



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Rodney District Council - Review of Membership and Basis of Election

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Rodney District Council) Amendment Act 2000, the Local Government Commission is required to determine the membership and electoral arrangements of the Rodney District Council to apply for the Council's general election to be held on 31 March 2001.

The Commission has resolved to issue the following proposal:

Proposal

Basis of Election

The Rodney District is a large and diverse area. It is made up of urban communities, life-style and tourist orientated areas and rural areas. The Commission is of the view that it is necessary to divide the Rodney District into wards to provide for effective representation of the communities of interest within the District.

The Commission considers that a division of the District into three wards would appropriately reflect the broad communities of interest in the Rodney District. The proposed wards are based on groupings of the existing wards of the District:

Proposed Ward	Area of the Proposed Ward
Northern Ward	The area of the existing Wellsford, Warkworth and Matakana Wards
Western Ward	The area of the existing Helensville, Kumeu and Wainui Wards
Eastern Ward	The area of the existing Hibiscus

Coast Ward

The boundaries of the proposed wards are detailed in a map which is available from the Commission, the Commission's website - www.lgc.govt.nz, and from the offices, service centres and District libraries of the Rodney District Council.

Membership

The population of the Rodney District is growing rapidly. Between the time of the 1996 Census and June 1999 the estimated resident population increased by approximately 7300, to 73800 persons.

In determining the membership of each of the proposed wards the Commission is required to ensure that each ward receives fair representation based on population. If circumstances so require, the Commission may also take into account the rateable values, areas or other relevant characteristics of the wards in determining the membership.

For the Rodney District with three wards as proposed above, the Commission has determined that the population of each ward provides a fair basis for determining the membership of the Council:

Proposed Ward	Population <small>(Estimated resident population as at 30 June 1999)</small>	Number of Councillors	Population per Councillor
Northern Ward	17460	2	8730
Western Ward	24920	3	8306
Eastern Ward	31500	4	7875

The Commission therefore proposes that the Council to be elected at the March 2001 general election of the Council comprise 9 Councillors, and a Mayor elected at large.

Community Boards

The Commission has also been required to consider whether community boards should be established in the District.

In considering this matter the Commission noted that three community boards were constituted in the Rodney District at the time of the 1989 Council election, and that the boards agreed to their dis-establishment from the time of the 1992 Council election.

The Commission has decided to not propose the establishment of community boards because:

- the proposed ward structure and membership of the Council will provide for the effective and efficient governance of the Rodney District
- the establishment of community boards would not significantly enhance the governance arrangements of the District
- the former community boards, which had wide ranging delegated powers, consented to their dis-establishment
- there is little indication of a desire in the District for the re-establishment of community boards.

In reaching its decision, the Commission was mindful of the recommendation of the Ministerial Review Authority that the establishment of community boards be considered as one alternative to the Council's area committees. The Commission is concerned that the committee structure of the Rodney District Council is a matter for the next elected Council to determine. The consideration of community boards as an alternative to a particular committee structure, or as a complement to particular committees, is a matter that the democratically elected Council should appropriately give consideration to.

Submissions Invited

The Commission invites submissions on its proposal for the membership and electoral arrangements of the Rodney District Council.

Submissions must be made in writing and need to be received by the Commission by 25 August 2000. Submissions are to be forwarded to:

The Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission
PO Box 5362
Wellington

Submitters should clearly indicate in their submissions whether they wish to speak to their submissions at a hearing of the Commission. The Commission will be holding a hearing in the Rodney District on its proposal during September 2000. All submitters who advise the Commission that they wish to be heard will be offered the opportunity to appear before the Commission. Submitters wishing to appear before the Commission should provide a contact telephone number.

Inquiries may be made to the Commission at ph 04 494 0576, fax 04 495 7287.

Donald Riezebos
Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission