

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Administration Advisor
REFERENCE: E313
DATE: 1 September 2006
SUBJECT: Representation Review

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

To advise Council that the two resolutions for Council's final representation review need to include the reasons for the decisions.

BACKGROUND

On 10 August 2006 Council resolved the following

CN06/08/03

THAT Council adopts Five Wards and 13 Councillors (Lakes/Murchison 1, Richmond 4, Motueka 3, Moutere/Waimea 3, Golden Bay 2), the boundaries of the wards remain the same and Council puts a case for isolated communities for Lakes/Murchison and Golden Bay.

On 24 August 2006 Council resolved:

CN06/08/13

THAT for the 2007 electoral review, community boards be disestablished in Tasman District Council.

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

Staff compiled a list of reasons from the previous meetings and from discussions at the time the resolutions were passed, which were included in the public notice, but these should have also been included in the resolutions as section 19K(2) requires, which states:

“If any resolution under section 19H or section 19I or section 19J proposes any change to the basis of election, membership, or ward, constituency, community, or subdivision boundaries which applied at the last triennial general election of members of the territorial authority, regional council, or community board, that resolution must include an explanation of the reasons for the proposed change.”

Therefore to ensure compliance with the Local Electoral Act 2001, Council needs to resolve the reasons for the decisions. As stated above, staff compiled reasons based on previous meetings and discussions, and these are outlined in the suggested recommendations.

Please note that once the reasons have been resolved the public notice will need to be re-advertised and the date for receiving objections and/or appeals will be extended accordingly. Any extension for objections and/or appeals will still be well within the statutory timetable.

RECOMMENDATION 1

THAT the reasons for the decision of resolution CN06/08/03 for Council representation arrangements for the 2007 local body elections are:

Council endeavoured to comply as closely as possible to Section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act, and gave the following reasons for departure in certain wards.

Golden Bay Ward to be treated as an isolated community for the following reasons:

- It is an isolated community requiring specific representation in order to provide effective representation;
- Has a very clear geographic line that separates the Bay from the balance of the district;
- Weather patterns can vary considerably from the rest of the district with heavy rain causing flooding and slips that can isolate the Bay;
- Council contracts for roading, parks and reserves etc. are all carried out from depots based in the Bay;
- The Bay has a relatively small permanent population which swells considerably during the holiday season with people using the camping grounds and many of the baches that remain empty for most of the year;
- Reduced number of members will compromise the rural voice;
- There are four distinct communities of interest within the Golden Bay Ward;
- There are significant distance and travel times;
- Elected members are the eyes and ears of the community, and often the first point of contact for the wards ratepayers and residents.

Lakes/Murchison Ward to be treated as an isolated community for the following reasons:

- Very large geographic area separated from other Wards by hills;

- Council roading contracts for this Ward are carried out from depots based in the Ward;
- Elected members are the eyes and ears of the community, and often the first point of contact for the wards ratepayers and residents;
- There are significant distance and travel times.

Moutere/Waimea Ward departs from Section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 for reasons of:

- Exceeding the population formula by 103 is considered to be only a minor departure from this section;
- By including the 103 into another ward would not change the representation for those wards.

RECOMMENDATION 2

THAT the reasons for the decision of resolution CN06/08/13 for the dis-establishment of community boards are as follows:

- The Motueka and Golden Bay Wards would be over-represented compared to the other three wards if Community Boards were retained.
- The other three Wards showed little interest in having Community Boards in their wards
- A special case has already been made for an isolated community for Golden Bay, and Council had resolved that two Councillors be elected from that ward.
- Motueka Ward is in close proximity to the Richmond Ward where the Council's headquarters is situated. This enables the Motueka Ward's resident and ratepayers to be provided with effective and efficient local government responsibilities
- The Community Boards role is similar to that of community councils, associations and ratepayer/resident associations, which are already established throughout the district. These groups are financially supported by Council, provide a forum for communities to air their concerns, and are attended regularly by the ward councillors.

Sandra Hartley

<http://tdctoday:82/Shared Documents/Meetings/Council/Full Council/Reports/2006/RCN060914sp Report Representation Review.doc>