



FINAL PROPOSAL FOR ‘YOUR CHOICE – 2022 REPRESENTATION REVIEW’

What is a representation review?

Every three years elections are held for local authorities electing the mayors, councillors, and community board members. To achieve fair and effective representation at these elections, local authorities are required by the Local Electoral Act 2001 to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years.

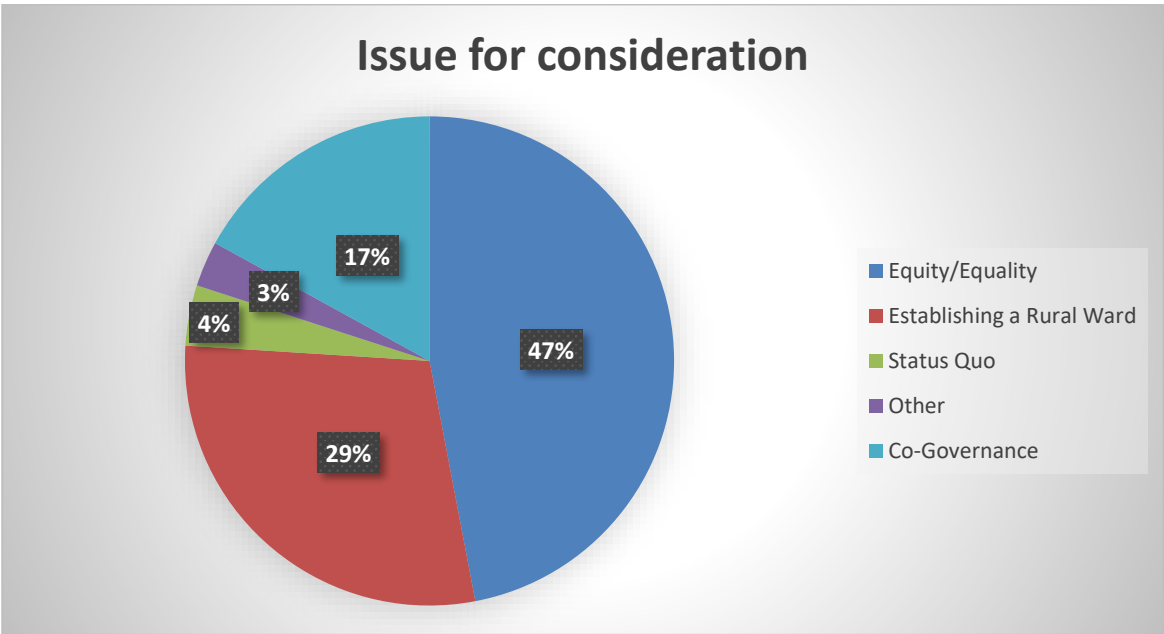
Final proposal for representation arrangements for the 2022 local elections

Submissions

On 19 October 2021, Rotorua Lakes Council considered the submissions received on its initial proposal regarding the representation arrangements for the Council and community boards for the local elections to be held on 8 October 2022.

The council received 169 submissions on its proposal, of which 28 submitters were heard by council.

Submission breakdown of the feedback themes



44 submissions that identified “Equity/Equality” as an issue for consideration
 16 submissions that identified “Co-Governance” as an issue for consideration
 27 submissions that identified “Establishing a Rural Ward” as an issue for consideration
 4 submissions that identified “Keeping the Status Quo” as an issue for consideration
 3 submissions identified some other kind of issue for consideration
94 total submissions (0.12% of the Total Electoral Population of Rotorua)

Through the submissions, it was clear that the initial proposal of a Māori ward with 2 seats, a General ward with 4 seats and an “At Large” component with 4 seats (plus 1 Mayor at large) created an imbalance between wards in terms of the total number of elected members a voter could vote for. To illustrate, if a voter was on the Māori Ward roll, he/she could vote for 2 councillors within the Māori Ward, 4 councillors at large, and the mayor (a total of 6 councillors plus the mayor). Whereas a voter on the General Ward roll could vote for 4 councillors within the General Ward, 4 councillors at large, and the mayor (a total of 8 councillors plus the mayor).

This outcome may be seen as unfair to Māori, as it reduces the influence those voters on the Māori Ward roll can have on the overall composition of the elected member group, which is contrary to the concept of parity.

Final Proposal

Having considered all of the submissions, Council resolved to amend its initial proposal to the following final proposal for the 2022 & 2025 triennial local authority elections:

- 1 Mayor elected at large
- 1 Māori ward with 1 seat – Te Ipu Wai Taketake ward
- 1 General ward with 1 seat – Te Ipu Wai Auraki ward
- 8 “At large” seats
- Retention of the Lakes Community Board
- Retention of the Rural Community Board

Final Proposal

Voter electoral roll	Māori ward – Te Ipu Wai Taketake ward	General ward – Te Ipu Wai Auraki ward	At large	Total votes out of 10
Māori electoral roll	1		8	9
General electoral roll		1	8	9

Council Representation

It is proposed that the council comprise 10 members, 1 member from a Māori ward, 1 member from a General ward, 8 members “at large” and 1 mayor elected across the district.

This model is deemed to best represent the needs of the Rotorua community and addresses a number of the key themes that emerged throughout consultation (achieving equality/parity,

recognising the Treaty of Waitangi and Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement, co-governance, and equal suffrage).

Community Board Representation

It is proposed that two community boards be elected:

Community Board	Area of community
Lakes Community Board	Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Rotoma, Rotokawa, Rotokawau, Okataina, Okareka, Tikitapu, Rotokakahi, Tarawera and the bordering lakeside communities, including Hamurana and its north eastern communities.
Rural Community Board	Kaharoa, Mamaku, Horohoro, Waikite, Ngakuru, Rerewhakaaitu, Broadlands, Reporoa

The Lakes and Rural Community Boards will each elect four members.

Council noted that despite the recommended option, a different model, consisting of 3 Maori ward seats, 3 General ward seats and 4 at large seats is the preferred model for representing the best needs of Rotorua in accordance with the principles of the Local Government Act and the Treaty of Waitangi, but that this model is not compliant under the current legislation.

Parity voting

Voter electoral roll	Māori ward – Te Ipu Wai Taketake ward	General ward – Te Ipu Wai Auraki ward	At large	Total votes out of 10
Māori electoral roll	3		4	7
General electoral roll		3	4	7

The Council instructed the Chief Executive to pursue the necessary statutory reforms, or other means, by which the preferred model can be adopted by Council at the earliest possible time, including if possible, prior to the 2022 election.

Appeals and Objections

Any person or organisation who made a submission on the Council’s Initial Proposal may lodge an appeal against the Council’s decision. An appeal must relate to the matters raised in their original submission.

An objection maybe lodged by any person or organisation if the council’s final proposal differs from its initial proposal. Any objection must identify the matters to which the objection relates.

Objections must be made in writing and must be received by council no later than 5pm on 20 December 2021.

Objections can be forwarded to:

- Rotorua Lakes Council, Attention – Rick Dunn
- Post – Rotorua Lakes Council, Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua 3010
- Email – submission@rotorualc.nz
- Hand deliver – Rotorua Lakes Council, Customer Service Centre, Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua

Further information

For further information regarding the 2022 Representation Review please go to the following link:

<https://letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz/your-choice-2022-representation-review>

Direct any queries regarding the Council's decision to Rick Dunn (07 351 8321 or email submission@rotorualc.nz)

Rotorua Lakes Council is the operating name of Rotorua District Council