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For enquires please contact Sue Veart
Extension: 8422: JR
Direct Dial: 237 1447

Address
correspondence to

The Chief Executive
Porirua City Council
PO Box 50218
Porirua City
New Zealand
Phone 64 4 237 5000
Fax 64 4 237 6384

Administration Bldg
Cobham Court
Porirua City

18 August 2000

The Council Secretary
Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 1 1-646
WELLINGTON

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION ON THE TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP AND BASIS OF
ELECTION 2000

Please find attached Porirua City Council's submission on the Wellington Regional Council's
Triennial Review of Membership and Basis of Election.

Porirua City Council objects to two parts of Wellington Regional Council's resolution:

- a) The decision to change the name of the Porirua constituency to "Mana."
- b) The decision not to include the Tawa Community Board area in the Porirua
constituency.

Porirua City Council further submits that if Porirua and the Tawa Community Board area
were to be combined that "Mana" would be an inappropriate name for this. An alternative
name could be "Porirua-Tawa."

Porirua City Council does wish to speak to this submission.

Yours sincerely,



John E Seddon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14 AUGUST 2000

**SUBMISSION TO THE WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
ON:**

TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP AND BASIS OF ELECTION 2000

INTRODUCTION

Porirua City Council recognises the need for the Regional Council to balance the interests and needs of the various areas in the region, and the statutory requirements pertaining to the Triennial Review process. Porirua City Council wishes to submit on WRC's Triennial Review in two key areas:

- The resolution to rename the Porirua constituency as "Mana"
- The resolution to retain the status quo constituencies and specifically not to combine the Porirua constituency with the Tawa Community Board Area

In addition, Council submits that "Porirua-Tawa" would be the most appropriate name for a combined Porirua -Tawa Community Board constituency.

THE NAME CHANGE

Council OBJECTS to the change of name from 'Porirua' to 'Mana.' WRC suggests that the use of the name "Mana" better reflects how others perceive the area, and that it is generally accepted practice within the area. This is not the case. While it is true that some local businesses and organisations do use "Mana" in their names, this by no means represents majority support. Similarly there is no evidence of majority support for a name change among Porirua residents. In 1994, residents were asked, as part of an NRB Communitrak survey, whether they supported a change of name for Porirua. 79% of the 400 residents surveyed opposed a name change, and only 15% supported it. Of those that supported a change, less than 2% suggested the name should be either Mana or Kapi-Mana. Furthermore in 1999 during the Strategic Plan consultation, strong support was expressed for retaining the name "Porirua" over any alternative.

Historically the name "Mana" was used to describe the two villages of Plimmerton and Paremata. "Mana" has since been loosely used to define a variety of geographic regions, often including Linden/Tawa and other areas. For the 1999 general election, the central government definition of the Mana electorate extended as far north as Raumati, and included Linden in the south. Further, WRC used the name "Mana" in earlier reports to designate a combined Porirua-Tawa Community Board constituency.

All of these varying definitions add to the confusion regarding the geographical area the name “Mana” encompasses. Furthermore, it would seem somewhat illogical to define a particular constituency as the borders of a TLA, but to then name that constituency differently to the TLA.

PORIRUA AND TAWA SHOULD BE COMBINED

Council wishes to object to the decision not to include the Tawa Community Board area in the Porirua constituency. In relation to this, Council’s submission covers four areas: the need for fair representation across the region, the existence of a community of interest between Porirua and Tawa, WRC’s stated reasons for not applying this change and the appropriate name for such a constituency.

Fair Representation?

Porirua City Council notes the relatively low population per regional councillor in the Porirua constituency, particularly in comparison to the Kapiti constituency. Under the current arrangement, the Porirua constituency will have one regional councillor per 23,800 population, compared to 41,200 for Kapiti (as shown in the table below). In the previous Triennial Review process, the Local Government Commission suggested that: *“the Council consider the situation very carefully prior to the elections to be held in 2001.”*

	Pooulation per Regional Councillor	
	Status Quo	Porirua Combined with Tawa
Kapiti	41200	41200
Porirua (Porirua-Tawa)	23800	30150
Wellington	33360	30840
Lower Hutt	32700	32700
Upper Hutt	37300	37300
Wairarapa	19130	19130

Porirua City Council submits that combining the Tawa Community Board area with Porirua is the best way of addressing this issue. This would result in a ratio of councillors to population of 1: 30,150, in line with the Wellington constituency, and much more acceptable from a regional perspective. Council recognises that there are legal issues relating to the fact that Tawa is no longer a separate Ward for local government elections. However, as this arrangement is needed to achieve fair regional representation, and as the two areas form a natural community of interest, such a constituency would not contravene the spirit of the Local Government Act. Porirua City Council understands that the Regional Council has received legal advice to this effect.

Communities of Interest?

Council notes that for the purposes of defining communities of interest for regional representation, it is logical to take regional council functions into account. In this area, Porirua and Tawa have considerable common interest in:

- Whole catchment management,
- ‘Transport planning (especially urban rail and the urban motorway)

The Porirua stream flows through Tawa and Porirua such that regional council flood prevention works are of benefit to both Porirua and Tawa. Tawa is also linked to the metropolitan water supply network via Porirua.

Although there are strong flows of commuters between Tawa and Wellington, Tawa has equally strong links with Porirua. Furthermore, there are strong commuter links between most areas and the Wellington CBD (for example there is a flow of commuters between Porirua and Wellington, but this does not indicate that a community of interest exists). As the southern end of a number of commuter areas, Tawa has a strong common interest with Porirua in terms of urban rail and the Wellington urban motorway.

Porirua and Tawa also have common interests outside of WRC activity in:

- Joint sewage schemes
- Landfill issues
- Joint emergency management procedures and services (eg Police and Fire services).
- Joint Government service provision (eg Housing NZ, WINZ)
- Hospital services (Kenepuru Hospital)
- Voluntary and paid employment
- Shopping centre

The reasons given for not implementing a change

It is this Council’s submission that “*strong opposition expressed by the Tawa Community Board and the Tawa Residents and Ratepayers Association,*” is not an overwhelming reason as to why the two areas do not share a community of interest. There are specific reasons why these groups wish to remain part of Wellington for the purposes of regional representation, and these are quite separate to the issue of whether a community of interest exists. It is the issues of community of interest and fair and effective representation, which should be of concern to WRC in the Triennial Review process

The name of a Porirua-Tawa constituency

If Porirua and Tawa were to be a single constituency, Council submits that “*Mana*” would be an inappropriate name given that a majority of Porirua residents do not support this. In the interests of being constructive Porirua City Council submits that a possible alternative could be “*Porirua-Tawa*” recognising that unlike other regional constituencies, the Porirua-Tawa constituency is not a single territorial authority.

CONCLUSION

Porirua City Council:

- a) OBJECTS to changing the name of the Porirua constituency to “Mana” because:
- There is by no means majority support among residents for this
 - Although some businesses use the name, not all of these are based in Porirua, and these are not necessarily a majority.
 - It confuses Porirua with various other definitions of the “Mana” area.
- b) OBJECTS to the decision not to include the Tawa Community Board area in the Porirua constituency because:
- There is imbalance between current constituencies in terms of ratios of population per regional councillor. Combining Tawa with Porirua is the best way of dealing with this.
 - There is a common “Community of Interest” between Porirua and Tawa as evidenced by the considerable shared interests in terms of WRC functions and other activities
 - Opposition from residents groups and the Community Board does not negate these arguments
- c) Submits that in the event that WRC chooses to combine the Tawa/Porirua constituencies, “Mana” would be an inappropriate name given that a majority of Porirua residents do not support this. In the interests of being constructive Council submits that a possible alternative could be “Porirua-Tawa” **recognising** that unlike other regional constituencies, the Porirua-Tawa constituency is not a single territorial authority.



John B Seddon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE