



Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/26182

6 October 2021

Policy & Services Committee

Notice is hereby given that a **Policy and Services Committee Meeting** will be held in the **Council Chambers, Stratford District Council, Miranda Street, Stratford** on **Tuesday 12 October 2021** at **2.00pm** to hear and consider submissions to the Representation Review proposal.

At this stage the meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, however should it be required due to COVID-19 Alert Levels or from guidance received, the meeting may be moved to an alternative venue or held virtually.

Timetable for 12 October 2021 as follows:

12noon	Lunch for Councillors
12.30pm	Workshop for Councillors - Long Term Plan debrief - Council Farm
2.00pm	Policy & Services Committee Meeting - Representation Review Hearing
3.00pm	Afternoon tea for Councillors
3.15pm	Public Forum - Michael Carr, Sport Taranaki
3.30pm	Ordinary meeting of Council

Yours faithfully

Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

2021 - Policy & Services Committee - 12 October (Representation Review Hearing)



12 October 2021 02:00 PM - 03:00 PM

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AGENDA

Policy and Services Committee



F19/13/05 – D21/35328

Date: Tuesday 12 October 2021 at 2.00PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

The meeting location may change, or will be held via Audio Visual Link, if required due to current COVID-19 Alert Levels or Government Guidelines.

To hear and consider submissions to the Representation Review Proposal

1. [Welcome](#)

Health and Safety Message

2. [Apologies](#)

3. [Announcements](#)

Speakers to Submissions

The Chairman welcomes everyone to the Policy & Services Committee meeting. It is reinforced to Councillors that the purpose of this meeting is to hear submissions on the Representation Review Proposal. Councillors are asked to hear all submissions with an open mind, to restrict their question time to the submitters to points of clarification or issues pertaining to subject matter. Councillors are requested not to get into direct dialogue with submitters as there the timeframe scheduled for the day is tight. Councillors may take notes whilst submitters are speaking.

4. [Declarations of members interest](#)

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

5. [Attendance Schedule](#)

Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings, including Hearings.

6. [Acknowledgement of Submissions](#)

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17 submissions were received. One was withdrawn on Monday 4 October.

Recommendations

1. THAT the submissions to the Representation Review proposal be received.
2. THAT the submitted be advised of the outcome of their submission and notified that the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, and subsequent meetings, are available on Council's website.

Recommended Reason

So that each submission is formally received and the submitter provided with information on decisions made.

/
Moved/Seconded

7. Submitters To Be Heard

Three submitters requested to be heard in support of their submission.

Submitters will be given 5 minutes to speak and five minutes to answer questions from Elected Members.

Submission #	Name	Org	Page Number	Time
6	Mark Hooper	Taranaki Federated Farmers	27	2.05pm
7	Rachael Rae	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui	31	2.15pm
8	Christopher James		32	2.25pm

8. Decision Report – Representation Review – Final Proposal

D21/34598 Page 6

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the submissions to the Representation Review Initial Proposal 2021 are considered, and to amend, if elected members think appropriate, the initial representation arrangements and make a final resolution on each of the following:
 - Whether to retain the Rural Ward, Urban Ward, and Māori Ward (and the proposed names, and number of councillors that will represent each) as per the Initial Proposal.
 - Whether the boundaries proposed for the Rural Ward and Urban Wards be updated as per the Initial Proposal.
 - Whether or not one or more ‘at large’ seats are introduced (in response to some submissions supporting this).
 - The total number of councillors is increased to 11 plus the Mayor as per the Initial Proposal.
 - No community boards be established.
3. THAT public notice of the Final Proposal is made by 31 October 2021, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 19N of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Recommended Reason

To comply with legislative obligations under the Local Electoral Act 2001 for representation arrangements for the 2022 and 2025 local elections.

/
Moved/Seconded

5. Attendance schedule for 2021 Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

Date	26/01/21	23/02/21	23/02/21	23/03/21	27/04/21	27/04/21	18/05/21	25/05/21	22/06/21	27/07/21	24/08/21	24/08/21	28/09/21	12/10/21	26/10/21	23/11/21
Meeting	PS	H	PS	PS	H	H	H	PS	PS	PS	H	PS	PS	H	PS	PS
Neil Volzke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			
Grant Boyde	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			
Rick Coplestone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			
Peter Dalziel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	S	✓	AV	AV	✓			
Jono Erwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			
Amanda Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			
Alan Jamieson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			
Vaughan Jones	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			
Min McKay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			
John Sandford	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			
Gloria Webby	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	AV	✓			

Key	
PS	Policy & Services Committee Meeting
H	Hearing (heard by Policy & Services Committee)
✓	Attended
A	Apology/Leave of Absence
AB	Absent
S	Sick
AV	Meeting held, or attended by, by Audio Visual Link

DECISION REPORT



F19/13 – D21/34598

To: Policy and Services Committee
From: Director – Corporate Services
Date: 12 October 2021
Subject: Representation Review – Final Proposal

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the submissions to the Representation Review Initial Proposal 2021 are considered, and to amend, if elected members think appropriate, the initial representation arrangements and make a final resolution on each of the following:
 - Whether to retain the Rural Ward, Urban Ward, and Māori Ward (and the proposed names, and number of councillors that will represent each) as per the Initial Proposal.
 - Whether the boundaries proposed for the Rural Ward and Urban Wards be updated as per the Initial Proposal.
 - Whether or not one or more 'at large' seats are introduced (in response to some submissions supporting this).
 - The total number of councillors is increased to 11 plus the Mayor as per the Initial Proposal.
 - No community boards be established.
3. THAT public notice of the Final Proposal is made by 31 October 2021, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 19N of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Recommended Reason

To comply with legislative obligations under the Local Electoral Act 2001 for representation arrangements for the 2022 and 2025 local elections.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Purpose of Report

To consider submissions to the Initial Proposal for the Representation Review 2021, and determine the Final Proposal.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Initial Proposal was adopted on 10 August 2021 and released to the public on 11 August 2021 with submissions closing on 19 September 2021.
- 2.2 Council's Initial Proposal included that:
 - there be 11 councillors plus the Mayor;
 - councillors be elected from three wards (Urban, Rural and Māori);
 - the number of councillors for each ward be:
 - Rural Ward (4)
 - Urban Ward (6)
 - Māori Ward (1)
 - the boundary of the urban ward be amended to include additional residential properties that associate more closely with the urban ward than the rural ward. This includes an area of Pembroke Road to the west and Mercade Estate at the east end of Pembroke Road. Refer to the map in the Appendices to this report.
 - no community boards are established.

A total of 17 submissions were received. One was withdrawn on Monday 4 October 2021 as it had been sent in error bringing the total of submissions back to 16.

In terms of identifying communities of interest (being Rural and Urban), eight of the submitters supported this, one disagreed in that the district is small enough in terms of population to not have to separate the community, the rest of the submitters did not comment on this particular question (some submitters wrote in letters rather than using the submission form).

In terms of establishing a ward system – three submitters were against the proposal, and six were for the Rural/Urban ward system. There were two submitters who didn't comment but made relevant observations - one commented in support of 'at large' seats, and one recommended not to change to an 'at large' approach. The votes were the same when looking at the distribution of elected members within each ward – and due to the same reasons. One submitter, Federated Farmers, preferred the Rural/Urban mix of councillors to be even, at 5/5, to take into account the geographic spread of the distinct rural communities.

For ward boundaries – nine of the submitters agreed with the proposal. One submitter was against as they supported an 'at large' voting system rather than wards.

The number of elected members proposed was generally supported with nine of the submitters in support of the proposal. One disagreed and thought that 10 councillors was an adequate number, and another submitter suggested increasing the number of elected members to match the representation the Māori ward member would have.

For community boards – no submitters disagreed with Council's proposal to not establish community boards.

Finally, though directly relevant to the Representation Review, but unable to be amended (as out of scope), seven of the submitters advised that they disagreed with the establishment of a Māori ward. However, the majority of submitters either deliberately or by default expressed their support for the Māori ward by agreeing to the proposal to have a Rural Ward, Urban Ward and Māori Ward with no councillors elected 'at large'.

2.3 With this information in mind, it is now being put to elected members to determine the Final Proposal for representation arrangements for the Stratford District Council local elections for 2022 and 2025.

3. Local Government Act 2002 – Section 10

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Council's purpose is to “enable democratic local decision making by and on behalf of communities; as well as promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities now and into the future”			
Does the recommended option meet the purpose of the Local Government 4 well-beings? And which:		The representation review is to enable local democratic decision making rather than being directly connected to the four wellbeings.	
Social	Economic	Environmental	Cultural

4. Background

- 4.1 Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, all councils have to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years. This is called the 'Representation Review.' Stratford District Council last reviewed its representation arrangements in 2018. However, due to the decision made in May 2021 to establish a Māori ward, the Representation Review is required to be undertaken in 2021 in accordance with legislative timeframes.
- 4.2 A Council workshop was held on 13 July, where the following topics were discussed:
- Identification of communities of interest,
 - Community boards,
 - Number of councillors,
 - Ward boundaries and names,
 - Number of councillors per Ward,
 - Māori roll elector participation.
- 4.3 The Initial Proposal was adopted in August and released for consultation for just over one month. Of the 16 submissions received, the majority in support of the Initial Proposal.
- 4.4 The Final Proposal must be determined after considering the submissions. Public notice of the Final Proposal must be given by 31 October 2021, and the Final Proposal will be open for appeals and objections for at least one month. It may only be appealed by those persons who submitted on the Initial Proposal and only in regard to the matters raised in their submission. An objection may be lodged by any person if a local authority's final proposal differs from its initial proposal. The objection must identify the matters to which the objection relates. If there are no appeals or objections then public notice must be given that the Final Proposal constitutes the final representation arrangements for the next two local elections.
- 4.5 Should there be any appeals or objections to the Final Proposal, these, together with other required material, must be forwarded to the Local Government Commission no later than 15 January 2022. The Commission must release their determination by 10 April 2022 after making any enquiries the Commission deems necessary.

5. Consultative Process

5.1 Public Consultation - Section 82

Initial public consultation has taken place and submissions will now be considered before making a Final Proposal. A public notice of the Final Proposal will be made and, open for appeals only to those who submitted on the Initial Proposal.

Section 19N(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires that a public notice must:

- (a) incorporate any amendments resolved after considering public submissions; and*
- (b) state both the reasons for the amendments and the reasons for any rejection of submissions; and*
- (ba) specify the communities of interest considered by the territorial authority (as required by sections 19T and 19V) or regional council (as required by sections 19U and 19V); and*
- (bb) specify the ratio of population to proposed members for each proposed ward, constituency, or subdivision, and the reasons for those proposals in terms of section 19V(2) and, if applicable, section 19V(3); and*
- (c) specify the right of appeal conferred by section 19O, including the place and closing date for the receipt of appeals; and*
- (d) if the territorial authority or regional council has amended its proposals under subsection (1)(a), specify the right of objection conferred by section 19P, including the place and closing date for the receipt of objections.*

5.2 Māori Consultation - Section 81

Pre-consultation was undertaken with iwi. Iwi were invited to make a submission during the consultation period. A submission was made by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust, and a representative has requested to speak at the hearing. The iwi speaks strongly in favour of establishing 'at large' seats to give electors on the Māori electoral roll wider opportunity to participate in the local elections.

6. Risk Analysis

Refer to the Council Risk Register - available on the Council website.

- Does this report cover any issues that relate to any risks on the Council Risk Register, and if so which risks and what are the impacts and likelihood of eventuating?
- Does this report cover any issues that may lead to any new risks that are not on the Council Risk Register, and if so, provide some explanation of any new identified risks.
- Is there a legal opinion needed?

6.1 The relevant risk for this decision is Risk 72 – Elected Members Decision Making. It is important that elected members are given all relevant information related to the decision, in a timely manner, so that they have adequate time to prepare for the hearing, discussion, and decision.

No legal opinion is required, however professional advice has been sought from Dale Ofsoske (Electoral Officer, Election Services) during the Representation Review process.

7. Decision Making Process – Section 79

7.1 Direction

	Explain
Is there a strong link to Council's strategic direction, Long Term Plan/District Plan?	Link to strategic direction in terms of representation for the community at the decision-making table.
What relationship does it have to the communities current and future needs for infrastructure, regulatory functions, or local public services?	Direct relationship in the long term decision making.

7.2 Data

- Do we have complete data, and relevant statistics, on the proposal(s)?
- Do we have reasonably reliable data on the proposals?
- What assumptions have had to be built in?

Refer to the submissions summary and the individual submission responses attached to this report. Contact details have been redacted from the submissions to protect the privacy of the submitters.

Below are the population statistics for each ward based on the Initial Proposal.

General	Population	councillors	per Capita	Variance
Urban	5570	6	928	1.98%
Rural	3530	4	882	-3.01%
	9100	10	910	
Māori	780	1	780	

The Act requires that fairness is measured by there being an equitable spread of representatives across a district. This is gained by ensuring that all wards, except for Maori wards, contain a similar representative / population ratio, within a variance of 10%.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 provides four grounds for not complying with the fair representation requirements. These grounds are:

- To provide for effective representation of communities of interest within:
 - Island communities
 - Isolated communities
- Where compliance would limit effective representation of communities of interest by:
 - Dividing a community of interest
 - Grouping together communities of interest with few commonalities of interest

The Local Government Commission has an expectation that the Council's proposal will meet the fair representation requirements and that any decision which does not comply is backed up with supporting documents directly in connection with one of the four points raised above.

A decision by a local authority not to comply with this rule must be referred to the Commission for determination. That referral is treated by the Commission as an appeal under the Local Electoral Act 2001. A determination must be made by the Commission no later than 10 April 2022.

7.3 Significance

	Yes/No	Explain
Is the proposal significant according to the Significance Policy in the Long Term Plan?	N	
Is it:	N	
• considered a strategic asset; or	N	
• above the financial thresholds in the Significance Policy; or	N	
• impacting on a CCO stakeholding; or	N	
• a change in level of service; or	N	
• creating a high level of controversy; or	N	
• possible that it could have a high impact on the community?	N	

In terms of the Council's Significance Policy, is this proposal of high, medium, or low significance?		
High	Medium	Low
	✓	

Although the representation review fails to trigger any of the thresholds for significance in terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy, it is seen as being of significance under in that it is a matter which affects a large number of residents to at least a moderate extent.

The review is subject to public consultation as required under the Local Electoral Act 2001. The Local Government Commission Guidelines (2020) require that Councils adhere to the principles of consultation contained in Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

7.4 Options

An assessment of costs and benefits for each option must be completed. Use the criteria below in your assessment.

1. What options are available?
2. For **each** option:
 - explain what the costs and benefits of each option are in terms of the present and future needs of the district;
 - outline if there are any sustainability issues; and
 - explain if the outcomes meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions?
3. After completing these, consider which option you wish to recommend to Council, and explain:
 - how this option is the most cost effective option for households and businesses;
 - if there are any trade-offs; and
 - what interdependencies exist.

The decisions required for the Final Proposal must take the submissions into account. All submissions must be considered and explanations must be given for both the reasons for any amendments to the Initial Proposal and reasons for any rejection of submissions.

- i. Retain wards as per the Initial Proposal – including the ward names, boundaries, and number of elected members to represent each, taking into account that the majority of submitters were in favour with the Initial Proposal, although one submitter suggested adding one more rural councillor and consider breaching the +/-10% rule.
- ii. Establish ‘at large’ seats – and if so, how many, taking into account that three submitters were in favour of establishing ‘at large’ seats.
- iii. Determine the number of councillors in total – noting most submitters were happy with the Initial Proposal – with two being against, in that one submitter wanted less, and one submitter wanted more.
- iv. Continue with the status quo having no community boards on the basis that no submitters were in support of establishing them.

7.5 Financial

- Is there an impact on funding and debt levels?
- Will work be undertaken within the current budget?
- What budget has expenditure come from?
- How will the proposal be funded? eg. rates, reserves, grants etc.

The pool of funds available for councillor remuneration has been set for the 2021/22 year and is \$268,362. Council cost will not be affected by the number of councillors chosen, as the pool is set each year and is based on different criteria such as asset value and population size.

7.6 Prioritisation & Trade-off

- Have you taken into consideration the:
- Council’s capacity to deliver;
 - contractor’s capacity to deliver; and
 - consequence of deferral?

The proposals contained within the representation review have no funding impact on Council as the income pool for the Councillors is not related to the number of Councillors.

7.7 **Legal Issues**

- Is there a legal opinion needed?
- Are there legal issues?

A legal opinion is not required. There are legislative timeframes and requirements that have been considered in this report.

7.8 **Policy Issues - Section 80**

- Are there any policy issues?
- Does your recommendation conflict with Council Policies?

There are no policy issues to consider.

Attachments:

- Appendix 1** Map of Ward Boundaries
- Appendix 2** Submission Summary
- Appendix 3** Copy of Individual Submission Responses



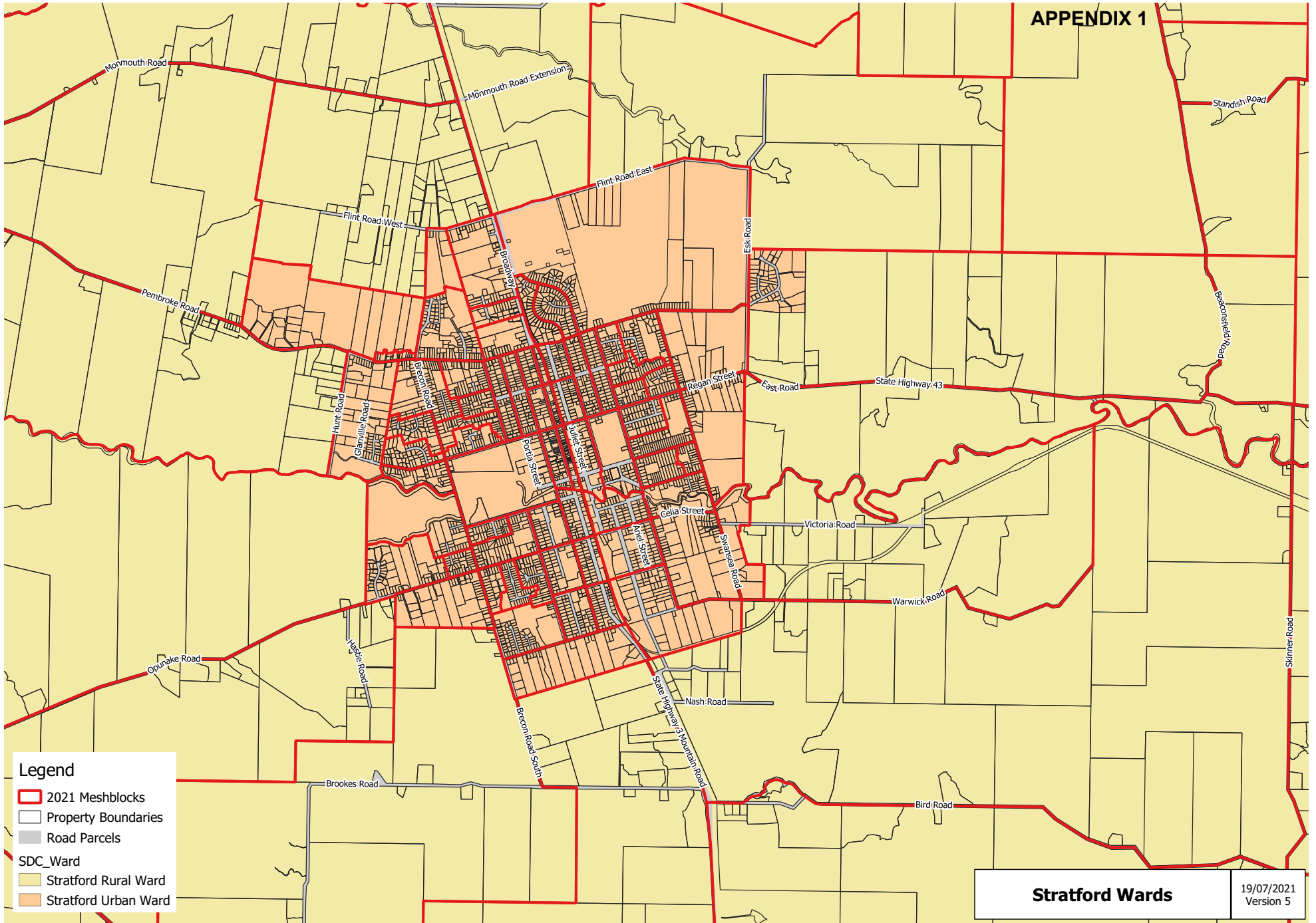
Tiffany Radich
Director – Corporate Services



[Approved by]
Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

Date 6 October 2021

APPENDIX 1



APPENDIX 2

SUB #	NAME	FURTHER COMMENTS	COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST			COMMUNITY BOARDS			WARDS AND/OR AT LARGE			WARD BOUNDARIES			NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS			DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS		
			Y	N	COMMENTS	Y	N	COMMENTS	Y	N	COMMENTS	Y	N	COMMENTS	Y	N	COMMENTS	Y	N	COMMENTS
1	Barry Lewis	Concerned by Council bending to government coercion with move to include unelected persons based on race i.e. Maori wards	1		Pure and simple there are two service areas	1		Do not need added layers of bureaucratic confusion where minority groups become the tail wagging the dog	1		Māori wards are not an option. Believe in democratic one person one vote. ALL councillors should be elected by rate payers providing the funding. Māori can stand for election just like Indians, Chinese etc. It is the individuals choice to participate in what the community tax and rate payers provide for all. Special rights and funding are anti-democratic and create separtatism and racism.	1		Provided it is user pays for the services provided.	1		10 elected councillors is more than an adequate number	1		Māori wards are not an option. Believe in democratic one person one vote. ALL councillors should be elected by rate payers providing the funding. Māori can stand for election just like Indians, Chinese etc... they should only hav equal rights to all other citizens.
2	Sue Rine		1			1			1		Pleased to see addition of Māori wards.	1			1			1		
3	Bob van den Beuken		1			1			1			1			1			1		
4	Brian Jeffares			1	Queries whether we now have rural and urban communities of interest as we are a small district in terms of population.	1			1		Support voting at large as will be done for Mayor and Māori ward seat.	1		Supports at large. Let all prospective candidates put their names forward and then allow the ratepayers select who they want.	1			1		Supports at large.
5	John Clarkson	Agree with proposal in general. Disagreed with Māori seat being created but believe Council has managed this appropriately in this proposal. Does not suppoer Māori ward at large - should be 1 person, 1 vote.																		

SUB #	NAME	FURTHER COMMENTS	COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST	COMMUNITY BOARDS	WARDS AND/OR AT LARGE	WARD BOUNDARIES	NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS	DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS
6	Mark Hooper - Federated Farmers		Want fair representation for rural communities. Recommends falling outside of the +-10% to have one less urban and one more rural.	If proposal is accepted as is then support not having community boards.	Do not change to an at large approach. Supports Māori wards as long as it doesn't impact rural representation.	Asks to continue with current wards approach.	Suggests 5 urban, 5 rural and 1 Māori from wards with Mayor at large.	
7	Rachael Rae - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust				Strongly encourages reconsider adopting At Large Seats in the review.			
8	Christopher James		1	1	1 Relegating maori voters to 2nd tier status by limiting them to only voting for 1 seat is not in the spirit of te tiriti and isn't good for Stratford.	1	1	1 a number of at large wards should be included.
9	WITHDRAWN							
10	R Best		1	1	1	1	1	1
11	Grant Best	I cannot agree with any racially based system. Every group has the ability to be heard equally at local government. Urban and Rural wards have performed well for the community and should be allowed to continue to do so.	1	1	1	1	1	1
12	Lorraine Best		1	1	1	1	1	1

SUB #	NAME	FURTHER COMMENTS	COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST		COMMUNITY BOARDS		WARDS AND/OR AT LARGE		WARD BOUNDARIES		NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS		DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS	
13	James Bonner	People who identify as Māori either vote in the māori ward or the urban or rural wards depending on where they live.												
												Suggest an increase in number of urban and rural ward councillors so each would represent a closer figure to the māori ward councillor who will be representing approx 780 people. Urban will be representing 980 people and rural 883, hence the need for an upwards change.		
14	Grant Kite	Disagrees with inclusion of a Māori ward and therefore increasing Councillors from 10 to 11. Reason is simple - Racism.												
15	A Watson		1		1		1		1		1		1	
16	Murray Hancock	Does not support Māori wanting to vote on all seats in Council.												
17	R E Stephens	Does not support Māori being able to vote other than for the Māori ward.												
TOTALS:			8	1	9	0	6	3	8	1	8	1	6	3

Appendix 3



Stratford District Council
63 Miranda Street
PO Box 320
Stratford
Taranaki

Telephone 06 765 6099
Email stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz
Website stratford.govt.nz

Contact details

We're asking for your email, phone or postal address to inform you about hearing times and decisions. Only one is required and your email is preferred.

Contact name	Barry Lewis
Organisation name	N/A
Contact phone	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Postal Address	[REDACTED]

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2022, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the Representation Review decision making process. If there are good reasons why your details and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact our Privacy Officer on 06 765 6099.

Submission details

TICK whether you agree or disagree with Council's proposals and provide any additional comments on why you agree or disagree under each topic.

Further comments	I am very concerned by the council bending to government coercion with the move to include unelected persons on race based agenda ie. Maori wards. I will also appose the coming moves by the current Labour government to racist separatism that are at the forefront of Te Pua Pua and 3 Waters.
Communities of interest	I agree with Council's proposal that the communities of interest are Rural and Urban.
Additional comments	Pure and simply there are two main service areas.
Community Boards	I agree with Council's proposal to not introduce community boards.
Additional comments	We don't need added layers of bureaucratic confusion where minority groups become the tail wagging the dog.
Wards and/or 'at large'	I disagree with Council's proposal.
Additional comments	Maori wards are not an option. Believe in democratic one person one vote. ALL councillors should be elected by rate payers providing the funding. Maori can stand for election just like Indians, Chinese etc.,. They should only have equal rights to all other citizens. It is the individuals choice to participate in what the community, tax & rate payer provide for all. Special rights and funding are anti-democratic and create separatism and racism.

Ward boundaries

I agree with Council's proposal to increase the area of the urban ward as per the map provided in the proposal.

Additional comments

Provided it is user payers for the services provided.

Number of elected members

I disagree with Council's proposal.

Additional comments

10 elected councillors is more than an adequate number.

Distribution of elected members

I disagree with Council's proposal.

Additional comments

Maori wards are not an option. Believe in democratic one person one vote. ALL councillors should be elected by rate payers providing the funding.
Maori can stand for election just like Indians, Chinese etc.,. They should only have equal rights to all other citizens.

Speaking to your submission

Let us know if you'd like to speak to your submission at the hearing to be held on Tuesday 12 October 2021.

I do not wish to speak to my submission

Declaration

By ticking this box and clicking submit, you confirm that you have read our [privacy statement](#) and that the information you have provided is accurate.

Yes

reCAPTCHA

True

Stratford District Council
63 Miranda Street
PO Box 320
Stratford
Taranaki

Telephone 06 765 6099
Email stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz
Website stratford.govt.nz



Contact details

We're asking for your email, phone or postal address to inform you about hearing times and decisions. Only one is required and your email is preferred.

Contact name	Sue Rine
Organisation name	N/A
Contact phone	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Postal Address	[REDACTED]

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2022, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the Representation Review decision making process. If there are good reasons why your details and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact our Privacy Officer on 06 765 6099.

Submission details

TICK whether you agree or disagree with Council's proposals and provide any additional comments on why you agree or disagree under each topic.

Further comments	N/A
Communities of interest	I agree with Council's proposal that the communities of interest are Rural and Urban.
Additional comments	N/A
Community Boards	I agree with Council's proposal to not introduce community boards.
Additional comments	N/A
Wards and/or 'at large'	I agree with Council's proposal to have a Rural Ward, Urban Ward and Māori Ward with no councillors elected 'at large'.
Additional comments	I'm particularly pleased to see the addition of a Maori ward.
Ward boundaries	I agree with Council's proposal to increase the area of the urban ward as per the map provided in the proposal.
Additional comments	N/A
Number of elected members	I agree with Council's proposal to have 11 councillors plus the mayor.
Additional comments	N/A
Distribution of elected members	I agree with Council's proposal that the distribution of elected members remains the same for rural (4) and urban (6) in addition to the Māori Ward seat.
Additional comments	N/A

Speaking to your submission

Let us know if you'd like to speak to your submission at the hearing to be held on Tuesday 12 October 2021.

I do not wish to speak to my submission

Declaration

By ticking this box and clicking submit, you confirm that you have read our [privacy statement](#) and that the information you have provided is accurate.

Yes

reCAPTCHA

True

Stratford District Council
63 Miranda Street
PO Box 320
Stratford
Taranaki

Telephone 06 765 6099
Email stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz
Website stratford.govt.nz



Contact details

We're asking for your email, phone or postal address to inform you about hearing times and decisions. Only one is required and your email is preferred.

Contact name	Bob van den Beuken
Organisation name	N/A
Contact phone	N/A
Email address	N/A
Postal Address	[REDACTED]

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2022, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the Representation Review decision making process. If there are good reasons why your details and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact our Privacy Officer on 06 765 6099.

Submission details

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Additional comments	N/A

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I do not wish to speak to my submission

Declaration

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Yes

reCAPTCHA

True

Submission form

Full name: Brian Jeffares

Organisation (if completing on behalf of): _____

Email: _____ Contact phone: _____

Postal Address: _____

We're asking for your email, phone or postal address to inform you about hearing times and decisions. Only one is required and your **email is preferred**.

Privacy Statement: In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the Representation Review decision making process. If there are good reasons why your details and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact our Privacy Officer on 06 765 6099.

Let us know if you'd like to speak to your submission at the hearing on 12 October 2021:

- I'd like to speak to my submission
- I do not wish to speak to my submission

TICK the boxes and provide written comments under each topic. There is more room for comments on the back of this page. Alternatively you can complete the submission online or by email.

Communities of interest

- I agree with Council's proposal that the communities of interest are Rural and Urban.
- I disagree with Council's proposal because:

See Submission

Ward boundaries

- I agree with Council's proposal to increase the area of the urban ward as per the map provided.
- I disagree with Council's proposal because:

See Submission

Community Boards

- I agree with Council's proposal to not introduce community boards.
- I disagree with Council's proposal because:

Number of elected members

- I agree with Council's proposal to have 11 councillors plus the mayor.
- I disagree with Council's proposal because:

Wards and/or 'at large'

- I agree with Council's proposal to have a Rural Ward, Urban Ward and Māori Ward with no councillors elected 'at large'.
- I disagree with Council's proposal because:

See Submission

Distribution of elected members

- I agree with Council's proposal that the distribution of elected members remains the same for rural (4) and urban (6) in addition to the Māori Ward seat.
- I disagree with Council's proposal because:

See Submission

Your submission form needs to be with Council by 4.30pm on 19 September 2021. You can post it, deliver it, email it or complete the form online at stratford.govt.nz

Submission form

Further comments

Over the years the rural sector numbers have been declining and the representation of those two sectors have been tweaked to acknowledge the population trend.

However I would query whether we now have rural and urban communities of interest. We are a small district in terms of population and we gather as ratepayers off the Stratford District.

In disagreeing with the proposal to increase the area of the urban ward, it is done in the context that I support an at large proposal. We will vote for the major ward at large. Why not apply the same rationale for the rest?

I know that the argument for the centralisation of a rural and urban split has been based on a belief that the rural sector in particular will be disadvantaged. That is now very debateable and I challenge the view that voting has been undertaken where the splits in the wards has been evident and obvious.

I have often thought that certain candidates whether they be urban or rural should be supported irrespective of which ward they intended to stand. Surely we want the best people being elected, rather than the possibility of people of lesser capability being elected based on the numbers that may put their names forward for a particular ward.

I note that nationally the two major candidates in the general election were based in Wanganui and we were asked to support them here in Stratford. Let all prospective candidates put their names forward and then allow the ratepayers select whom they want.



Your submission form needs to be with Council by 4.30pm on 19 September 2021.
You can post it, deliver it, email it or complete the form online at stratford.govt.nz

Erin Bishop

From: John Clarkson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 September 2021 3:00 p.m.
To: Stratford Submissions
Subject: Representation Review 2021
Attachments: 2021 Representational Review Submission.pdf

Dear Stratford Council,

Please find attached my submission in support of the proposal.

Regards
John Clarkson

I agree with your Statement of Proposal in general. Whilst I disagree with a Maori seat being created in the first place, I believe that the council has managed this appropriately in this proposal.

Like many others, I am disappointed that this Labour Government continues to try and divide New Zealand with race-based politics. The Treaty dictates that there is a duty to consult with Maori. This has now gone above that requirement with a Maori ward being developed on the council. I have read in the local press that some in the district now want to push for a Maori seat to be "At Large". It appears to be never ending demands and the old saying of "give an inch and they will take a mile".

In the interests of fairness, it should be 1 person, 1 vote. Not 2 votes for some and 1 for another. That is not democracy.

The proposal is as fair as possible.

SUBMISSION



To: Stratford District Council

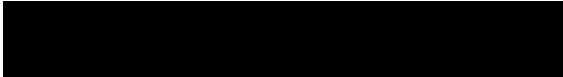
Submission on: Initial proposal – Representation review 2021

Date: 17 September 2021

Contact: Mark Hooper – Taranaki Provincial President
Federated Farmers of New Zealand



Shaun Hazelton - Policy Advisor
Federated Farmers of New Zealand



Submission to Stratford District Council on its representation review 2021

OUR SUBMISSION

1. Federated Farmers thanks Stratford District Council (Council) for the opportunity to submit on the proposed representation review.
2. We wish to be heard on our submission.
3. Federated Farmers are aware that there is significant 'consultation fatigue' out in the community following the Taranaki Regional Councils Long-Term Plan and other important consultation processes throughout 2021. At this time of the year, farmers are also worrying about lambing and calving. This may affect the number of individual submissions towards the Representation Review from rural Stratford.
4. Our members do not want their busy silence to be misconstrued by Council as disinterest in rural representation or silent acceptance. Federated Farmers submission represents the views of hundreds of rural landowners in the district. We gently remind the Council of this so that their representation views, expressed here, are weighed appropriately.
5. Federated Farmers respects that Council's decision to establish Māori wards has triggered the need for a representation review in 2021.
6. Federated Farmers wishes to address the importance of the rural wards and the voice of the rural community. Rural Taranaki contributes heavily to the region's economy and employment. Dairy farming alone contributes to over 10% of employment in the region and over \$1 billion in production generated within Taranaki.
7. Federated Farmers acknowledges that representation legislation is not ideal for rural representation as low populations are scattered over such large areas compared to that of regional centres such as urban Stratford.

In Short

8. Federated Farmers wants fair representation for rural communities.
9. To ensure that all communities are fairly represented Federated Farmers recommends considering falling outside of the + -10% guideline to have one less urban and one more rural councillor.
10. We would **not** want to see change to an at large approach.
11. We support the Māori wards so long as any changes do not impact rural representation.

Councillors

12. Council has proposed to have 11 members, six urban, four rural and one region wide Māori constituency. Federated Farmers Taranaki complements council on accurately identifying the communities of interest within the district being urban, rural and Māori.
13. Federated Farmers continues to support the establishment of Māori wards providing it is not used as a way of justifying a decrease in rural ward representation. The Federation is in support of appointing an additional councillor as suggested in the proposal to include the Māori Ward councillor.
14. Federated Farmers does ask Council if it deems that urban Stratford requires six councillors over four for rural. Stratford City itself holds most of the population, however, when you consider communities of interest council must consider geographic spread of these distinct rural communities that need representing. It is common that rural representation is lost in districts with a large urban population such as urban Stratford than their rural counterparts.
15. It is understood that The Local Electoral Act 2001 does not favour rural representation with the + - 10% goal generally working against rural communities for fair and equal representation. Federated Farmers believes that reducing the urban ward to five councillors and increasing rural to five will be a better balance of fair representation for communities of interest outside of town. Urban Stratford does not have enough unique communities of interest to receive benefits from six councillors to fairly represent the urban Ward. Rural Stratford will however benefit greatly as one extra councillor will be able to reduce the geographic coverage that each councillor needs to represent for fair and equal representation.
- 16. Federated Farmers suggest five urban, five rural and one Māori councillor taken from wards with a mayor at large.**

Wards

17. Federated Farmers believes that a wards-based system is the best way to represent communities of interest within the district. Federated Farmers supports the ward system and does not want council to make changes to remove wards to an at large approach from the district.
18. It is also deemed appropriate to make the boundary adjustments to include the new residential zones into urban Stratford.
- 19. Federated Farmers asks council to continue with the current wards approach.**

Community Boards

20. Council has decided not to introduce community boards under the initial proposal.
21. Federated Farmers has had plenty of experience with community boards. In our experience they can be hit and miss and generally are not as effective as community representation through councillors.
22. If Council changed their proposal to an at large system which is not supported by the Federation, we would want to have community Boards. However, with strong rural representation at councillor level, we do not deem it necessary.
- 23. If the initial proposal is accepted as is Federated Farmers would support not having Community Boards.**

ABOUT FEDERATED FARMERS

Federated Farmers of New Zealand is a primary sector organisation that represents farmers, and other rural businesses. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the needs and interests of New Zealand farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' 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 businesses 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.

Ends

TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI RUANUI TRUST



17 September 2021

Chief Executive
Sven Hanne
Chief Executive
63 Miranda Street
STRATFORD
4332

Dear Svenn,

Stratford District Council Representation Review 2022

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust (Ngāti Ruanui) welcome the opportunity to make a submission on the Representation Arrangements for the Stratford District Council. The proposal for the representation review outlines the mechanisms for producing a fair and effective representation for the Stratford District Council. Ngāti Ruanui disagree with the proposal in its current form and strongly encourage the Stratford District Council to reconsider and include one possibly two At large seats.

Ngāti Ruanui encourages more genuine engagement for Māori across the region. The proposal limits the opportunity for Māori to participate in Local Council. We seek to inspire our wānau to be participate in Local Government Elections and know that the opportunity to vote in At Large Council Seats will be beneficial to all constituents now that a Māori Ward has been established.

We believe that the Stratford District Council would benefit long term if more possibilities for Māori to be heard were created. Ngāti Ruanui strongly advocates for the partnership outlined in Te Tiriti o Waitangi to be authentically demonstrated in practice and the prospect of a fair representation of our community being implemented.

Ngāti Ruanui acknowledges the significant change that will occur in the 2022 elections with the establishment of a Māori ward and wish to ensure that the establishment is beneficial to the core values of representation.

Ngāti Ruanui strongly encourage that the Stratford District Council reconsider adopting At Large Seats in the Representation Review.

Ngāti Ruanui would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission kanohi to kanohi.

A blue ink signature of Rachel Rae.

Rachel Rae
Kaiw'aka'aere

Stratford District Council
63 Miranda Street
PO Box 320
Stratford
Taranaki

Telephone 06 765 6099
Email stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz
Website stratford.govt.nz



Contact details

We're asking for your email, phone or postal address to inform you about hearing times and decisions. Only one is required and your email is preferred.

Contact name	Christopher James
Organisation name	N/A
Contact phone	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Postal Address	[REDACTED]

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Submission details

TICK whether you agree or disagree with Council's proposals and provide any additional comments on why you agree or disagree under each topic.

Further comments	N/A
Communities of interest	I agree with Council's proposal that the communities of interest are Rural and Urban.
Additional comments	N/A
Community Boards	I agree with Council's proposal to not introduce community boards.
Additional comments	N/A
Wards and/or 'at large'	I disagree with Council's proposal.
Additional comments	Relegating maori voters to 2nd tier status by limiting them to only voting for 1 seat is not in the spirit of te tiriti and isn't good for Stratford.
Ward boundaries	I agree with Council's proposal to increase the area of the urban ward as per the map provided in the proposal.
Additional comments	N/A
Number of elected members	I agree with Council's proposal to have 11 councillors plus the mayor.
Additional comments	N/A
Distribution of elected members	I disagree with Council's proposal.
Additional comments	a number of 'at large' wards should be included.

Speaking to your submission

Let us know if you'd like to speak to your submission at the hearing to be held on Tuesday 12 October 2021.

I would like to speak to my submission

Declaration

By ticking this box and clicking submit, you confirm that you have read our [privacy statement](#) and that the information you have provided is accurate.

Yes

reCAPTCHA

True

Submission was withdrawn on 4 October 2021

Stratford District Council
63 Miranda Street
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Taranaki

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Email stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz
Website stratford.govt.nz



Contact details

We're asking for your email, phone or postal address to inform you about hearing times and decisions. Only one is required and your email is preferred.

Contact name	R Best
Organisation name	[REDACTED]
Contact phone	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Postal Address	[REDACTED]

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Additional comments	N/A
Distribution of elected members	I agree with Council's proposal that the distribution of elected members remains the same for rural (4) and urban (6) in addition to the Māori Ward seat.
Additional comments	N/A

Speaking to your submission

Let us know if you'd like to speak to your submission at the hearing to be held on Tuesday 12 October 2021.

I do not wish to speak to my submission

Declaration

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Yes

reCAPTCHA

True

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 Stratford
 Taranaki

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Contact details

We're asking for your email, phone or postal address to inform you about hearing times and decisions. Only one is required and your email is preferred.

Contact name	Grant Best
Organisation name	N/A
Contact phone	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Postal Address	[REDACTED]

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Submission details

TICK whether you agree or disagree with Council's proposals and provide any additional comments on why you agree or disagree under each topic.

Further comments	I cannot agree with any racially based system but we seem to be stuck with one now. However the term " you cannot have your cake and eat it too" comes to mind. Every group has the ability to be heard equally at local government. The urban & rural wards have performed well for the communities over many many years and should be allowed to keep doing so.
Communities of interest	I agree with Council's proposal that the communities of interest are Rural and Urban.
Additional comments	N/A
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Additional comments	the mayor.
Distribution of elected members	N/A
	I agree with Council's proposal that the distribution of elected members remains the same for rural (4) and urban (6) in addition to the Māori Ward seat.
Additional comments	N/A
Speaking to your submission	
Let us know if you'd like to speak to your submission at the hearing to be held on Tuesday 12 October 2021.	I do not wish to speak to my submission

Declaration

By ticking this box and clicking submit, you confirm that you have read our privacy statement and that the information you have provided is accurate.	Yes
reCAPTCHA	True

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Contact details

We're asking for your email, phone or postal address to inform you about hearing times and decisions. Only one is required and your email is preferred.

Contact name	Lorraine Best
Organisation name	N/A
Contact phone	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Postal Address	[REDACTED]

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I do not wish to speak to my submission

Declaration

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Yes

reCAPTCHA

True

Erin Bishop

From: Jim Bonner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 19 September 2021 1:21 p.m.
To: Stratford Submissions
Subject: "Representation Review 2021"

My submission is that people who identify as Maori either vote in the maori ward or the urban or rural wards depending on where they live.

They should not get more than one vote.

I also suggest that a case could be made for a slight increase in the number of urban and rural ward councillors so that each of them would represent a closer figure to the maori ward councillor who will be representing approx. 780 people.

On the council's numbers, each urban ward councillor will be representing 980 people, and the rural ward councillor 883 people, hence the need for an upward change.

James Bonner

Erin Bishop

From: Grant Kite <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 19 September 2021 3:22 p.m.
To: Stratford Submissions
Subject: Representation Review 2021
Attachments: Submission to SDC.odt

Hi,

Please find attached my submission. I would like to point out that the submissions were to close at 4.30pm today, but the online form has been taken down early. I had started it earlier but when I went to submit it, I was asked to verify it, which I did, but it then simply disappeared. Luckily I had saved a copy before I submitted it.

Grant Kite



I disagree with the inclusion of a Maori ward and therefore increasing the councillors from 10 to 11. My reason is very simple. Racism, and I am sure it will anger or annoy a few people. My reasons are as follows.

You see and hear all the time that New Zealand does not tolerate racism. And nor should we. I would like to start off and say that I firmly believe that everyone should be treated equally and fairly, and that no one should be disadvantaged by their race or receive preferential treatment based on their race. I will now express my view on the basic definition of racism. If a person or group of people are disadvantaged, or told they cannot do something based on their race, then that is clearly racism. I am sure not many people would disagree with that. But, if a person or group of people are given preferential treatment or simply allowed to do something based on their race, then that must also be racism. You cannot have one without the other. Therefore by having a Maori ward and providing a service just for Maoris, that is racism.

According to the census of 2018, and based on figures on Wikipedia, and this could vary slightly as ethnic figures add up to more than 100% as people could choose more than one ethnic group, Asians (15.30%) have nearly as many people in New Zealand as Maoris (16.50%). So should we have an Asian ward? Of course not, as that would again be racist. An example is if I was to organise an event and say that no Maoris were to attend, that would be racism. But having a Maori ward for Maoris to have a say and voice their opinions is not racism. As I said earlier, you cannot have one without the other.

I think the current council is doing a great job. It is not something I would like to do and I applaud anyone who wants to stand up and do the job. I just don't like inclusion of a Maori ward, or in fact any ward for any particular race or ethnicity. We are living in a multicultural society, and therefore we need to be mindful of the customs and traditions, but that does not mean that we have different rules and regulations for each different race and ethnicity, and if we do then that is racism. No matter what ethnicity someone has, they have the right to stand up and put their name forward to be a councillor. There is absolutely no way someone should get in because a separate section has been set up for a particular race.

Thank you for your time.

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Contact details

We're asking for your email, phone or postal address to inform you about hearing times and decisions. Only one is required and your email is preferred.

Contact name	A Watson
Organisation name	N/A
Contact phone	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Postal Address	[REDACTED]

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Additional comments	N/A

Speaking to your submission

Let us know if you'd like to speak to your submission at the hearing to be held on Tuesday 12 October 2021.

I do not wish to speak to my submission

Declaration

By ticking this box and clicking submit, you confirm that you have read our [privacy statement](#) and that the information you have provided is accurate.

Yes

reCAPTCHA

True

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Murray & Karen Hancock [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 18 September 2021 8:56 a.m.
To: StratfordDC <StratfordDC@stratford.govt.nz>
Subject: Submission on Maori seat

After reading the article in the daily news regarding Maori wanting to vote on all seats in council we are totally against this idea because why speak up now is it because they heard NP council are doing this when as the Mayor said they knew what the rules were when they got their way with a Maori seat . The Maori seat is even racist as why is there not a islander seat Asian seat etc they have the same chance as everyone to stand for council the normal way democratically so we are totally against this idea as we cannot vote in all wards and cannot vote in the Maori ward. And don't think we are racist because have a son in law who is Samoan and one who is Maori and grandchildren who are part Maori and Samoan we are all New Zealanders and want to live in a democratic country which is getting destroyed by this nonsense.

Signed M Hancock and family.
Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Rayna [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 September 2021 11:39 a.m.
To: StratfordDC <StratfordDC@stratford.govt.nz>
Subject: Maori Wards

Dear Councillors

Well done for trying. Please keep up the good work of holding out for one Maori Ward. None would be ideal.

The right to vote belongs to everyone and nor should Maori people be forced by their representatives to vote in a certain way by creating a separatist ward which has no basis in democracy. The electoral system is there for a reason. It is not there to grant a free seat when there is a legal election process in place. They have just worked it out that Maori ward voters will just get a single vote whereas urban and rural ward voters get six/four votes respectively under democracy. They also have not worked out that if they are on the national Maori Roll it is compulsory to vote in any Maori Wards and therefore have no other say in voting in the councillors in any NZ election. These extremist Maori demands are not doing their people any favours.

Government and Councils have a duty to represent the whole community without bias or prejudice. The Treaty gave Maori the rights and privileges of all NZ citizens. It did not create a separatist governance. Maori should back themselves and use the election process, provide candidates and not ask for free extra representation to that which they already hold under over 100 Statutes and the consultation process that already exists with manu whenua in this country, not to mention the Government Departments it is trying to acquire under he puapua.

The Electoral Commission (Te Kaitiaki Take Kowhiri) has advice that they should read.

Sincerely

R E Stephens

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