

2. CONSIDERATION AND DETERMINATION OF SUBMISSIONS ON ELECTORAL REVIEW

The Council received 128 submissions on its initial proposal. Thirty-five submissions were either wholly or conditionally in support of the Council's proposal. The submitters also sought amendments to various elements of the Council's proposal, as follows:

- Twenty submitters sought the retention of the present 12 ward and six community structure, with 24 councillors and 36 elected community board members.
- Forty-two submitters sought the creation of six wards and six communities, based on the boundaries of the six existing communities.
- Eight submitters considered that there should be fewer than 18 councillors, and fewer than 32 elected community board members.
- Three submitters considered that councillors should be elected either wholly or partly at large across the city, rather than within wards.
- One submitter considered that the boundaries of the Spreydon-Heathcote Community within the six ward option considered by the Council should be enlarged to include the area between Shakespeare Road and the Lyttelton railway line and also the Westmorland community, with consequent adjustments to the internal ward boundaries for community board elections
- One submitter considered that any decision on the number of councillors and community board members and the boundaries of wards and communities should be deferred until a decision had been reached regarding the proposed merger between Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City.
- One submitter considered that the Mayor should be elected by councillors, rather than by electors.
- One submitter considered that there should be four rather than eight communities and community boards.
- One submitter considered that the eight community boards should each comprise four directly elected members plus one councillor chosen by the Board.
- One submitter sought the subdivision of the eight communities for the purpose of electing community board members.
- Two submitters sought the creation of nine rather than eight wards.
- One submitter sought changes to the boundaries of the Waimairi and Wigram Wards.
- Five submitters sought the transfer of the Brookhaven and/or Ferrymead commercial and industrial area from the Linwood Ward to the Port Hills Ward.
- One submitter sought an extension of the boundary between the Linwood and Port Hills Wards along Brougham Street to the intersection with Ensors Road, instead of following Wilsons Road.
- One submitter sought the inclusion of the area bounded by Waltham Road, Shakespeare Road, Wilsons Road and Brougham Street within the Linwood Ward, rather than the Hillmorton Ward.
- Five submitters sought the inclusion of Kennedys Bush Road and the Halswell Quarry Park within the same ward as Halswell, rather than being included in the Port Hills Ward.
- Two submitters considered that the whole of the area covered by the Richmond Neighbourhood Cottage Group should be included in the Linwood Ward, rather than being split between the Shirley and Linwood Wards.
- One submitter considered that the boundaries of the Hillmorton Ward should be amended to allow Halswell and Waltham to be located in separate wards, rather than being in the same ward.

- Two submitters considered that some attempt should be made to redraw ward and community boundaries to coincide with the boundaries of Canterbury Regional Council constituencies and/or Parliamentary electorate boundaries.
- One submitter considered that the northern boundary of the Wigram Ward should be changed to Riccarton Road/Yaldhurst Road.
- Some submitters suggested changes in the names of the wards, ie:
 - Eleven submitters suggested that the name of the Linwood Ward be changed to the Hagley Ward.
 - Eight submitters suggested that the name of the Waimairi Ward be changed to the Fendalton Ward.
 - Five submitters suggested that the name of the Wigram Ward be changed to the Riccarton Ward.
 - Three submitters suggested that the name of the Papanui Ward be changed to the Styx Ward.
 - Two submitters suggested that the name of the Linwood Ward be changed to the Avon Ward.
 - Two submitters suggested that the name of the Pegasus Ward be changed to the New Brighton Ward.
 - One submitter suggested that the name of the Linwood Ward be changed to the Worcester Ward.
 - One submitter suggested that the name of the Hillmorton Ward be changed to the Spreydon Ward.
 - One submitter suggested that the name of the Hillmorton Ward be changed to the Barrington Ward.
 - One submitter suggested that the name of the Linwood Ward/Community be changed to the Otautahi Ward/Community.
- One submitter suggested that an attempt be made to ensure the election of one councillor to represent the interests of rural residents and ratepayers.

Having considered the submissions, the Committee **resolved**

1. That the Council's initial proposal be adopted as the Council's final proposal, subject to the following amendments:
 - The renaming of the Waimairi Ward and Waimairi Community as the Fendalton Ward and Fendalton Community.
 - The renaming of the Wigram Ward and Wigram Community as the Riccarton Ward and Riccarton Community.
 - The renaming of the Pegasus Ward and Pegasus Community as the New Brighton Ward and New Brighton Community.
 - The transfer of Brookhaven and the Ferrymead commercial area from the Linwood Ward and Linwood Community to the Port Hills Ward and Port Hills Community.
 - The transfer of the area bounded by Straven Road, Matai Street West, Matai Street East, Deans Avenue and the Avon River from the Riccarton Ward and Riccarton Community to the Fendalton Ward and Fendalton Community.
 - The transfer of Kennedys Bush Road, Halswell Quarry Park and the surrounding area from the Port Hills Ward and Port Hills Community to the Hillmorton Ward and Hillmorton Community.

The Committee concluded that these amendments to the Council's initial proposal would result in more effective representation for affected residents and community organisations, and more accurately reflect communities of interest within those areas. The foregoing transfers change the population of the affected wards and communities to:

Fendalton	42,639
Linwood	37,914
Port Hills	36,777
Riccarton	42,201

2. That the remaining amendments sought by the submitters be rejected, for the following reasons:
- The Council considered several ward/community options prior to approving its initial proposal. Of the options previously considered by the Council, the eight ward and eight community/community board structure proposed for the 2004 elections is considered to be the option which most effectively reflects communities of interest, and provides the most effective representation for communities of interest and electors.
 - The Council's final proposal will result in the election of eight fewer councillors and four fewer elected community board members. Any further reduction in the number of councillors and elected community board members would adversely effect the governance of the city and its communities.
 - The election of councillors either wholly or partly at large, rather than within wards, would result in less effective governance of the city.
 - It would be unreasonable to defer implementation of the Council's proposal until a decision has been reached regarding the proposed union between Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City, for the reason that it will be impossible to resolve this issue prior to the October 2004 elections.
 - The present legislation governing elections requires the Mayor to be elected by electors, rather than by councillors.
 - The present legislation governing elections does not permit community boards to appoint a councillor chosen by the board.
 - It is considered that communities should not be subdivided for electoral purposes.
 - It is impossible to modify the initial proposal so that ward and community boundaries coincide with the boundaries of Canterbury Regional Council constituencies and/or parliamentary electorate boundaries, for the following reasons:
 - The Canterbury Regional Council has resolved not to undertake a review of its own electoral arrangements for the 2004 elections.
 - In carrying out its review, the Council is required to independently decide its electoral arrangements, based on the guidelines for such reviews issued by the Local Government Commission.
 - With the amendments made to the initial proposal, the names of each of the eight wards and communities are considered to reasonably reflect the principal communities or suburbs or geographical features within each ward and community.
 - It is impossible to modify the initial proposal in a way which would enable the election of one councillor to represent the interests of rural residents and ratepayers.
3. That copies of the Council's final proposal be circulated to all residents' groups, and that (in addition to the required public notice) further publicity be given to the final proposal and the associated rights of appeal and/or objection.

Note: The resolution to confirm the Council's initial eight ward proposal, with the two amendments proposed in respect of Kennedys Bush Road and the Halswell Quarry Park and the Brookhaven/Ferrymead commercial area was declared **carried** on division no 1 by 2 votes to 1, the voting being as follows:

For (2): Councillors James and Ganda.

Against (1): Councillor Wright.

The resolution to change the name of the Wigram Ward and Wigram Community to the Riccarton Ward and Riccarton Community was declared **carried** on division no 2 by 2 votes to 1, the voting being as follows:

For (2): Councillors James and Wright.

Against (1): Councillor Ganda.

The resolution to transfer the area bounded by Straven Road, Matai Street West, Matai Street East, Deans Avenue and the Avon River from the Riccarton Ward and Riccarton Community to the Fendalton Ward and Fendalton Community was declared **carried** on division no 3 by 2 votes to 1, the voting being as follows:

For (2): Councillors James and Wright.

Against (1): Councillor Ganda.