

Feedback Wanted

on South Taranaki's Electoral Representation

Arotakenga-ā-Rohe

The Council is reviewing the District's electoral and representation arrangements for the 2019 local government elections and, as part of the review, is seeking submissions on proposed changes to the Council's ward and community board boundaries.

Why?

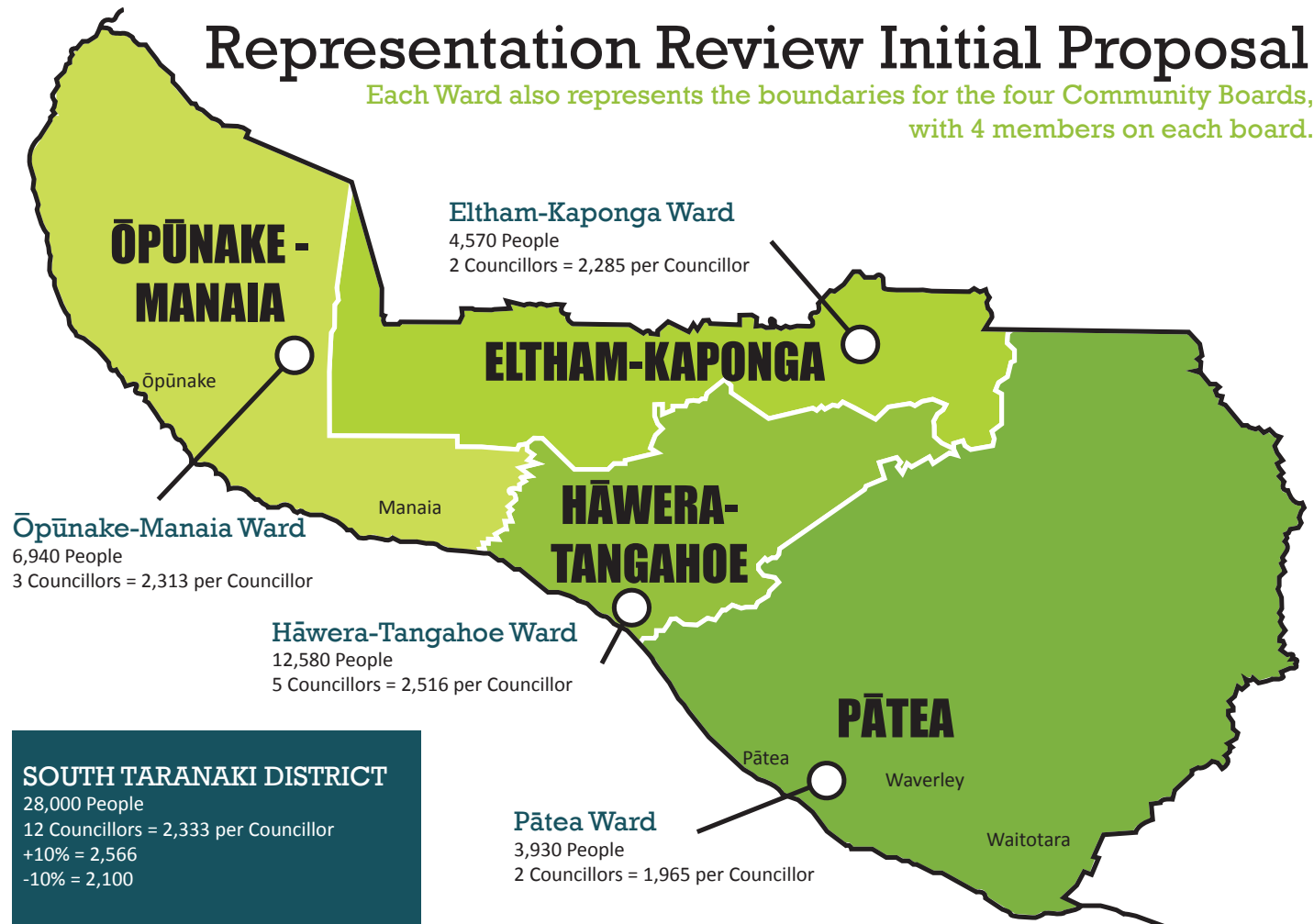
The Council is required by law to review the District's representation arrangements every six years. This includes reviewing things such as the number of councillors and wards we should have, whether we should have community boards and if so, how many, where the boundaries are and what the names of the wards and community boards ought to be. When reviewing the District's representation the Council has a number of rules which it must be guided by. For example the Council has to consider how to best represent the 'communities of interest' in the District and the number of councillors per ward must represent approximately the same number of people (with a tolerance of plus/minus 10%). Currently three of our five wards don't meet that requirement, either because they have too many or too few residents per elected member.

Initial Proposal:

Under the initial proposal the boundaries of all wards have been redrawn (see map and table), except for the current Pātea Ward and Community Board boundary, which stays the same. The District's 12 Councillors and four Community Boards (each with four members) will be kept and the Mayor will continue to be elected across the whole District. The advantage of this proposal is that it is familiar and keeps the same number of councillors as we currently have. It would mean no change for most people. It also means three of the four wards comply with the population guidelines. The Pātea Ward is the only one which does not comply with the plus/minus 10% requirement. The Council sees this as a 'best fit' for meeting effective representation of communities of interest of the District while also recognising the needs of geographically distinct communities. A summary of the initial proposal is outlined in the table.

Representation Review Initial Proposal

Each Ward also represents the boundaries for the four Community Boards, with 4 members on each board.



	# residents	# councillors	people per councillor
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

The Council invites submissions on its initial proposal. The Council is especially keen to receive submissions on the names of the proposed wards and community boards. Email to repreview@stdc.govt.nz or go to our website www.southtaranaki.com or drop your submission into the Hāwera Office or nearest LibraryPlus. **We need your submission by 5pm on Monday, 16 July 2018.** The submissions will be considered by the Council at its meeting on 30 July 2018. For any queries regarding the proposal please contact Coral Hair on 0800 111 323 or 06-278 0555.

WARD NAME	DESCRIPTION OF WARD
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 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.

COMMUNITY BOARD	DESCRIPTION OF BOARD
Ōpūnake-Manaia Community Board	The Community Board boundary matches the proposed ward boundary and has been increased in size from the current Egmont Plains Community Board boundary.
Eltham-Kaponga Community Board	The Community Board boundary matches the proposed ward boundary and there has been a light increase in size from the current Eltham Community Board boundary.
Hāwera-Tangahoe Community Board	The Community Board boundary matched the proposed ward boundary and is a slight reduction of the current Hāwera-Tangahoe Community Board boundary, without any subdivisions proposed. The reason there are no subdivisions proposed for this Board is that subdivisions would have to comply with the +/- 10% requirement, and the number of Board Members would need to increase to 6 to make it comply.
Pātea Community Board	The Community Board boundary matches the proposed ward boundary and remains the same as the current Pātea Community Board boundary.