

Southland Regional Council (Environment Southland)

Final proposal for representation arrangements for the 2019 local elections

Submissions

On 15 August 2018 the Southland Regional Council (Environment Southland) considered the submissions received on its initial proposal regarding the representation arrangements for the Council to apply for the local elections to be held on 12 October 2019.

The Council received three submissions on its proposal. One submission was neutral on the Council's proposal indicating that it would work with the Council on any possible future boundary changes relating to the Invercargill-Rakiura Constituency. Two submissions contained suggestions or queries relating to various elements of the proposal, as follows:

- one submitter suggested a reduction from 6 members to 3 members for the Invercargill-Rakiura constituency.
- one submitter suggested that the Council consider using the boundaries of the Freshwater Management Units as the constituency boundaries.

Final proposal

Having considered all of the submissions, the Council resolved to adopt its initial proposal as the Council's final proposal.

The Council rejected the other matters raised in the submissions for the following reasons:

- there is a significant community of interest within the Invercargill-Rakiura constituency that requires a fair level of representation. The level of representation as proposed in the Initial Proposal falls short of the required representation level and to reduce the number of members from 6 to 3 would lead to a higher level of statutory non-compliance.
- the Council did investigate use of the Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) as constituency boundaries through a mapping exercise on the geographic information system. The size and geo-location of the FMU boundaries did not align with or provide recognition of the specific communities of interest identified by the Council or provide for fair levels of representation as required by the legislation.

Therefore, the final proposal is as follows.

Council Representation

It is proposed that the Council comprise 12 members elected from six constituencies. The six constituencies reflect the following identified communities of interest:

CONSTITUENCY	COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
Fiordland	Generally includes the communities across the Te Anau basin and its surrounding rural areas, Fiordland National Park, Milford Sound.
Eastern-Dome	Generally includes the central and eastern Southland communities of Mossburn, Lumsden, the Five Rivers area, Athol, Garston, Balfour, Riversdale, Gore, Mataura, Brydone and the surrounding rural areas.
Invercargill-Rakiura	Generally includes the communities contained within the entire district of Invercargill City, and Stewart Island.
Hokonui	Generally includes the communities of Wallacetown, Winton, Dipton and the surrounding rural areas.
Western	Generally includes the communities of Ohai, Clifden, Tuatapere, and the southern end of the Fiordland National Park.
Southern	Generally includes the communities of Woodlands, Dacre, Edendale, Wyndham, Tokanui, Catlins, and the surrounding rural areas.

The population that each member will represent is as follows:

CONSTITUENCY	ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017	MEMBERS	POPULATION PER MEMBER
Fiordland	3,630	1	3,630
Eastern-Dome	16,750	2	8,375
Invercargill-Rakiura	55,200	6	9,200
Hokonui	7,910	1	7,910
Western	8,110	1	8,110
Southern	6,720	1	6,720
Total	98,320	12	8,193

In accordance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 the population that each member represents must be within the range of 8,193 +/- 10% (7,374 to 9,012), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise.

Under this proposal, the +/- 10% rule will not be met in three constituencies – Fiordland (outside the 10% by 45.70%, Invercargill-Rakiura (outside the 10% by 2.29%) and Southern (outside the 10% by 7.98%). The Council considers that after investigating a range of different representation scenarios, effective representation of communities of interest requires that those constituencies be defined and membership distributed between them in a way that does not comply with the +/- 10% calculation that is set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001. This was similarly the case in 2013 and accepted by the Local Government Commission as being necessary in order to provide effective representation of the identified communities of interest of the Southland Region.

Appeals

Any person who made a submission on the Council's initial proposal may lodge an appeal against the Council's decision. An appeal must relate to the matters raised in that person's submission.

Appeals must be made in writing and must be received by Council no later than **4.30 pm on 28 September 2018**.

Appeals are to be forwarded to Environment Southland:

Attention – Ken Swinney (03 2115 115)

Physical address – Regional House, corner Price Street and North Road, Invercargill

Postal Address – Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840

Email – service@es.govt.nz

Further information

Direct any queries regarding the Council's decision to Ken Swinney (contact details above).

R A Phillips

Chief Executive

25 August 2018

