



Report 06.547

1 September 2006

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Representation Review Subcommittee
held in the Council Chamber, Wellington Regional Council Centre,
142 Wakefield Street, Wellington on Friday, 1 September, 2006 at
9.31 am**

Present

Councillors Shields (Chairperson), Baber, Glensor, and Long.

Also Present

Councillors Buchanan, McDavitt, Kirton, and Turver.

Officers Present

Norrish and Reay

Public Business

Procedural Items

RRS 08 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

RRS 09 **Public Participation**

Michael Gibson asked how oral presentations will be given to Council. He felt that Porirua and Kapiti could be separate constituencies, and that the Hutt Valley should have a three-member split.

RRS 10 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved (Cr Glensor/Cr Long)

That the Representation Review Subcommittee:

Confirms the minutes of the meeting of 21 August 2006

Matters for Consideration

Tabled

(Untitled) revised recommendations for Report 06.415: Greater Wellington Officers.

Electoral Representation Review. Councillor Chris Turver.

RRS 11 **Final representation proposal**

Report 06.415

File: E/01/04/01

Resolved (Cr Shields/Cr Glensor)

That the Representation Review Subcommittee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report and its attachments, in particular:*
 - *the reasons the Council chose its initial proposal*
 - *the summary and analysis of submitters' comments on Council's initial proposal, and*
 - *the analysis of the possible representation options.*

Resolved (Cr Long/Cr Glensor)

That the Representation Review Subcommittee:

3. *Notes the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the difficulties the population formula has presented in ensuring effective representation of communities of interest.*
4. *Notes that the Wairarapa is a distinct community of interest and that it is essential that it has two elected members to ensure the 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 ratepayers, given the kind of activities the Council carries out in 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.*
5. *Notes that 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 number of people per elected member 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.*
6. *Notes that the Council's initial proposal, which comprises four constituencies and 14 elected members, and provides for a relatively even number of elected representatives in each constituency, helps to ensure balanced, region-wide decision-making, as there would not be the opportunity for the members of one constituency to vote one way and sway a decision of Council.*
7. *Notes that the initial proposal combined Kapiti with Porirua, and Lower Hutt with Upper Hutt, because they are linked by factors which relate to Council functions i.e. roads, rivers and rail.*
8. *Notes that while it 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, 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, how open they are to others' views. A strong case was made at the submission hearing meeting 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.*

9. *Acknowledges that 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 a 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.*

10. *Notes that while it generally agrees with submitters' comments on separate constituencies for Kapiti and Porirua, after exploring all the possible representation options, the Subcommittee 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 Local Electoral Act 2001 and provide for the effective representation of the Wairarapa.*

11. *Acknowledges that 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 a numerous differences which make Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt separate communities of interest, including:*

- *Upper Hutt has large rural areas, a provincial character and civic pride.*
- *Lower Hutt has the sea and Upper Hutt is inland.*
- *Upper Hutt people identify with the facilities and services available 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.*
12. *Notes that it generally agrees with submitters' comments on separate constituencies for Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt, and 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 Local Electoral Act 2001.*
 13. *Notes that the constituency name of Porirua and Kapiti would be a more appropriate for the merged constituency as most people know the area as Porirua not Mana, and Porirua should go first as it has the largest population.*
 14. *Recommends that the Council adopts the following arrangements as its final representation proposal:*
 - a) *Wellington constituency* *Based on the current boundary of the Wellington City Council* *5 elected members*
 - b) *Upper Hutt constituency* *Based on the current boundary of the Upper Hutt City Council* *1 elected member*
 - c) *Lower Hutt constituency* *Based on the current boundary of the Hutt City Council* *3 elected members*
 - d) *Porirua - Kapiti constituency* *Based on joining the current boundaries of the Kapiti Coast District Council and Porirua City Council* *3 elected members*
 - e) *Wairarapa constituency* *Based on joining the current boundaries of South Wairarapa District Council, Carterton District Council, and Masterton District Council, and the area of the Tararua District Council that is just South of the Owahanga* *2 elected members*

River catchment.

15. *Recommends that the Council adopts the following arrangements, which comprise five constituencies and 14 elected members, in its entirety as its final representation proposal, in light of the points noted in resolutions 4 to 13 above.*
16. *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.*
17. *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.*

Moved as an amendment

(Cr Glensor/Cr Shields)

That the constituency name Porirua – Kapiti be changed to Porirua and Kapiti.

Noted

- Resolutions 3-17 were voted separately.
- Both the substantive motion and the amendment were passed unanimously
- The councillors asked that their appreciation for Amy Norrish's work on this exercise be recorded.

The meeting was adjourned between 10.52 am and 11.10 am for morning tea.

The meeting closed at 11.43 am.

COUNCILLOR MK SHIELDS
Chairperson

Date: