

File: E/01/04/01

Report 06.446

Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee

Minute extract from meeting held on 12 September 2006

Final representation proposal

Resolved (Cr Shields /Cr Glensor)

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- 1. Receives the report.**
- 2. Notes the content of the report.**
- 3. Recommends that Council chooses the following representation arrangements as the Wellington Regional Council's final representation proposal:**

<i>Wellington Constituency</i>	<i>Based on the current boundary of the Wellington City Council</i>	<i>5 elected members</i>
<i>Upper Hutt constituency</i>	<i>Based on the current boundary of the Upper Hutt City Council</i>	<i>1 elected member</i>
<i>Lower Hutt constituency</i>	<i>Based on the current boundary of the Hutt City Council</i>	<i>3 elected members</i>
<i>Porirua and Kapiti constituency</i>	<i>Based on joining the current boundaries of the Kapiti Coast District Council and Porirua City Council</i>	<i>3 elected members</i>
<i>Wairarapa constituency</i>	<i>Based on joining the current boundaries of South Wairarapa District Council, Carterton</i>	<i>2 elected members</i>

District Council and Masterton District Council, and the area of the Tararua catchment that is just south of the Owhanga River catchment.

4. *Recommends that the Council chooses the final proposal in 3 above for the following reasons:*

- a) *The Wairarapa is a distinct community of interest, and two elected members will ensure effective representation of the Wairarapa community. The Wairarapa comprises a large land area (74% of the region) that is sparsely populated, which makes it logistically more time-consuming for elected members to engage with their constituents.*

It is important that elected members are able to have a close relationship with constituents, given the kind of activities the Council carries out in the the Wairarapa, such as flood protection, biosecurity (1080), and soil conservation (planting and land retirement) which directly impact on many individual landowners to a great extent. The numerous river and catchment scheme meetings are the point at which elected members can engage face-to-face with the people that are being rated.

- b) *A proposal that is based on 13 elected members, plus an additional member in the Wairarapa constituency (14 elected members in total), ensures that there is relative homogeneity in terms of the people per elected members across the whole region.*

A proposal that comprises ten members, plus an additional member in the Wairarapa constituency (11 elected members in total), would result in significant differences in the number of people per elected member across parts of the region.

- c) *While the Council contends that the different needs of separate communities of interest could be represented in the regional context by members elected from the merged Hutt Valley constituency, it acknowledges that this would largely depend on the individuals who were elected, e.g. how dedicated they are, how much effort and time they put in to representing the views of those across the entire constituency and how open they are to others' views.*

A strong case was made by submitters that separate communities of interest would be best served by a separate constituency, as this would guarantee at least one representative is elected from their area.

- d) *While the Council had identified many aspects that align Kapiti and Porirua in a regional council context when it decided on its initial proposal, submitters feel strongly that there are numerous differences which make Kapiti and Porirua separate communities of interest, including:*

- *Kapiti and Porirua have different interests and focuses on key issues of concern to Greater Wellington, i.e. harbour management, water supply, separate water catchments, flood protection, environmental concerns, river and wetland management and transport.*

Kapiti and Porirua are differently affected by flooding and sea level rise. Kapiti suffers from inadequate rail infrastructure, poor internal connectivity, and lack of rail passenger services up north.

- *Kapiti and Porirua are geographically separated between Pukerua Bay and Paekakariki. There will never be adjacent housing. The Transmission Gully road will result in further separation.*
 - *Kapiti sees its closest kinship with Horowhenua, not Porirua. Porirua links with Tawa, Wellington, and the Hutt Valley.*
 - *Porirua is city focused, while Kapiti is more coastal and rural.*
 - *Kapiti has a larger older population, and Porirua has a higher number of Māori and Pacific Island people. This results in different social and cultural issues.*
- e) *While the Council generally agrees with submitters' comments on separate constituencies for Kapiti and Porirua, after exploring all the possible representation options, the Council has concluded that no representation option can accommodate having separate Kapiti and Porirua constituencies if the Council is to make every effort to comply with the requirements set out in the Act and provide for the effective representation of the Wairarapa.*
- f) *While the Council had identified many aspects that align Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt in a regional council context when it decided on its initial proposal, submitters feel strongly that there are numerous differences which make Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt separate communities of interest, including:*
- *Upper Hutt has large rural areas and a provincial character.*
 - *Lower Hutt has the sea, and Upper Hutt is inland.*
 - *Upper Hutt people identify with the facilities and services within their community.*
 - *Upper Hutt has significant regional resources, many of which are important for the whole region, e.g. water supply, forestry, regional parks, transport link between Wellington and Wairarapa.*
 - *Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt have different needs and views on key matters of concern, e.g. flood protection and transportation.*
- g) *The Council generally agrees with submitters' comments on separate constituencies for Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt, and notes that this can be achieved without compromising the effective representation of the Wairarapa and the Council's efforts to comply as best it can with the requirements set out in the Act.*
- h) *The constituency name of Porirua and Kapiti would be a more appropriate name for the merged constituency because:*
- *Most people know the area as Porirua, not Mana.*
 - *Porirua should go first as it has the largest population.*

- *The word “and” signifies that there are two communities in the one constituency.*
- 5. *Recommends that Council notes that the above proposal differs from the Council’s initial proposal in that it has separate constituencies for Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt, with 1 and 3 elected members respectively, and the constituency name Kapiti-Mana has been changed to Porirua and Kapiti.*
- 6. *Notes that the Council’s final proposal will be forwarded to the Local Government Commission for its determination, after appeals and objections have been received have been received from the public.*
- 7. *Confirms whether or not it recommends that the Council also places information on the Council’s final representation proposal in the region’s community newspapers.*

That recommendation 3 be changed to provide that the Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt Constituencies be combined with a total of four elected members.

The amendment was put to the vote. There being a majority against, the amendment was lost.

Moved as an amendment

(Cr Turver/Cr Aitken)

That Kapiti and Porirua Constituencies remain separate, with one representative each.

The amendment was put to the vote. There being a majority against, the amendment was lost.

A division was called for on the substantive motion. The results of the voting are as follows:

For Crs Buchanan, Glensor, Greig, Kirton, Laidlaw, Long, McDavitt and Shields.

Against: Crs Aitken, Baber, Evans, Turver and Wilde.

There being a majority, the motion was carried.