

Representation Review 2022

Decision making following consultation

Strategy, Policy & Finance Committee

16 November 2021

YOUR
CHOICE

REPRESENTATION
REVIEW

20
22



MĀU E
WHIRIWHIRI



2022
TE AROTAKE
WHAKAAHUANGA

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL
Te Kaitiaki o ngā Pōta o Rotorua

2022 REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Purpose

Consider the submissions received and make a recommendation to Council on a final representation model for the 2022 and 2025 local elections.

Guiding principles

Keep it simple

Council encourages all eligible persons to have their say on the best people to represent the Rotorua District. The model needs to avoid a level of complexity and confusion that may create barriers to understanding the way voters can vote and could lead to poor voter turnout.

Guiding principles

Total number of councillors

Council agrees that the total number of councillors should:

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

Guiding principles

Fair and effective representation (meet requirements of Local Electoral Act)

must provide for 'effective representation of communities of interest' (*ss19T and 19U*) and 'fair representation of electors' (*s19V*). Therefore, there are three key factors for local authorities to carefully consider. They are:

- communities of interest
- effective representation of communities of interest
- fair representation of electors.

Guiding principles

Treaty of Waitangi and Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement

Council acknowledges the recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi into the Local Government Act. Section 4 of the LGA 2002 states “In order to recognise and respect the Crown’s responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of the [Treaty of Waitangi](#) and to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes, [Parts 2](#) and [6](#) provide principles and requirements for local authorities that are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes”.

Consultation proposal

31 August 2021

1 Mayor elected at large

1 Māori ward with 2 seats

1 General ward with 4 seats

4 “At large” seats

Rotorua Lakes Community Board

Rural Community Board

Themes following consultation

Equity/Equality - “everyone being equal” or “everyone should have the same”.

Treaty of Waitangi - strongly advised Council to be structured in a manner consistent with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Co-Governance - arrangements for joint decision-making between iwi and/or other groups, central government, and/or local government.

Inclusion of a Rural Ward - raised the issue of effective representation of the Rural voice at the decision-making table.

Equal Suffrage - Universal Suffrage provides the opportunity to qualifying citizens the right to participate in the voting process (right to vote). Suffrage does not apply to the voting criteria such as how many votes each person has, proportion of votes based on population (Proportional Representation).

Desired model

- 1 Mayor elected at large
- 1 Māori ward with 3 seats
- 1 General ward with 3 seats
- 4 “At large” seats

Rotorua Lakes Community Board
Rural Community Board

Voter roll	electoral	Māori ward	General ward	At large	Total votes out of 10
Māori roll	electoral	3		4	7
General roll	electoral		3	4	7

Desired model

- 1 Mayor elected at large
 - 1 Māori ward with 3 seats
 - 1 General ward with 3 seats
 - 4 “At large” seats
- Rotorua Lakes Community Board
- Rural Community Board

**Equality - Māori Ward & General Ward
Same and equal number of votes to elect a
council to best represent Rotorua**

Not permitted under Local Electoral Act

Consider a lawful revised model and achieve parity

If it is parity the council desires, there is a way to create this, but it requires a reduction in the total number of ward seats, and an increase in the seats elected from the district as a whole.

1 Mayor elected at large

1 Māori ward with 1 seat

1 General ward with 1 seat

8 “At large” seats

Rotorua Lakes Community Board

Rural Community Board

Consider a lawful revised model and achieve parity

Voter electoral roll	Māori ward	General ward	At large	Total votes out of 10
Māori electoral roll	1		8	9
General electoral roll		1	8	9

Models to consider

Initial Model

Voter electoral roll	Māori ward	General ward	At large	Total votes out of 10
Māori electoral roll	2		4	6
General electoral roll		4	4	8

Voter electoral roll	Māori ward	General ward	At large	Total votes out of 10
Māori electoral roll	1		8	9
General electoral roll		1	8	9

Alternative Model

Questions