, 2021 11:23:20 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Rob Duthie

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

keep it the same no more than 10 !!!

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

We are all the same don't split people up on race gender.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

Mix all together

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

Mix all together we are all the same!!! Kiwis, Maori,Pakeha etc!!

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

All at large

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Not sure

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

Everybody is the same, this splitting up will cost us more in rates etc. All one people

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te** Kao - No

**Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

Q14. **I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

### What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?

After careful consideration and thorough research, I believe the total number of councillors should be 13. This would reduce the councillor per head of population ratio from 1:7730 to 1:5946. Which significantly improves the ability for voters to engage with council whilst allowing for a wide range of skills and knowledge.

### What are your thoughts regarding the framework?

I believe the mixed model is the only way to incorporate the Māori wards as they are intended any other model will not have the ability to provide equal suffrage.

### What are your thoughts regarding the general ward?

I think it is disproportional to the number of councillors on the Māori ward ultimately there should be a ratio of voters to councillors which you must follow.

### What are your thoughts regarding the Māori ward?

I believe that it was unnecessary in Rotorua as Rotorua always had a high diversity in council, especially the current elected members. Nonetheless do not speak for Māori Te Tatau o Te Arawa decided on behalf of Māori that they do want Māori wards and you have voted in favor of establishing Māori wards. Therefore we Rotorua have Māori wards. It now simply adds an additional layer of complexity for calculating the number of councillors.

### What are your thoughts regarding the “At Large” component?

The at large component should be used to create equal suffrage.

### What are your thoughts regarding the “Community boards”?

In a properly functioning democracy, the community boards would be unnecessary.

## As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...

1 Māori Electoral Ward Consisting of 3 Seats

1 General Electoral Ward Consisting of 3 Seats

1 At Large Ward Consisting of 7 Seats

1 Mayor

Deputy Mayor being elected from the Councillor with the highest vote count.

## Sources stated at Verbal Hearing

### Rotorua Daily Post

Rotorua Lakes Council adopts Māori wards just before deadline

Deadline was 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021, Council decision was 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/rotorua-daily-post/news/rotorua-lakes-council-adopts-maori-wards-just-before-deadline/H5JNL6MAX4NOLEMP7IPVD3E4FM/>

### Rotorua Lakes Council

Elections 2019 - Ngā Pōti 2019

<https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/elections/elections-2019>

### Local Government Commission

Rotorua District Council Determination 2016 – Point 16 (8)

The at large system allows citizens to maximise their votes, provides an overview of the district's developmental issues and is considered to be the fairest way to represent a district with approximately 80% of its community located in the same geographical space

<http://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Rotorua-District-Council-2016.pdf>

### Rotorua Lakes Council Proposed Model for Representation 2022

Page 7 – Framework – Wards, “at large” or a mixed model arrangement

#### Why

The introduction of a mixed model aims to restore equity as best it can. Equity in this situation means an opportunity, for every individual in Rotorua, regardless of what electoral roll you are on, to have the same amount of votes

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/5a30b6a6-a693-4a4a-bf79-38062d2fc738>

### Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Ratified by New Zealand in 1978

#### Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

### International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Ratified by New Zealand in 1978

#### Article 25

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:

- a To take part in the conduct of public affairs directly or through freely chosen representatives;
- b To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;
- c To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>

#### Simpson Grierson

Moving forward on Māori wards - key features of the new Bill

<https://www.simpsongrierson.com/articles/2021/moving-forward-on-m%C4%81ori-wards>

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**From:** ngaire willemsen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 October 2021 10:22 am  
**To:** Lets Talk

- . The Number of Councillors – Stay at 10, no change justified.
2. The Framework Proposed by Council – The decision to introduce Māori Wards has been made. General and Maori Wards therefore must be accepted, even though they unwisely split Kiwis into two tribes. The At Large Ward has been invented to double the voting power of those on the Māori Roll and should not be used.
3. General Ward – There should be 7 seats in the General Ward to match the 72% on the General Electoral Roll because it would be democratic and fair.
4. Do you want to present at Council’s public hearings? (Your call, but hopefully yes.)
5. Alternative to the proposal by Council – Most want the simple and democratic 'Option 1' with 7 seats for the 72% voters on the General Roll, 3 seats for the 28% on the Māori Roll, and no change to the election of the Mayor and the Rural and Lakes community board members.
6. Māori Ward – There should be 3 seats in the Māori Ward to match the 28% on the Maori Electoral Roll because it would be democratic and fair with equal suffrage.
7. At Large – This is an invented ward with 4 seats that would boost the voting power of those on the General Roll by 14% while boosting the voting power of those on the Māori Roll by 100%. That would not be democratic or fair because it would violate the principle of equal suffrage. The At Large seats are unacceptable.
8. Community Boards – No change is justified to these two policy advisory boards of Council, the Rural Community Board and the Lakes Community Board.

# ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2021

## SUBMISSION BY KEITH GARRATT

### Introduction

This is my personal submission as an interested ratepayer. It is not on behalf of any organisation. It is based on an examination of the Council's proposal. I have also referred to the Local Electoral Act.

### The options

My first reaction on examining the Council's preferred option was that it would be confusing for voters and potential candidates. It also seemed to me that, compared with the simple 3/7 ward split without at large seats, Maori Ward voters would have one less guaranteed council seat, with no guarantee of influencing the result in the at large component.

However, on reflection I favour the Council's proposed option as being the most fair way of arranging representation within the limits resulting from the decision to create a Maori Ward.

A strong influence on my thinking is the requirement that voters currently on the Maori roll are legally required to vote in the Maori Ward. I imagine that many Maori voters made the decision to enroll on the Maori electoral roll for the different circumstances of the national parliamentary elections, where they are able to vote for a constituent member and cast a party vote for the Parliament at large. Under the 3/7 option, they would have no equivalent of the party vote to have any influence on the overall makeup of the Council that represents them. I see the Council's preferred option as at least partly addressing this anomaly.

The proposal also addresses the principle of equal suffrage. For the election of a 10-person council, all voters have multiple votes under any option. Under the system to date, every voter had 10 votes, while under the 3/7 option, Maori Ward voters would have 3, while General Ward voters would have 7. The Council's proposed option including 4 at large seats largely redresses this with a 6/8 split, much closer to equal suffrage.

### Other views

To ensure that I was taking a balanced approach, I have followed the arguments being put forward on social media. Distilled from all the verbiage, the key arguments seem to be as follows:

#### Violation of the one/person one vote principle

"One person/one vote" is overly simplistic and cannot be applied literally in a situation where multiple votes are involved. For example, in our national elections everyone has two votes, a constituency vote and a party vote. It cannot be applied literally where we are electing 10 councillors. Equality of suffrage is a more realistic aim.

#### The at large seats are fake or invented

I considered the claim made on social media that the "at large" seats are in some way fake or



something invented by this Council. A quick check of the Local Electoral Act<sup>1</sup> shows that this is untrue, as the Act specifically offers Councils two options:

- (i) All members elected separately elected by Maori Ward and General Ward voters.
- (ii) Some members elected at large, with the remainder elected separately by Maori Ward and General Ward voters (the option proposed by Council).

### **Boosting of voting power by transferring seats**

I am puzzled by the calculation that the proposed option would boost the voting power of those on the Māori Roll by 100% by transferring ward seats to the at large category. The logic is faulty. It seems to be based on the assumption that the 3/7 ward seat arrangement exists as a starting point for calculation, which of course is not true. As noted above, it is just one of the two legal options available as a means of distributing the 10 Council seats. The Council proposal is based on option (ii). While it is valid to debate the relative merits of the options, it is wrong to claim that the proposal was created by some form of manipulation of seats between them.

### **The one at large seat option**

I am aware that one option considered by Council was a split that would create one at large seat. I see no merit in this, as in my view it would achieve little, while being utterly confusing for voters and potential candidates. The assumption would inevitably be made that the one at large seat would have some special status.

### **Conclusion**

On balance, I support the Council's proposal for the reasons outlined above.

Also, I know that the Council and the community were divided on the decision to create a Maori Ward. I see the Council proposal as an elegant compromise between the total at large system of the past and the divisive 3/7 split of the simple ward vote option. I expect that councillors who opposed the creation of the Maori ward will see the proposed option as the best solution within the constraints imposed by the Maori ward decision.

I do retain some concerns about the complexity and potential for confusion created by the proposal. Can I suggest that, if it is confirmed, there will need to be a substantial education and familiarisation programme leading up to the election.

### **19 October hearings**

I would like an opportunity to speak to my submission on 19 October.

Keith Garratt

<sup>1</sup> Schedule 1A(1)(2)



**Respondent No:** 76

**Login:** MikeM

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Oct 06, 2021 11:26:18 am

**Last Seen:** Oct 05, 2021 05:02:22 am

**IP Address:** 203.109.215.149

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Mike Mcvicker

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Happy to continue with 10 Councillors

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

The recommended framework is neither FAIR or EFFECTIVE.

I strongly reject the proposal for the following reasons. 1) The Claim for Additional Maori Representation is Totally Unwarranted. The first point I would make is that Te Arawa have been very well represented on the Rotorua Council over the last 15-20 years. As we know there are currently 4 of the 10 Councillors representing Maori. Please note that at 40% the RLC has the highest Maori representation in the country. And they want more! In addition to the high ratio of Councillors, there is also the Te Tatau o Te Arawa committee which apparently has a significant influence on Council, as was proved with the committee appointed to adjudicate on the Three Waters issue. In this case, the Mayor stood down 6 of the 10 elected Councillors and replaced them with 4 unelected members of Te Arawa. Subsequently, I understand that this 'premature' Co- Governance Committee will be involved in all 'Governance Oversight' issues for Council in the future. Unbelievable! Last but not least is the appointment some 8 years ago of unelected Te Arawa representatives to sit around the Council table and provide the Maori view! Hence one must ask the question - why does the Mayor want increased Maori Representation? There is clearly no doubt that the RLC already has the highest Iwi influence in the country. What she is proposing is hardly 'Fair' and 'Equitable'! If it is Co- Governance that she aspires for - then let the people of Rotorua know that you are in fact representing the 28% tribal numbers, and clearly not the 72% majority. I would also make the point that even Te Arawa themselves initially recommended Option 2 which was the more moderate version. Sure it reflected a marginal increase in opportunities for Maori, but not the substantial 100% increase that is being promoted by the Mayor.

#### GERRYMANDERING THE NEXT ELECTION

The meaning of gerrymandering is quite explicit. - A process intended to establish an arguably unfair political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating the boundaries of electoral districts. There can be no argument that the recommendation we are debating is quite simply set out to benefit one party, and one party only. I therefore must once again ask the question, how can this extravagant claim be justified? Again certainly not 'Fair and Equitable'!

#### TREATY CLAIMS

It would appear that this Council continues to promote the often quoted, but incorrect belief that the Treaty of Waitangi included a 'Partnership' relationship, which somehow converts to a 50/50 Co- Governance role. Nothing could be further from the truth, as has been pointed out over the years. Simply repeating a flawed assertion does not make them right.

#### CONFUSING VOTING OPTIONS

Given the recommended structure of the voting process, I would contend that more thought has gone into the outcome of the next elections, rather than what should be a simple method of voting. An option including both Maori and General Wards would certainly be substantially more straightforward than including 'Mixed Model Structure' and 'At Large' into the mix. I have concerns that the average voter will have major problems navigating their way through both the deliberating process, and also the voting method.

**Q7. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

The General Ward is appropriate, as it has been for many years. My preference here is for Option 1 which reflects Proportional Representation. Given the 72% versus 28% make up of non- Maori to Maori, This option is not only Democratic and Fair, but is the Equitable process used by most other Councils in NZ.

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**Q8. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

Whilst Maori Wards will always create division between Maori and others, given it is now law this option is appropriate.

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**Q9. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

The ' At Large' recommendation is certainly not an equitable proposition as it has been implemented for one reason, and that is to disproportionately boost the Maori role. This will in effect increase the opportunity for Maori by 100% - and there is only one word for it. - Gerrymandering. This option has been introduced for one reason, and consequently is unacceptable.

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**Q10. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Am happy with the two Community Boards as they both serve a purpose.

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**Q11. As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

Option 1, which promotes Proportional Representation is the only one for democratic elections. Given the 70/30 proportions of non- Maori to Maori in Rotorua, this is a straightforward and universal method used by all other Councils,

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**Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?** Ae - Yes

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**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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Lachlan McKenzie

Rotorua

7/10/2021

Rotorua Lakes Council  
Private Bag 3029  
Rotorua 3046  
Email: [info@rotorualc.nz](mailto:info@rotorualc.nz)

Dear Mayor and Rotorua Lakes Councillors,

**Re: Rotorua Representation Review 2021**

I am writing today as I have concerns over the option that Rotorua Lakes Council has presented to community members for consultation in this Representation Review.

**I do not support the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because:**

I know the decision to introduce Māori wards has been made but I wish to express my deepest concern that it effectively splits Kiwis into two tribes .

The general electoral population (GEP) of Rotorua totals 70% of the voting population, and the Maori Electoral Population (MEP) totals 29% of the voting population. The option the council have proposed gives MEP 6 votes and GEP 8 votes. This does not uphold the principles of equal suffrage or democracy and is also does not provide any account for representation of communities of interest in Rotorua. Rural communities are a "Community of Interest" is definition in the Local Government Act.

I prefer option 1 of 3 seats for the 28% on the Māori role because it will be democratic with equal suffrage.

Given the Rural community is a community of interest an alternative could be

- 1 Mayor
- 3 Māori
- 6 GEP
- 1 Rural

No lakes or rural community boards

This still gives equal suffrage but instead of racial lines the rural ward is a community of interest with no racial overtones.

This would uphold the principle of equal suffrage. The proposed At large board preaches many of the principles of democracy, equal suffrage and common laws that our country is based on.

I would like to present my comments to Council in person at a hearing. I understand that this means I will be required to attend a Council meeting to verbally present my submission points. Hearings are scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Yours sincerely

Lachlan McKenzie

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**From:** JT  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 October 2021 8:53 am  
**To:** Lets Talk  
**Subject:** Representation Review

Good Morning

As a local resident & rate-payer I wish to convey my thoughts on some of the issues being looked at later this month.

Specifically, the number of councillors, the "at Large Ward", the General Ward seats, "Option 1", and the Maori Ward seats.

### **At Large Ward**

The At Large Ward is undemocratic in the highest form.

It would place an excessive amount of voting power in the hands of voters registered as Maori on the Electoral Roll.

It is unacceptable for one group, let alone a minority, to have the upper hand over other groups, regardless of race or creed.

Surely this Council leadership doesn't need reminding of the equal suffrage principle??

### **The General Ward**

The General Ward must be allocated 7 seats, as that would democratically represent the 72% registered as 'general' on the Electoral Roll.

Any more or any less is undemocratic, and once again, would violate the principle of equal suffrage.

### **Option 1 (Alternatives)**

RLC has presented options and alternatives to the proposal.

The only democratic choice has to be Option 1, ie, 7 seats to represent the 72% of the General roll, and 3 seats to represent the 28% on the Maori roll.

### **Maori Ward**

Whilst I agree with Cr Tapsell, when she gave her presentation at the time, (ie, that Maori Wards were unnecessary in RLC), & many others who were opposed to this framework, you (supporting Councillors & Leadership) went ahead and appear to have begun the process to align RLC with directives outlined in He Puapua.

Incidentally, with regards to the anti-aroha document that is He Puapua, I align myself with Gary Judd, (QC), Prof Rata, and other legal scholars who are seeing this divisive "Report" for what it truly is.

With that being said, I strongly support the notion that the Maori Ward be allocated 3 seats, as this reflects the actual demographic of the region, with 28% identifying as Maori on the Electoral Roll.

Any more seats than this is unjustifiably undemocratic, and would over-represent a particular group & their interests.

In conclusion, my utmost concern is that RLC be democratic, just, and treat all equally.

I will be attending the Oct 19th public submissions, so look forward to hearing other opinions then.

Thank you for your time,

Jonathan Cianci



**Respondent No:** 75

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 06, 2021 11:12:55 am

**Last Seen:** Oct 06, 2021 11:12:55 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Grey Power Rotorua

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

10 councillors and major is a good number.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

We do not support the proposal. We support Option 1 which is a proportional representation of people.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

We prefer that the general role is represented accordingly. 72% on the general roll equals to 7 seats to be democratic.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

We prefer that the Maori role is represented accordingly. 28% on the Maori roll equals to 3 seats to be democratic.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Does not fit into our preferred democratic model.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"?**

We support the Community Boards as they are.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

Option 1.

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 1  
**Login:** Joseph Gielen  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Sep 08, 2021 15:39:29 pm  
**Last Seen:** Sep 08, 2021 02:05:40 am  
**IP Address:** 122.61.197.211

Q1. **Ingoa - Name** not answered

Q2. **Īmēra - Email** not answered

Q3. **Ethnicity** not answered

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number** not answered

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

not answered

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

not answered

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

not answered

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

not answered

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

not answered

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"?**

not answered

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

1. One Mayor and 10 Councillors (100% of the Vote)=1 Mayor & 10 elected members/Councillors). 2. General Ward with 7 Councillors (70% non Maori vote=7 elected members/Councillors). 3. Maori ward with 3 Councillors(30% Maori Vote=3 elected members/Councillors). 4. Lakes community board with 4 elected members and 1 Councillor. 5. Riuyral community Board with 4 elected members and 1 Councillor.

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?** Ae - Yes

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

I DO NOT SUPPORT Council's option One representation.



**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

It is not Democratically (one person one vote) transparent because it lends itself to one political group disadvantaging another by wasting votes to gain an numerical voting advantage; and is not conducive to good governance; ie;there is no need to have an at large ward and a general ward for approx.70% of voters when one general ward suffices to represent those 70% of voters with of course the need for one ward for the approx.30% of Maori voters.

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**Respondent No:** 34

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Sep 23, 2021 17:06:43 pm

**Last Seen:** Sep 23, 2021 17:06:43 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Joseph Johannes Gielen

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

The Number of Ten Councillors is fit for the purpose of three Maori Councillors for the approx 30% of eligible constituent voters and Seven other Councillors for the remainder 70% of eligible constituent voters

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

I do not agree at all with the frame work proposed by the incumbent Councilors whom voted for this frame work.The frame work is Gerrymandering and is all about maintaining the status quo in political control over the Te Arawa rohi. It reduces the impact of opposition and seeks to work to guarantee the success of incumbent Councillors in the up coming election.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

In line with my thinking that the General frame work proposed is not-Democratic at all ;so it follows that I do not agree with this General Ward for 4 elected Councillors;l do agree that there should be general ward/s for eligible voters to elect seven Councillors.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

I think that the Maori ward should provide for the approx. 30% of eligible voters to elect Three eligible Maori Councillors which better fits the purpose of The Treaty Maori Representation sufferage and better fits the purpose of providing an opportunity for every eligible Maori in our district to maximise their voting opportunity regardless of electoral roll.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

The proposed At-Large 4 Councillors does not reflect our district's diversity; and does not provide an opportunity for everyone in our district to maximise their voting opportunity regardless of electoral roll;where as I think that the General ward/s should have 7 Councillors to represent the 70% of eligible voters;which better fits the purpose of I think that the General ward/s should have 7 Councillors to represent the 70% of eligible voters;which better fits the purpose of the universal suffrage to vote in a political election and better provides an opportunity for everyone eligible in our district to maximise their voting opportunity regardless of electoral roll .

Q10.**He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

I agree

**Q11. As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

that there needs to be Maori ward/s to provide for the approx. 30% of eligible voters to elect Three eligible Maori Councillor representatives and that there needs to be General ward/s for the remainder 70% of constituent voters to elect eligible Councillors to represent them;this proposal reflects our District's diversity and ensures eligible voters can easily engage with Councillors and balance the workload of councillor's and better brings the range of skills and knowledge to the Council table and better represents our communities' needs and interests across the Rohi/District.

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**Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga?Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

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**Q13.I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14.I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 5

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Sep 11, 2021 14:19:57 pm

**Last Seen:** Sep 11, 2021 14:19:57 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Patricia Hosking

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

not answered

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

not answered

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

not answered

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

not answered

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

not answered

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

not answered

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

not answered

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

Option 1

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te**

Ae - Yes

**Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

Q14. **I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

It is not democratic



**Respondent No:** 10

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Sep 14, 2021 15:02:35 pm

**Last Seen:** Sep 14, 2021 15:02:35 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Raymond and Elizabeth Steiner

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

not answered

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

not answered

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

not answered

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

not answered

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

not answered

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

not answered

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

not answered

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

N/A

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

We support option 1 as the most democratic option put forward. This option is one vote one person. Options two and three could cause racial division, and also reduces rural people a fair voting representation, especially as rural populations are sparser than urban, and therefore have less representation. With option 1, all voters on both Maori and general rolls have the right to put forward candidates and vote accordingly. One Vote One Person. With options 2 and 3, introducing at a large ward does not give a fair percentage representation at all. If a large ward is introduced, we cannot see the necessity of having wards at all, as we have a high percentage of bicultural councillors on Council now. Therefore, option 1 is the only option that should be considered. Options two and three are undemocratic.

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

N/A

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**Respondent No:** 38

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Sep 24, 2021 13:37:36 pm

**Last Seen:** Sep 24, 2021 13:37:36 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Don Hammond

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Current number is fine.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

I dont agree with the proposal. We should elect the best people for the role regardless of ethnicity. Alternatively, if I can only vote for one or other of the wards, does that mean only Maori can stand in the Maori wards and non-maori are the onlly ones that can stand in the general wards?

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

As above

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

As above but if there were 11 councilors plus the mayor, there would be 5 general ward and 2 maori councilors. Playing with numbers to get the desired result is not democratic.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

As above

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

I support them

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

not answered

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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# Submission

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE [WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ)



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To: Rotorua Lakes Council  
[letstalk@rotorualc.nz](mailto:letstalk@rotorualc.nz)

Submission on: "Your choice" – 2022 Representation Review

Date: 8 October 2021

Contact: **ROTORUA-TAUPO PROVINCE OF FEDERATED FARMERS**  
**COLIN GUYTON**  
**PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT**  
Federated Farmers of New Zealand  
**P:**

Address for Service: HILARY WALKER  
**SENIOR REGIONAL POLICY ADVISOR**  
Federated Farmers of New Zealand  
**P:**  
**E:**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Rotorua-Taupo Province of Federated Farmers of New Zealand (“Federated Farmers”) thanks the Rotorua Lakes Council (“RLC”) for the opportunity to provide feedback on its proposed new model for the 2022 Representation Review. We understand that the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires RLC to review representation arrangements every six years.
2. We wish to speak to our submission at the Council hearing.
3. Federated Farmers is conscious that there may be significant ‘consultation fatigue’ out in the rural community following the Long-Term Plan consultation process and 2 years’ worth of significant central government proposals. At this time of the year, farmers are also worrying about feed supply, battling the weather, just coming out of round the clock calving and lambing, and are now heading into mating season – it is one of the busiest times in the farming calendar and all this within the context of significant labour shortages. These factors combined may have affected rural uptake of the consultation opportunities provided by RLC and could result in low submission response rates.
4. Our members do not want their busy silence to be misconstrued as disinterest in rural representation or worse still as ‘silent’ approval. Federated Farmers represents hundreds of local farming ratepayers. We remind the Council of this so that our submission is given appropriate weight.
5. In 2015 we described our experience with the governance of RLC as being, at best, challenging. Unfortunately experiences over the intervening years have been no different. The farming community has felt on the outside of decision-making and is facing the consequences - a council strategically focused on transitioning the primary sector to high-value, low-impact practices and end products and increasing exotic and native forestry in the district, which can only be at the expense of pastoral farming<sup>1</sup>. On this basis we are proposing an amendment to the governance model put forward in the draft proposal.
6. RLC’s proposed model for the 2022 elections, is for the Council to comprise, in addition to the mayor, 10 councillors elected from a mixed model system and 2 community boards:
  - Māori Ward - represented by 2 councillors
  - General Ward - represented by 4 councillors
  - At large – represented by 4 councillors
  - Rotorua Lakes Community board and Rural Community board.
7. RLC advises that the current number of councillors provides effective representation of communities of interest, and that the mixed model arrangement is required to establish a degree of equity with regards to the total number of votes individuals can make depending on which electoral role they are on. Federated Farmers supports a mixed model approach however considers the changes outlined below are needed to improve representation of rural communities.

<sup>1</sup> Rotorua Lakes Council, Climate Action Plan 2021, page 22.

8. Federated Farmers supports a **mixed system** of six councillors elected over three wards and four councillors elected **at large**, as shown in the table below:

Voter electoral role	Māori ward	Rural ward	General ward	At large	Total votes
Māori roll	2			4	6
General roll		1		4	5
General roll			3	4	7

## BASIS OF ELECTION

9. The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires local authorities to provide for ‘effective representation of communities of interest’.<sup>2</sup> The Act does not define “effective representation”, but Local Government Commission guidelines state that considerations include “...an appropriate number of elected members and an appropriate basis of election of members for the district concerned (at large, wards, or a mix of both).”<sup>3</sup>
10. Introducing Māori wards, necessitates the mixed model system. We understand, based on electoral roll statistics, that effective representation for Māori requires two councillors to come from Māori wards. The issue is then the electoral basis of the remaining eight councillors. Whilst the proposal introduces a ward component the material outcome is the eight councillors will be elected ‘at large’. The ‘at large’ system has not worked for rural communities, and we propose splitting the general ward into two to address this:
- general rural ward – represented by one councillor
  - general ward – represented by three councillors
11. RLC has not provided any information with regards to the population estimates or how the Council proposal aligns with the +/- 10% fair representation requirement<sup>4</sup>. We don’t know how our option stacks up against that test either and we don’t have the ability to analyse population meshblocks and model various scenarios like RLC can, with regards to where the general rural ward boundary would be delineated. Though it makes the most sense for it to align with the Rural Community Board boundary .
12. This submission is seeking to open Council’s mind to the option of having a rural ward, the ways to achieve it can be worked out once the principle is accepted. Our key point is that whilst we understand the purpose of the +/- 10% threshold is to ensure each councillor represents roughly the same number of people in the district, there is discretion to breach that range should it be required to ensure communities of interest are fairly and effectively represented. We are asking for that discretion to be applied.
13. The general rural ward, supported by the rural community board option Federated Farmers is seeking, is cognisant of the 2016 Local Government Commission Determination<sup>5</sup> which

<sup>2</sup> Section 19T of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Local Government Commission Guidelines, pg. 24. Retrieved on 3 September 2021 from: [Representation Review Guidelines 2021 \(Local Government Commission.govt.nz\)](https://www.lgcommission.govt.nz/representation-review-guidelines-2021)

<sup>4</sup> Section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

<sup>5</sup> Local Government Commission, Determination of representation arrangements to apply for the election of the Rotorua District Council to be held on 8 October 2016.

did not see a distinction between rural north and rural south communities of interest, and expressed concern that the large geographical area could be too much for 'one' person to represent. It is also mindful of the Commission's confirmation that the four-ward system split communities of interest using artificial boundaries and ultimately resulted in 'at large' elections given the majority of electors within each ward resided in urban areas.

14. This proposal is a more nuanced version of our 2015 proposal. We have combined the two rural ward ideal into one, acknowledge the Rural Community Board ("RCB") can help share the representational burden over a large area and have deliberately not considered areas falling within the Lakes Community Board boundary as being a rural community of interest. The Commission was mindful of the council working party findings that rural and lakes areas should have their own voice<sup>6</sup> and we acknowledge that.
15. We understand the opposition arguments – that councillors declare an oath to act in the best interests of the whole district, that they already represent rural communities such that rural wards are unnecessary. By extension this logic undermines the rationale for Māori representation too. If making a declaration was enough to guarantee effective representation for all people, it would have been unnecessary to legislate for communities of interest in the Local Electoral Act 2001. Local Government Commission guidelines state in respect of the declaration:

...[T]here is no functional difference in the decision-making role of members elected at large and members elected by way of a ward system. Ward and at large members do, however, continue to represent the areas they are elected from at the council table.<sup>7</sup>

16. The Local Electoral Act 2001 and LGA recognise that a diverse skillset and knowledge base is essential to good governance and community well-being. Most people, including Council staff, have grown up in town and some may never have set foot on a farm. Rural councillors help address this imbalance. We have recently seen at a national level, what happens when rural skills and experience are under-valued and excluded from discussions. Mistakes with intensive winter grazing, low-slope maps, and wetland requirements in the National Environment Standard for Fresh Water are prime examples of policy making that has had to be quickly reviewed and given the benefit of rural perspectives to improve workability and implementation processes. Rural representation on Council is essential to provide rural perspectives, connections, and knowledge. It is the diverse range of skillsets and knowledge base that we are after not nepotism.
17. A tidal wave of Central Government regulatory reform is coming, most of which will disproportionately impact farmers or hinge on transformation within the agricultural sector. Rotorua's wealth is derived from land-based activities. Land use change, in particular the wholesale conversion of pastoral farms to carbon farming, could have serious long-term consequences for Rotorua's economic and social well-being. RLC has signalled its desire for this transformative change, what is concerning is these decisions are being made with very little input from people with on the ground knowledge, insight or connection with the primary productive sector.

<sup>6</sup> Local Government Commission, Determination of representation arrangements to apply for the election of the Rotorua District Council to be held on 8 October 2016, paragraph 36.

<sup>7</sup> Local Government Commission Guidelines, pg. 24. Retrieved on 3 September 2021 from: [Representation Review Guidelines 2021 \(Local Government Commission.govt.nz\)](https://www.local.govt.nz/representation-review-guidelines-2021/)

18. A Rural Councillor would be visible, accessible, and accountable to the rural people they represent at the Council table. They would drive on the same terrible roads, struggle with the same rural connectivity issues, attend local meetings (in areas quite distinct to Rotorua's urban places), have or had land-based occupations, use local shops and can be on the ground to help their community when needed. Making a declaration to serve all equally, does not imbue an urban councillor with this knowledge and lived experience. There are sufficiently identifiable differences between the needs and circumstances of Rotorua's rural and urban communities to ensure both communities should have the ability to choose who represents them at the Council table.
19. Roughly 80% of Rotorua's population lives within urban boundaries so rural based candidates face significant hurdles getting elected in a general ward. Without rural councillors we believe rural perspectives have been lost, this representation review is the opportunity to correct that.
20. Within the context of that same 80/20 split between urban to rural population ratios, the Local Government Commission agreed in 2018 that from a statistical perspective moving to at large elections in Gisborne risked rural areas having no representation on council: *"The preponderance of urban electors must at least create a risk of urban voters and candidates dominating elections."*<sup>8</sup>
21. In summary, **Federated Farmers seeks an amendment to the mixed model system and asks to split the proposed general ward into a rural ward and general ward.**

## RURAL COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

22. Federated Farmers appreciates that communities of interest can change over time. As such, it is appropriate for RLC to identify current communities of interest when carrying out a representation review. Whilst the LGA does not define what a community of interest is, the term is somewhat clarified in Local Government Commission guidelines as being made up of inter-related perceptual, functional, and political dimensions:

The perceptual and functional aspects can be extended to define a community of interest as having:

- a sense of community identity and belonging reinforced by:
  - distinctive physical and topographical features (e.g., mountains, hills, rivers)
  - similarities in economic or social activities carried out in the area
  - similarities in the demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics of the residents of a community
  - distinct local history of the area
  - the rohe or takiwā of local iwi and hapū
- dependence on shared facilities and services in an area, including:
  - schools, recreational and cultural facilities
  - retail outlets, transport and communication links.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Local Government Commission, "Determination of representation arrangements to apply for the election of the Gisborne District Council to be held on 12 October 2019", pg. 9.

<sup>9</sup> Local Government Commission Guidelines, pg. 22. Retrieved from: [Representation Review Guidelines 2021 \(Local Government Commission.govt.nz\)](https://www.local.govt.nz/representation-review-guidelines-2021/)

23. More generally, the rural sense of identity and belonging is defined by common geographic features (i.e., proximity to the sea, or mountains and plains), climate (rainfall, dry), land use (e.g., viticulture, horticulture, sheep and beef farming, forestry) and occupation (physical, hazardous, outdoors, animals, crops), access and shared history.
24. Rotorua city provides important service, commercial and administrative functions for the district. However, some rural parts of the district have those needs met by Taupō and others by smaller rural settlements which also provide essentials needed by local people such as marae, schools, mechanics, agricultural supplies, sports grounds, community halls, groceries, fuel, cafes, and saleyards. The distinction is that urban communities will rely solely on Rotorua city to meet those needs whilst rural communities are much more likely to have those needs met from a variety of places across a much broader spatial reach.
25. Whilst there is no 'one' rural community and we appreciate the large geographical area which the new ward would cover, rural people in Rotorua have commonalities such as the types of schools they attend, the local sports teams they play for, the types of places they shop at, they have common functional and occupational challenges. Farmers are preoccupied with animal welfare, pest management, weather, water supply, labour shortages, environmental regulation, debt, machinery related health and safety. They are exporters, they are price takers, having to absorb each and every cost that comes at them with next to no ability to set the price for their end product. These concerns are different to urban people and urban businesses. From a representation perspective, these differences are vulnerabilities, which make access to local councillors, fully cognisant of the realities of farming and rural issues essential.
26. Rural people, at election time, are presented with a large list of candidates many of whom are unknown to them (at the 2016 election there were 35 candidates for the at large seats). RLC advises that initial feedback supports their understanding that people want the ability to elect as many councillors as possible, that is not our experience with regards to rural communities. In our experience rural voters are quite comfortable reducing the number of votes they are eligible to make as a trade for informed and meaningful voting.
27. Members tell us they don't use their full ten votes because many of candidates are unknown to them and have little in the way of policies and platforms that reflect the major rural concerns. This situation, in our view, is producing disengagement between rural people and council affairs, decisions and business.
28. That said we understand the mixed system is being introduced to address an inequity that would be created for those on the Māori Electoral Role ('MER') if the 'at large' system remained. Our proposal seeks to align as closely as possible with what RLC is trying to achieve with regards to the number of votes those on the MER and those living within a new Rural ward can cast. However, we reiterate quality over quantity is our preference and by quality we mean the ability for candidates to be known and representative of the distinct communities of interest found within this district.
29. A mixed system with a rural ward offers rural people the chance to vote for five candidates – one for the rural ward, and four at large. This would enhance rural representation for a number of reasons:

- there would be an actual seat for rural at the council table. While of course a minority, this would provide the opportunity for rural concerns to be present within the overall objective of successfully governing the district.
- rural voting would be simplified and more meaningful – instead of the present large list of candidates there would be a focus on a rural candidate and an opportunity to also vote for four candidates at large.

30. In summary, **rural communities of interest exist in Rotorua and RLC’s initial proposal does not ensure effective representation of rural communities of interest.**

## FAIR REPRESENTATION

31. The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires local authorities to provide for ‘the ‘fair representation of electors’ by ensuring there’s a reasonably equal ratio of people per councillor (the “+/- 10% rule”).<sup>10</sup> Exceptions can be made where:

- non-compliance is required for effective representation of communities of interest within island communities or isolated communities;
- compliance would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing a community of interest;
- compliance would limit effective representation of communities of interest by uniting two or more communities of interest with few commonalities.<sup>11</sup>

32. Our members consider that distance, lack of commonality and significance difference in the population base between those living rurally and those living in urban areas represent insurmountable barriers to fair representation of rural communities in a general ward system.

33. We note that the Local Government Commission has previously endorsed non-compliance with the +/- 10% rule in other areas based on the isolation of communities of interest,

34. In summary, Federated Farmers **does not consider that the essentially all ‘at large’ elections will provide fair representation for Rotorua’s rural communities of interest.**

## COMMUNITY BOARDS

35. Federated Farmers appreciates that when undertaking a Representation Review, s19J of the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires RLC to consider whether community boards are appropriate to provide fair and effective representation.

36. Community boards are not the same as councillors. Community boards “...*help represent and advise councils on community views. They sometimes carry out delegated council service delivery or regulatory responsibilities.*”<sup>12</sup> In contrast, councillors are “...*representatives and leaders of their communities, their role involves setting policies,*

<sup>10</sup> Local Electoral Act 2001, s 19V.

<sup>11</sup> Local Government Commission Guidelines, pg. 23. Retrieved from: [Representation Review Guidelines 2021 \(Local Government Commission.govt.nz\)](https://www.localcouncils.govt.nz/representation-review-guidelines-2021/)

<sup>12</sup> [How a council can structure itself Local Government \(localcouncils.govt.nz\)](https://www.localcouncils.govt.nz/how-a-council-can-structure-itself-local-government/)

*making regulatory decisions and reviewing council performance...*<sup>13</sup> Whilst we appreciate RLC has provided the Rural Community Board (“RCB”) with a degree of delegation and resourcing that should be beneficial to rural communities, we are concerned that RLC seems to consider consultation and engagement with the RCB as being enough to discharge its engagement and consultation responsibilities with rural communities more broadly.

37. Rotorua-Taupo Federated Farmers represents hundreds of rural ratepayers, has access to farming leaders and staff with a breadth and depth of rural based knowledge that is difficult to find elsewhere and yet RLC has made very little attempt to acknowledge us as stakeholders in a range of strategy and policy making processes - we are given no more opportunity to engage with council than members of the public generally. The RCB does not represent Federated Farmers, nor should it and nor should it be mandated to consult with us. RLC should use all the resources and options available to gain as much knowledge and perspective as possible rather than place too much confidence and reliance in one entity.
38. Further, it is at RLC’s discretion as to how much delegated authority and influence a community board has – a Councillor is not subject to that degree of control.
39. In preparing this submission we surveyed our members, asking a number of questions about the RCB and whether we should seek the introduction of a Rural ward. All respondents were supportive of the rural ward approach and were comfortable for the number of Councillors to increase to eleven if that was required to achieve that outcome. Whilst a high number of respondents knew of the RCB and understood their role, 85% of participants felt that RLC’s understanding, and consideration of rural issues has not improved over the past five years since the board was introduced to compensation for the loss of rural wards.
40. That said, whilst all would prefer a Rural Councillor over a Community board, a third of the respondents were keen for both, seeing benefit in the two roles working together to improve rural representation.
41. Federated Farmers also sees merit in the two roles working together and consider that combined approach will help address the Commissioner’s concern that one councillor alone may not be able to provide effective representation across a large rural geographical area<sup>14</sup>.

**Federated Farmers thanks the Rotorua Lakes Council for considering our feedback on the proposal model for the Representation Review for 2022 elections.**

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<sup>13</sup> [How a council can structure itself Local Government \(localcouncils.govt.nz\)](https://www.localcouncils.govt.nz/)

<sup>14</sup> Local Government Commission, Determination of representation arrangements to apply for the election of the Rotorua District Council to be held on 8 October 2016, paragraph 36.



## **ABOUT FEDERATED FARMERS**

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents most farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment.
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

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.

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**Respondent No:** 48

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Sep 30, 2021 13:03:52 pm

**Last Seen:** Sep 30, 2021 13:03:52 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Everard Anson

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

10 councillors and one Mayor seems adequate .

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

This framework seems to be overly complex. And appears to favour Maori representation.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

The general ward should be representing the majority of the local population which is approximately 71/72% according to statistics.this would mean the general ward should have 7 seats at least to be a fair and democratic representation.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

The Maori ward again based on the statisics should represent the local population base ie. 26/28%. 1 Maori ward with 3 seats would be fair and Democratic.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

The at large component appears to create an imbalance of local representation of the population.it seems this could effectivly give Maori 1 or possibly 2 more seats which would be a mis -representation of the local population extremely undemocratic.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Rotorua lakes community board and a rural community board each with four elected members and one each appointed councilor. This seems a fair representation.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

As i have pointed out in the above survey i feel the fair represntation of the local population based on the statistics would be 10 councillors and one Mayor. One Maori ward with three seats and one general ward with seven seats. This is not an over complicated system democratic and common sense.

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te**

Ae - Yes

**Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga?Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 49

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Sep 30, 2021 13:12:32 pm

**Last Seen:** Sep 30, 2021 13:12:32 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Liam Temara-Benfell

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

I think that the cureent number of councillors is good.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

I think that this is an appropriate mkdel for our chrrtent constitutional framework.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

I think thay that the general ward should be rellaced with at large members.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

I think this is a good optiom for our city.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Having an at large option was a good idea. That way we are able to increase the amounts of votes we get as tanagta whenua.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

I think that the current structure of community boards is good.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

not answered

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 59

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 02, 2021 12:12:59 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 02, 2021 12:12:59 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Gary Page

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Too many there just for the money and PERSEVED STATUS!!! Way to many feel good projects!

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

! mayor and 10 councilors chosen democratically by the rate payers one PERSON one vote NO RACE classification or are we trying to revive APARTHEID in NZ!

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

Wast of time if we are non racial!!

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

Wast of time if we are non racial!!

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Wast of time if we are non racial!!

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

One person one vote should solve these problems. We just need more ways to get rid of the dead wood sucking us dry!!

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

One vote one person! Rate freeze for 5 years and then increases not to exceed inflation rate! Max pay rate \$100k/annum for the next 10 years then increase in level with inflation rate! That way maybe we can get someone who wants to improve Rotorua!

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 80

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 06, 2021 16:27:06 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 06, 2021 16:27:06 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

John C Martelli

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Retain ten councillors

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

I feel there should be one mayor for whom everyone votes, one maori ward with two seats, MEP vote for. One Rural ward, Rural GEP vote for. One general ward of four seats, GEP vote for. One at large ward of three seats, all vote for.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

Retain General ward of four seats.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

It would be preferable that maori were elected democratically by their considerable voter base, this would obviously avoid accusations of tokenism and afford them full Mana of the office. However the same can be said for other communities of interest such as rural people and I understand the difficulty getting candidates with enough public recognition to secure seats.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Reduce to Three seats to accomodate one rural ward.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Retain the community boards in their present form.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

Reducing the at large ward by one seat to enable a dedicated Rural ward, as is justified by the 13 percent of GEP that rural voters make up. The establishment of Maori wards has set the president for communities of interest to have full and adequate representation at the council table. Rural areas have distinct and specific needs and they deserve equitable representation for the contribution they make to the well being of Rotorua.

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**



**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 82

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 06, 2021 17:27:32 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 06, 2021 17:27:32 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Colin Guyton

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Happy with 10....but could add more if necessary...go to 12 and have 2 rural wards to reflect the huge amount of rates pulled from the rural area.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

1 Mayor plus 10 councilors 1 General Ward 3 seats (General electoral voters minus rural voters) 1 At Large Ward with 4 seats(all can vote) 1 Maori Ward with 2 seats (Maori electoral role can vote) 1 Rural Ward with 1 seat (Rural only can vote) Retain Rural Community Board and retain the Lakes Community Board

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

3 members instead of 4 to allow for one rural ward

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

Ok with this

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Ok with this

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Would like to see both boards retained....but a rural ward added as well.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

not answered

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 84

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 07, 2021 08:53:20 am

**Last Seen:** Oct 07, 2021 08:53:20 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Theo van den Broek

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

My personal preference would be 11 councillors. This would possibly eliminate the often awkward position of the Chair/Mayor having to cast a casting vote to decide an issue.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

Sorry, can't support proposed framework.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

Fully support a General Ward, but not in the form discribed above.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

Fully support a Maori Ward, but not in the form discribed above.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

The moment the Maori Ward was established no need for an At Large ward.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

We need Community Boards. However, the Councillor delegated to the Community Board should be an advocate for the respective Board and vote accordingly at the council table.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

As the Actual Maori Ward is not up for review here, then the 28% of voters registered on the Maori Electoral Roll need to be represented by 3 Councillors in the Maori Ward. The remaining 72% of voters would then be represented by 7 Councillors in the General Ward.

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 86

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 07, 2021 11:51:43 am

**Last Seen:** Oct 07, 2021 11:51:43 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name** John Pakes

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

10 plus one has been working well, why change it.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

Rotorua does not need a ward system, you are doing a better job than most District Councils already, you already have a fair and effective system. But others have decreed that you must, so from that perspective your framework is right.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

It is as good as you can make it.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

This is up to Maoridom, but from my perspective it is right.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

AS good as you can do under the circumstances.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Yes, they must be retained.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

not answered

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 87

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 07, 2021 11:53:46 am

**Last Seen:** Oct 07, 2021 11:53:46 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Dr Kepa Morgan

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Council responsibilities are being significantly reduced with the three waters reforms. Reduce number of Councillors accordingly. six Councillors or nine Councillors plus mayor. Seven total preferred but ten total is heading in the right direction.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

Framework should reflect maximum proportionality of Maori seats, to more closely reflect the partnership intended with Te Tiriti o Waitangi. 3 Maori seats and 6 general roll seats plus mayor, making ten in total. 2 Maori seats and 4 general roll plus mayor better making seven in total.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

A general ward is necessary as the Maori seats have to be created. The real issue is the proportionality to the number of Maori seats which should be 2:1 based on the population enrolled on either roll. This resonates with the Fenton Agreement ratio originally set in the 1800s.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

Maori seats are now a requirement following the Council vote for their inclusion in August. The real issue as above is the proportionality to the number of Maori seats which should be 2:1 based on the population enrolled on either roll. This resonates with the Fenton Agreement ratio originally set in the 1800s. The second issue is that the ability of Maori seats to influence the outcome of decision making is strongest when there are only Maori or general roll seats. At large seats are similar to the past arrangement which despite Maori having secured election, their voice is still tempered by the obligation to represent all of the people electing them. Maori roll seats have a much stronger mandate to raise and advocate issues of importance to Tangata Whenua.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Maori seats are now a requirement following the Council vote for their inclusion in August. This means there are Maori seats and a proportionate number of general seats that represent everyone not on the Maori roll. The ability of Maori seats to influence the outcome of decision making is strongest when there are only Maori and general roll seats. At large seats are similar to the past arrangement which despite Maori having secured election, their voice is still tempered by the obligation to represent all of the people electing them. Maori roll seats have a much stronger mandate to raise and advocate issues of importance to Tangata Whenua. Therefore I do not support the addition of at-large seats. These water down the influence of Tangata Whenua.



**Q10. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

I do not support the continuation of the Community Boards within the Council structure. The first reason is that Council responsibilities are shrinking and they will not be necessary just adding another layer of governance that does not do anything to improve representation for Tangata Whenua. That these Community Boards are then given seats at the Council Committee decision making tables further waters down the influence of Te Tatau O Te Arawa in those forums. The idea of a Lakes Community Board is offensive as the Lakes belong to Te Arawa and the Te Arawa Lakes Trust exists to make decisions on the Lakes. If the Lakes seat continues to be provided on the Council committees it should go to the Te Arawa Lakes Trust who actually have the mana to contribute on this matter. The Rural community board is an attempt to water down the influence of Tangata Whenua also and should be discontinued. The Rural community board has not been effective at representing Tangata Whenua either. Discontinue the community boards as they are not about democracy but rather about ensuring the Council recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is diminished in the decision making functions that Council carries out.

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**Q11. As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

The Te Arawa preferred option of three Maori roll seats, six general roll seats, one at-large and the mayor. If not then remove the at-large seat and either have three Maori seats and six general roll seats with mayor. Best outcome two Maori seats and four general roll seats plus mayor. Lower costs, more efficient decision making, aligned to historic arrangement from 1800s and preferred by Tangata Whenua.

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**Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?** Ae - Yes

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**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 88

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 07, 2021 12:01:53 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 07, 2021 12:01:53 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Neill Kennedy

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

No of councillors stay at 10

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

not answered

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

There should be 7 seats to match the 72% General electoral roll

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

3 seats to comply with 28 % maori electoral roll

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

A definite NO.NO

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

NO change required

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

7 seats for 72% on general roll and 3 seats for 28% on maori roll. NO other changes

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te** Ae - Yes

**Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

Q14. **I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered



**Respondent No:** 101

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 07, 2021 18:05:08 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 07, 2021 18:05:08 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Alan Wills

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

10 councillors

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

The general frame work of 10 Councillors and 1 Mayor is all that is necessary

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

The general ward only needs to be 3. I am advocating 3 because we need to take the opportunity to establish a rural ward.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

Yes the Maori Ward is acceptable to me

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Yes 4 at Large Councillors I agree with

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Yes I agree with the Community Boards

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

The one difference to the Council proposed model is that we establish a rural ward from the General Ward. The Rotorua council has been well served by people with a rural back ground in the past. The community needs to give itself an opportunity to have a rurality based person as part of the councillor team

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te** Ae - Yes

**Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 118

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 16:54:29 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 08, 2021 16:54:29 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Alan Wills

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

1 Mayor 10 councillors

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

Happy with the framework but we need to take the opportunity to establish a rural ward.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

The general ward will have 3 seats, with the other going to accommodate the rural ward.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

Yes happy with the Maori ward and 2 seats.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Yes Happy with the concept of the "At Large Ward"

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Yes. Retain them

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

The council needs to take this opportunity to establish a rural ward. So I am advocating a general ward of 3 seats with the other seat going to a rural ward.

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te**

Ae - Yes

**Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

Q14. **I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered



**Respondent No:** 104

**Login:** imryan

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Oct 07, 2021 22:19:24 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 07, 2021 08:48:51 am

**IP Address:** 203.211.76.204

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Ryan Gray

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

It's about right. However as the new Council management structure has 6 deputy CEOs - it is only fair that we have at least a majority of elected members who cover similar portfolios to ensure the views of Rotorua residents are carried into council operations, along with additional councillors to (hopefully) constructively (probably not the current lot) oppose and build consensus

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

I don't understand why it is set up to give those on the Maori roll less candidates to vote for? This seems an oversight - or actively giving Maori less of a say in our own community - and there seems an easy fix - remove two councillors from the general ward and add two to the at large ward. Giving everyone 8 votes for councillors and one for mayor.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

as above. make it two in the general ward

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

while the 2018 census is the best we've got, relying on it for accurate Maori population figures seems fraught given how badly it was run. Assuming these numbers have been cross referenced with Te Arawa figures, then two Maori ward councillors seems appropriate.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

As above. Add two additional councillors to ensure that those on maori roll and those on the general roll have equal voting rights

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

I agree with the recommendation. The community boards do a good job of representing their communities of interest.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

As mentioned above. Ensure that whatever the number of councillors that we end up with, ensure that those on general and those on maori ward can have equal opportunity to choose who gets elected to represent them on council

Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?

Ae - Yes

Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.

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Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....

not answered

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Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 107

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 09:06:41 am

**Last Seen:** Oct 08, 2021 09:06:41 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Jim Rofe

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Leave it at 10 councillors plus the mayor

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

There should be the Maori ward and the General ward. The At Large ward would double the Maori ward voters. That is not democratic.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

The general ward should have 7 councillors to coincide with the percentage of voters on the General Roll. Democracy has to be considered.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

The Maori Ward has to be as it was democratically formed. It should have 3 councillors to be aligned with those on the Maori Roll.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

It should not be. It would not be democratic.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"?**

Leave them as they are.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

The present Council has 4 Maori and 6 Non Maori, which gives Maori more than the percentages on the two rolls.

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered



**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 108

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 09:25:17 am

**Last Seen:** Oct 08, 2021 09:25:17 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

D A McPherson

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

I am disappointed that the Council did not appear to seriously consider a significant increase in the number of councillors. The present number of councillors is too small to provide any meaningful diversity on the Council. I submit that the number should be increased to 18 plus a mayor.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

The proposal states, "Council considers this framework to provide fair and effective representation for the district". "Fairness" is a very subjective test and what some may consider fair may be considered unfair by those with a different outlook. The correct test is democratic and effective. The proposed option is a skewed one that does not provide equal representation for all Rotorua citizens. An appeal to the Local Government Commission, if the proposed model is adopted, is unlikely to fail. The original option 1, slightly modified to include 18 councillors, would be much more acceptable and in closer accord with the Local Government Act.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

As a Maori Ward is already a fait accompli, the establishment of wards in this review is a given. It is highly probable that some Maori councillors will be elected from the General Ward and it is unknown whether the proposed mixed model will result in greater or less Maori representation on the Council than exists at present. An "At Large Ward" in addition to the General and Maori Wards is both unnecessary and also likely to confuse some voters.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

N/A

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

N/A

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

I fully support the continuation of the Community Boards. However it would be beneficial to increase the representation on them with another two or three elected members. Increased financial authority for them would also be a step in the right direction.

**Q11. As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

As indicated above, I propose that the number of councillors be increased to 18 with 13 elected from the General Ward and 5 from the Maori Ward. The additional councillors would make it possible to have greater diversity of representation on the Council. The number of 18 would also mean that the 72:28 ratio of representation from the General and Maori Wards would be more fairly achieved. This model would also be more acceptable to the Local Government Commission than the current Council proposal.

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**Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

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**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 109

**Login:** Dee

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 11:54:56 am

**Last Seen:** Oct 07, 2021 21:03:47 pm

**IP Address:** 118.148.100.60

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Deborah Brandley

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

10 Councillors, plus the Mayor is appropriate.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

I do NOT agree with the "Mixed Model" framework of "1 Maori Ward, 1 General Ward and an At Large component" as proposed. As we now have a Maori Ward the only "Fair and Effective", democratic option must be proportional to the population, being 28% Maori + 72% Non-Maori = 3 Maori seats + 7 General seats.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

I do NOT agree that 4 seats are proportionally adequate to represent 72% of Rotorua citizens within the General Ward. Under a democratic system there must be 7 seats in the General Ward.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

I do NOT agree that 2 seats are proportionally adequate to represent 28% of Rotorua citizens within the Maori Ward. Under a democratic system there must be 3 seats in the Maori Ward.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

I do NOT agree with the proposal of an "At Large" group of councillors. This clearly does not adhere to the principle of suffrage. An "At Large" component does not demonstrate equality but fosters imbalance and divide. The only democratic option for the council to adopt is based on population proportions 28% + 72% = 3 Maori seats and 7 General seats.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

I agree that the 2 Community Boards be retained.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

If the council seeks a resilient and sustainable local government; to have the confidence and trust of the public; and provide for the well-being of ALL the community through an effective partnership, then the only democratic system of representation must be based on population proportions of 28% Maori + 72% non-Maori = 3 Maori seats and 7 General seats.

Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Ae - Yes  
Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to  
present your comments to Council in person at  
a hearing?

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Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....

not answered

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Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 110

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 12:37:35 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 08, 2021 12:37:35 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Kerri Anne Hancock

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Tautoko

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

Not my preferred option

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

No comment on this

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

My preference is for the option that maximises the number of Māori wards (3 for our population). So this is not my preferred position.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

I like this but am happy to sacrifice one of these seats in favour of more at other seats

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Yip all good.

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

I support the model put forth by Te Tatau o Te Arawa

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te** Ae - Yes

**Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

Q14. **I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered



**Respondent No:** 112

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 15:00:53 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 08, 2021 15:00:53 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

**Q1. Ingoa - Name**

2 Maori Ward Councillors, 4 Councillors at Large (Highest Polling)1 Mayor Highest Polling, 4 Ward Councillors 1 for each North, South, West and East who can work with the Rural and Lakes Community.

**Q2. Īmēra - Email**

**Q3. Ethnicity**

**Q4. Nama waea - Phone number**

Mark Gould

**Q5. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

1 Mayor and 10 Councillors Fine. Personally think Rotorua is going backwards with the Maori Wards. Rotorua is One People. Councillors represent all residents and not just a small group. With current set up People could vote for up to 10 Councillors with 10 highest polling elected. Maori is well represented with this system. With Maori Wards a large number of the Rotorua Population will not be voting for Maori to be elected as Councillors. BoPRC has Maori Wards and if system approved for RLC will need to look at the future results. Maori in Rotorua does own approx 20% of the land and approx 30% of the population. Not all Maori will want to be on the Maori Roll.

**Q6. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

Lacking in detail. No Mention of the North South East West Wards. With 4 on general Wards needed further information.

**Q7. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

Needs to be 1 Councillor on North, South, East, West Wards to represent the Farming and Lakes Community.

**Q8. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

It appears to be working in BoPRC. Need to try for a trial period in RLC

**Q9. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Either 10, 8 or 4 with East, South West and North Wards

**Q10. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

If Ward System doubling up with Community Boards

**Q11. As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

Would accept 20 at Large Councillors. Highest Polling Candidates.

Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?

Ae - Yes

Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.

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Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....

not answered

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Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 113

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 15:44:51 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 08, 2021 15:44:51 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Don Paterson

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Increase from 10 to 12 as it was in 2013 and before. Community Boards should be abolished.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

The 2022 election should be run on the same basis as the 2019 election or failing that the Maori Ward should have 3 seats and the General Ward should have 7 seats (assuming 10 Councilors or adjusted accordingly if there were 12 Councilors).

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

If there must be a Maori Ward then it follows that the remainder of seats should be in a General Ward.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

While it's disappointing that the Council saw fit to vote for a Maori Ward without consulting the wider community, now that it's already in place, the only fair and acceptable way to implement this would be for the Ward to have 3 seats (out of 10), which is based upon the ratio of Maori Electoral Population of 28%.

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

The current 10 Councilors are all effectively in a single "At Large" ward. The current system is simple, fair and democratic. In the context of also having a Maori Ward and a General Ward the "At Large" ward would be cumbersome and would pave the way for allegations of election fraud. This proposal is widely believed to be unfair, confusing and undemocratic.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

They should be discontinued. The issue is deciding which communities should have the benefit of representation and which ones shouldn't. Why should Rural and Lakes communities have representation but not other communities? (for example based upon ethnicity, or individual suburbs eg: Springfield, Fordlands, or Ngongotaha).

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

Simply revert to 12 elected members instead of 10 so that there can be a broader range of community representation on Council which may vary from election to election depending on the issues of the time.

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te**

Ae - Yes

**Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 115

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 16:17:34 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 08, 2021 16:17:34 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Peter Brandley

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Retain 10 Councillors plus Mayor democratically elected under existing electoral law.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

I do NOT agree with the "Mixed Model" framework of a Maori Ward a General Ward and an At Large Ward that is being promoted by council as the preferred option when this does NOT have support of all elected councillors. The only "Honest, Transparent and Effective", democratic option must be proportional to the population. In Rotorua this currently equates to 28% Maori + 72% Non-Maori = 3 Maori seats + 7 General Ward seats.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

I do NOT agree with the proposal that 4 seats are proportionate to represent 72% of citizens within the General Ward. I do not accept there is any need to change the structure and split the electoral worth and recognition of the General Ward to accommodate an At Large Ward other than to change the electoral outcome.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

I do NOT agree with the blatant obfuscating methodology used to justify achieving an outcome that will entrench undemocratic imbalance for one cohort. Maori voting rights in a Maori Ward with 2 seats combined with further voting rights in an At Large Ward equates to blatant undemocratic disproportionality on a grand scale. The only democratic proportional option for Rotorua is recognise the Maori Electoral Population figure of 28% and the General Electoral Population of 72% which equates to 3 Maori seats and 7 General seats based on one vote per person in their respective rolls. Its called democracy !

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

I do NOT agree with the proposal of an "At Large" group of councillors. This clearly does not adhere to the principle of suffrage. An "At Large" component does not demonstrate equality but fosters imbalance and divide. The only democratic option for the council to adopt is based on population proportions 28% + 72% = 3 Maori seats and 7 General seats.

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

I agree that the 2 Community Boards be retained.

**Q11. As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

If the council genuinely seeks a resilient and sustainable local government; to have the confidence and trust of the public; and provide for the well-being of the ENTIRE community through an effective partnership, then the only democratic system of representation must be based on population proportions of 28% Maori + 72% non-Maori = 3 Maori seats and 7 General seats.

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**Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

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**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 116

**Login:** Allan E

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 16:30:01 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 08, 2021 03:00:18 am

**IP Address:** 115.188.220.117

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

A Estcourt

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

10

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

3 maori, 7 other

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

Should be 7

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

Should be 3

Q9. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

Not required

Q10. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

Chair should be one 4 elected members

Q11. **As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

Chair to be one of 4 elected members

Q12. **Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

Q13. **I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

Q14. **I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered



**Respondent No:** 119

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 08, 2021 16:59:05 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 08, 2021 16:59:05 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

Robert Lee

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

Increase from 10 to 12 as it was in 2013 and before. The budget for Councilor salaries should be increased accordingly and the Community Boards should be abolished.

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

I am disappointed that the Council saw fit to vote for a Maori Ward without consulting the wider community. The Model used in 2019 gives each voter one vote for each position on Council and is indisputably "Fair and Effective" and I would add "democratic" - which is a fundamental requirement under the Local Government Act 2002. I believe the introduction of Maori Wards a lose-lose for both "Maori" (those enrolled on the Maori roll) and "non-Maori" (those enrolled on the general roll) as it would reduce the former from having 10 votes for Councilors down to 3 and reduce the later from 10 votes down to 7. According to Cr Tapsell in a Facebook Post this is why she voted against the introduction of Maori Wards in May. Having a Maori Ward, General Ward and an "At Large" ward as proposed is obviously an attempt to mitigate against this loss of voting power for both Maori and non-Maori. It is a crude attempt at a compromise and it is confusing. It is the proverbial "dog's breakfast". The very existence of what was known as Option 2 and Option 3 and the fact that the Mayor and the Te Arawa Councilors supported Option 3 while Te Tatau o Te Arawa prefer Option 2 demonstrates that neither are satisfactory. They are both an attempt to make the proverbial "silk purse out of a sow's ear". Both fail. The giving of an arbitrary number of extra votes to both Maori and non-Maori in the form of the "At Large" ward cannot be justified and so it fails the test of "Fair and Effective". There is no demonstrable, transparent justification for the number of seats in the "At Large" ward and so should be abandoned. My recommendation is therefore that this Mixed Model arrangement should be rejected. Instead, the 2022 election should be run on the same basis as the 2019 election or failing that the Maori Ward should have 3 seats and the General Ward should have 7 seats (assuming 10 Councilors or adjusted accordingly if there were 12 Councilors). I record my concerns about the process followed to date in this representation review. This Feedback Form only seeks feedback on the option preferred by the current Elected Members who have a vested interest in the outcome of this Feedback. This is indicative of bias and predetermination and unfortunately exposes the Elected Members to allegations of same.

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

If we first accept that there must be a Maori Ward then it follows that the remainder of seats should be in a General Ward with no "At Large" Ward.

Q8. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the Māori Ward?**

I am disappointed that the Council saw fit to vote for a Maori Ward without consulting the wider community. Accepting this decision, the only proper and acceptable way to implement this would be for the Ward to have 3 seats (out of 10), which is transparently derived from the ratio of Maori Electoral Population of 28%.

**Q9. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

The current 10 Councilors are all effectively in a single "At Large" ward. The current system is simple, transparently derived and indisputably "Fair and Effective". It is democratic. In the context of also having a Maori Ward and a General Ward, the "At Large" ward would be cumbersome and complex. The number of seats is arbitrarily derived. It would pave the way for allegations of "gerrymandering" or "rigging the election" and would not reflect well on those who Elected Members voted for it. This proposal is widely believed to be unfair, confusing and undemocratic.

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**Q10. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

They should be abandoned. The problem with community boards is deciding which communities should have the benefit of a board and which ones shouldn't. Why should Rural and Lakes communities have representation but not other communities (for example suburban, Indian, or more localised communities such as Springfield, or Ford Block, or Ngongotaha).

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**Q11. As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

Reverting to 12 Councilors instead of 10 so that there can be a broader range of community representation on Council which may vary from election to election depending on the priorities of the voters.

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**Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

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**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 41

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Sep 27, 2021 09:53:15 am

**Last Seen:** Sep 27, 2021 09:53:15 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Ingoa - Name**

A.J.P Schipper

Q2. **Īmēra - Email**

Why is this not in English!?!

Q3. **Ethnicity**

Q4. **Nama waea - Phone number**

Q5. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?**

They should remain the same. As EVERYONE can contact any councillor and anyone can stand to be elected the same there should be NO favouritism towards Maori or other people groups. For certain groups not to put forth members to be elected is a choice and that choice should be honored. The same goes for voting for them or abstaining. To artificially increase or decrease a group of people or what they stand for is undemocratic and borders on dictatorship like behavior. It is very apparent that this course of action is favoured by certain people in the council and certain people groups within the district. It will lead to unlawful practices and power grabbing if pursued as can be witnessed in both history and the current times in certain countries. An ,at large' proposal is a system of favouritism and causing division amongst the people instead of much needed unity. Having Maori and general wards is a system of division and having made the choice to go this way is a clear signal that the current council wants to cause division and think in us versus them, kiwi vs maori, which by default is wrong thinking as we are all kiwis and 1 people. Many wars have been started and fought by thinking in us verses them and scaring people into thinking along these lines

Q6. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?**

I disagree with the proposed framework as it is undemocratic and bases on favoritism and division/hate instead of much needed unity. To artificially increase or decrease a group of people or what they stand for is undemocratic and borders on dictatorship like behavior. It is very apparent that this course of action is favoured by certain people in the council and certain people groups within the district. It will lead to unlawful practices and power grabbing if pursued as can be witnessed in both history and the current times in certain countries. An ,at large' proposal is a system of favouritism and causing division amongst the people instead of much needed unity. Having Maori and general wards is a system of division and having made the choice to go this way is a clear signal that the current council wants to cause division and think in us versus them, kiwi vs maori, which by default is wrong thinking as we are all kiwis and 1 people. Many wars have been started and fought by thinking in us verses them and scaring people into thinking along these lines

Q7. **He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?**

I want a system that is the most fair, seen the taken course of favouritism can't be changed. 7 seats for the 72% voters on the General Roll, 3 seats for the 28% on the Māori Roll, and no change to the election of the Mayor, the Rural and Lakes community board members or Te Tatau o Te Arawa.



**Q8. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?**

As the decision has been made for us to think in us versus them and create favoritism, at least stick to the census outcomes and have a fair split (which isn't fair to begin with as it's rounded up already) with 2 members in the Maori ward Again, it causes division when starting to think in 'us versus them'. This is dangerous and undemocratic, when forcing a certain outcome. We are 1 country, 1 people and if one looks far enough back we are all immigrants. To think a certain group has more or less rights than another is to start the next war. Examples of South Africa, America before the segregation was banned and even Germany in the beginning of the 20th century come to mind as great examples of where this is (potentially) going. We need to learn from history and not make the same mistakes again..

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**Q9. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?**

As it is said to be possible to vote for the at large group by all those who are eligible to vote it becomes very clear that the SOLE PURPOSE of this course taken is to elevate a certain people group over another as the Maori ward has a guaranteed 2 members elected.. This is called favoritism and is undemocratic. To have this is therefore against the constitution of our democracy where EVERYONE has fair chances and no favoritism is extended to anyone. I am most open to elaborate on this in person and am certain that the majority of people see this the same way.

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**Q10. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"**

No change is to be made nor is it justified to these two policy advisory boards of Council, the Rural Community Board and the Lakes Community Board. No change is justified to the Māori policy advisory board of Council, Te Tatau o Te Arawa. we should have been consulted on this but that RIGHT is denied and is this undemocratic. As this is a major irreversible change, made in an undemocratic way by not consulting the people, to a democratic process I dare challenge the legalities of the proposed choices.

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**Q11. As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...**

No changes to the existing system. No favoritism No preferences to certain groups of ideas. This whole system proposal should have gone through a public voting process with a binding referendum. As it's been devised and forced through behind closed doors I therefore question it's legalities and challenge it's outcome.

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**Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?**

Ae - Yes

**Check this box if you are going to present your comments in person to Council to provide a contact email/phone number to ensure we can respond to you to confirm your attendance.**

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**Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....**

not answered

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**Respondent No:** 61

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 02, 2021 17:00:09 pm

**Last Seen:** Oct 02, 2021 17:00:09 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Ingoa - Name

brent Hardy

Q2. Īmēra - Email

Q3. Ethnicity

Q4. Nama waea - Phone number

Q5. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the number of councillors?

10

Q6. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the framework?

one vote per person.. not to be used

Q7. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the General Ward?

7

Q8. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the MāoriWard?

3

Q9. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "At Large" component?

0

Q10. He aha ōu whakaaro - What are your thoughts regarding the "Community Boards"

stay same

Q11. As an alternative to the proposal by Council I propose...

option 1

Q12. Kei te pīrangī koe ki te tuku i ōu kōrero ki te Ae - Yes

Kaunihera i tētahi nohoanga? Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?

Q13. I SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....

not answered

Q14. I DO NOT SUPPORT the Council's proposed representation arrangements for the 2022 elections because....

not answered