

Public Notice

Initial Proposal for Representation arrangements for the 2019 Local Government Elections

On 28 May 2018 the South Taranaki District Council reviewed its representation arrangements, and resolved that the following initial proposal apply for the Council and its community boards for the elections to be held on 12 October 2019:

Council Representation

It is proposed that the Council comprise the Mayor and 12 members elected from four wards. The four wards reflect the following identified communities of interest:

WARD NAME	COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
Ōpūnake-Manaia	Increases the current Egmont Plains Ward boundary to include Okaiawa and the western area of the current Tangahoe Ward, with the boundary being moved to the Waingongoro River. Includes Te Ngutu o Te Manu, which is a significant site for Te Korowai o Ngāruahine. This ward encompasses all of the marae for Te Korowai o Ngāruahine.
Eltham-Kaponga	Increases the current Eltham Ward slightly, with Kapuni and surrounding area moved from the current Egmont Plains Ward into this ward.
Hāwera-Tangahoe	This ward is an amalgamation of the Hāwera-Normanby and Tangahoe Wards. It includes the current Hāwera-Normanby Ward urban area and also takes account of significant urban development on the outskirts of Hāwera since the last representation review. It also provides for future residential growth likely to occur within the boundaries of this ward. Includes the settlements of Te Roti, Ōhawe, Ohangai, Meremere, Ararata, Mokoia and Whakamara. The current Tangahoe Ward boundaries change substantially in this proposal. The western part of the ward would be included in the proposed Ōpūnake-Manaia Ward and the rest is joined to the current Hāwera-Normanby Ward to create a new ward. This ward recognises that the residents of the current Tangahoe Ward have a functional community of interest with Hāwera, i.e. the majority of people from this ward currently look towards Hāwera for many of their needs such as schooling, shopping, medical practice, sports etc.
Pātea	This ward boundary stays the same as the current Pātea Ward boundary. Although it does not comply with the +/- 10% population requirement, i.e. it has less people per Councillor than other wards, the Council believes that the ward should remain the same because of geographical and historical factors.

The population that each member will represent is as follows:

WARD	POPULATION*	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	POPULATION PER MEMBER
Ōpūnake-Manaia	6,940	3	2,313
Eltham-Kaponga	4,570	2	2,285
Hāwera-Tangahoe	12,580	5	2,516
Pātea	3,930	2	1,965
Total	28,000	12	2,333

*Population estimate as at 1 July 2017

In accordance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 the population that each member represents must be within the range of 2,333 +/- 10% (2,100 to 2,566), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise. Only the representation of the Pātea Ward falls outside the stipulated range. Although this ward does not comply with the +/- 10% requirement, i.e. it has less people per Councillor than other wards, the Council considers that the Pātea Ward warrants representation by two members and that the boundaries should remain unchanged. This is based on the following considerations set out in section 19V(3) of the Local Electoral Act 2001:

1. The weighting of representation solely on population would take insufficient consideration of the communities of interest of the residents of the current Pātea Ward and would limit effective representation of communities of interest by uniting two communities with few commonalities of interest.
2. The current Pātea Ward is geographically isolated from the other wards, with transport connections relying on the State Highway.
3. The current Pātea Ward consists of a large coastal area and three main valley systems – the Pātea, Whenuakura and Waitotara Valleys – and the smaller Ngutuwhera-Mangawhio area that all feed to State Highway 3 and the towns of Pātea and Waverley. In order to achieve compliance with the +/- 10% requirement, the boundary of the Pātea Ward would need to

move to include 280 additional people who live in the current Tangahoe Ward (proposed Hāwera-Tangahoe Ward)

4. The residents of the affected meshblocks have no shared communities of interest with the residents of the Pātea Ward. The Manawapou River creates a natural physical boundary. Access to the Pātea Ward is only available along State Highway 3. While the eastern parts of the current Eltham and Tangahoe Wards have similar landforms (valleys), there are no functional links between the three areas, i.e. there are no local roads connecting the wards. The residents in the affected meshblocks look toward Hāwera for their functional communities of interest, and have a perceived community of interest towards the north rather than the south of the District. The extent of the boundary change to achieve compliance fails to meet the requirement of communities of interest, as it would merge different communities that have little in common.
5. People in the current Pātea Ward have a strong historical association with the current Pātea Ward boundary as this was the previous Pātea District Council boundary and prior to that the Pātea County Council boundary.

Community Board Representation

It is proposed that the following four community boards be elected:

COMMUNITY BOARD	AREA OF COMMUNITY BOARD
Ōpūnake-Manaia Community Board	Same as the Ōpūnake-Manaia Ward boundary
Eltham-Kaponga Community Board	Same as the Eltham-Kaponga Ward boundary
Hāwera-Tangahoe Community Board	Same as the Hāwera-Tangahoe Ward boundary
Pātea Community Board	Same as the Pātea Ward boundary

It is proposed that there will be four members elected to each Community Board. They will not be subdivided for electoral purposes. They will each have one appointed member as follows:

COMMUNITY BOARD	NUMBER OF MEMBERS FROM WHICH WARD
Ōpūnake-Manaia Community Board	1 member appointed from Ōpūnake-Manaia Ward
Eltham-Kaponga Community Board	1 member appointed from Eltham-Kaponga Ward
Hāwera-Tangahoe Community Board	1 member appointed from Hāwera-Tangahoe Ward
Pātea Community Board	1 member appointed from Pātea Ward

Further Information

Copies of the Council's resolution and maps setting out the areas of the proposed wards and community boards may be viewed at, and obtained from any LibraryPlus in Hāwera, Manaia, Pātea, Waverley, Ōpūnake, Eltham and Kaponga or the Hāwera Administration Building in Albion Street, Hāwera.

Any queries regarding the Council's decision should be directed to Coral Hair, Policy and Governance Manager, Phone 0800 111 323, 06-278 0555 or repreview@stdc.govt.nz

Relevant information is also available on the Council's website www.southtaranaki.com

Submissions are invited

Persons with an interest in the proposed representation arrangements are invited to make written submissions on the Council's initial representation proposal by:

- Completing the online submission form at www.southtaranaki.com
- Sending an email to repreview@stdc.govt.nz
- Complete a hard copy submission form and post it to us at Private Bag 902, Hāwera, 4640 or drop it into any LibraryPlus or the Hāwera Administration Building
- Fax us on (06) 2788757

Submissions must be received by Council by 5 pm on Monday, 16 July 2018. Please indicate if you wish to speak to your submission.

Waid Crockett
Chief Executive
South Taranaki District Council
14 June 2018