



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

# Determination

of representation arrangements to apply for the  
election of the Wanganui District Council to be held  
on 13 October 2007

### Background

1. The Wanganui District Council (the Council) elected at the 2004 local election comprises the mayor and 12 councillors. The 12 councillors were elected as follows:

Wards	Population*	No. of councillors per ward	Population per councillor	Deviation from district average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from district average population per councillor
Urban	37,800	9	4,200	+585	+16.18
Rural	5,580	3	1,860	-1,755	-48.55
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>43,380</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,615</b>		

\*These figures are rounded 2005 population estimates provided by the Government Statistician

2. Currently there is a Wanganui Rural Community, covering the boundaries of the Rural Ward, and the Rural Community Board comprises six elected members and three appointed members.
3. On 6 March 2006 the Council resolved, under sections 19H and 19J of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act), its initial proposal for representation arrangements to apply for the 2007 local elections. The proposal was as follows:
  - (a) the Council comprise 10 councillors (and the mayor) elected by the electors of the city as a whole; and
  - (b) the Rural Community Board be retained and comprise six members elected by the community as a whole.
4. The Council received 91 written submissions on its initial proposal. It held a hearing, at which 11 submitters made oral presentations.
5. While some submitters supported parts of the Council's proposal, the majority of submitters sought:
  - the retention of the existing number of councillors; and
  - the retention of the Rural Ward.

6. Generally, submitters supported the retention of the Rural Community Board. Some submitters made suggestions regarding membership of the board and the boundaries of the community.
7. Following its consideration of submissions, the Council confirmed its initial proposal as its final proposal. It received 37 appeals against its final proposal.

### **Hearing**

8. The Commission met with the Council, the Chair of the Rural Community Board, appellants, objectors, and submitters who had expressed a desire to be heard by it, on 13 and 14 November 2006. The Council was represented by the Mayor, Michael Laws; Deputy Mayor, Dot McKinnon; and Councillor Nicki Higgie. The appellants, objectors and submitters were Derek Lessware, Maurice Hurford, Rob Vinsen, Wendy Pettigrew, Margaret Campion, A.R. Hay, Joy Hay, Lorna Sutherland, Ian Sutherland, Delphine Turney, Emma Camden, Donald Dunn, A and B Taylor, Ken Crafar (for the Wanganui Residents and Ratepayers Association), J.R.L. Tripe, Jason Todd and Rick Rudd. Steve Anstis represented the Rural Community Board.

### **Matters raised in appeals, objections and at the hearing**

9. Appeals and submissions were focused on the Council's decisions to:
  - reduce the number of councillors from 12 to 10; and
  - disestablish the Rural Ward and move to an at large system for electing councillors.
10. The structure of the Rural Community Board was also raised.
11. The main arguments presented in appeals, objections and by the Council in support of an at large system, were:
  - the electoral structure should reflect the interdependence of rural and urban communities in Wanganui District;
  - almost all of the population of the district lives within 30 minutes drive of the Wanganui urban area;
  - there are minimal basic facilities outside the Wanganui urban area;
  - most rural and farming families have close social or employment related links to Wanganui;
  - the most significant population growth is occurring in the peri-urban area of the district, which is more connected to the urban area than the Rural Ward;
  - at large representation would encourage councillors to be accountable to the whole district, rather than to the electors of their ward only;
  - wards limit electors' choice of candidates;
  - while referendum results indicated strong support from residents of the Rural Ward to retain it, subsequent long-term council community plan

(LTCCP) consultations suggested that many Rural Ward residents supported an at large system; and

- the Council has promoted the Rural Community Board's ability to support the effective representation of communities in the Rural Ward.

12. The main arguments presented in support of retaining the Rural Ward were:

- rural communities have different needs than the communities in the urban area in respect of the environment, economic focus, infrastructural demands and access to facilities;
- the removal of wards would jeopardise representation for rural communities at Council level;
- rural residents have a greater depth of understanding of rural community interests than the residents of the urban area;
- rural-oriented industries such as forestry and tourism are increasingly important to the district, and it is important that the Council has the capacity to understand the implications of these industries on rural communities;
- the Rural Ward comprises approximately 13% of the district's population, but approximately 98% of the area;
- it is unlikely that the majority of urban electors would elect candidates from rural communities;
- the Rural Community Board cannot, in itself, ensure that rural community interests are represented at Council level; and
- the appointment of councillors elected from the Rural Ward to the Rural Community Board is an important mechanism to ensure effective communication between the Board and the Council.

13. The main arguments presented in support of a reduction in councillors were:

- a smaller Council would be more efficient and the Council could co-opt expertise to its specialist committees;
- councillors' workloads are defined by Council meetings rather than by constituents and the Council has endeavoured to make its committees more efficient;
- the cost of servicing 10 councillors instead of 12 would result in administrative efficiencies and potential savings in salaries;
- there is a historical, nation-wide trend to reduce the numbers of councillors; and
- a larger Council would not necessarily improve the Council's ability to understand and respond to the diversity of community interests in the District.

14. The main arguments presented in opposition to a reduction in councillors were:

- fewer councillors would result in a smaller range of community views and interests being represented at Council level;

- having at least 12 councillors better enables residents and the Council to engage, which is fundamental to the role of local authorities under the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA);
- retaining existing councillor numbers would spread the workload sufficiently to enable councillors to continue with other employment, social and family commitments;
- retaining existing councillor numbers would enable a wider range of candidates (including those with other employment, social and family commitments) to stand for election;
- a smaller Council would not result in financial savings to the extent suggested by some submitters because the total remuneration pool is determined by the Remuneration Authority and would remain the same (though divided amongst fewer councillors); and
- administrative savings resulting from fewer councillors would be offset by the administrative costs of additional appointed committee members and groups.

### **Matters for Determination**

15. The statutory provisions in respect of these appeals and objections are contained in sections 19R, 19I and 19J of the Act.

**19R. Commission to determine appeals and objections**

- (1) *The Commission must—*
- (a) *Consider the resolutions, submissions, appeals, objections, and information forwarded to it under section 19Q; and*
  - (b) *Subject to sections 19T and 19V in the case of a territorial authority, and to sections 19U and 19V in the case of a regional council, determine,—*
    - (i) *In the case of a territorial authority that has made a resolution under section 19H, the matters specified in that section:*
    - (ii) *In the case of a regional council that has made a resolution under section 19I, the matters specified in that section:*
    - (iii) *In the case of a territorial authority that has made a resolution under section 19J, the matters specified in that section.*
- (2) *For the purposes of making a determination under subsection (1)(b), the Commission—*
- (a) *May make any enquiries that it considers appropriate; and*
  - (b) *May hold, but is not obliged to hold, meetings with the territorial authority or regional council or any persons who have lodged an appeal or objection and have indicated a desire to be heard by the Commission in relation to that appeal or objection.*
- (3) *The Commission must, before 11 April in the year of a triennial general election, complete the duties it is required to carry out under subsection (1).*

**19H. Review of representation arrangements for elections of territorial authorities**

- (1) A territorial authority must determine by resolution, and in accordance with this Part,—
- (a) Whether the members of the territorial authority (other than the mayor) are proposed to be elected—
    - (i) By the electors of the district as a whole; or
    - (ii) By the electors of 2 or more wards; or
    - (iii) In some cases by the electors of the district as a whole and in the other cases by the electors of each ward of the district; and
  - (b) In any case to which paragraph (a)(i) applies, the proposed number of members to be elected by the electors of the district as a whole; and
  - (c) In any case to which paragraph (a)(iii) applies,—
    - (i) The proposed number of members to be elected by the electors of the district as a whole; and
    - (ii) The proposed number of members to be elected by the wards of the district; and
  - (d) In any case to which paragraph (a)(ii) or paragraph (a)(iii) applies,—
    - (i) The proposed name and the proposed boundaries of each ward; and
    - (ii) The number of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each ward.
- (2) The determination required by subsection (1) must be made by a territorial authority —
- (a) On the first occasion, either in 2003 or in 2006; and
  - (b) Subsequently, at least once in every period of 6 years after the first determination.
- (3) This section must be read in conjunction with section 19ZH and Schedule 1A.

**19J. Review of community boards**

- (1) A territorial authority must, on every occasion on which it passes a resolution under section 19H, determine by that resolution, and in accordance with this Part, not only the matters referred to in that section but also whether, in light of the principle set out in section 4(1)(a) (which relates to fair and effective representation for individuals and communities) —
- (a) There should be communities and community boards; and
  - (b) If so resolved, the nature of any community and the structure of any community board.
- (2) The resolution referred to in subsection (1) must, in particular, determine—
- (a) Whether 1 or more communities should be constituted:
  - (b) Whether any community should be abolished or united with another community:
  - (c) Whether the boundaries of a community should be altered:
  - (d) Whether a community should be subdivided for electoral purposes or whether it should continue to be subdivided for electoral purposes, as the case may require:
  - (e) Whether the boundaries of any subdivision should be altered:
  - (f) The number of members of any community board:

- (g) *The number of members of a community board who should be elected and the number of members of a community board who should be appointed:*
  - (h) *Whether the members of a community board who are proposed to be elected are to be elected—*
    - (i) *By the electors of the community as a whole; or*
    - (ii) *By the electors of 2 or more subdivisions; or*
    - (iii) *If the community comprises 2 or more whole wards, by the electors of each ward:*
  - (i) *in any case to which paragraph (h)(ii) applies, -*
    - (i) *The proposed name and the proposed boundaries of each subdivision; and*
    - (ii) *The number of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each subdivision.*
- (3) *Nothing in this section limits the provisions of section 19F.*

### **Consideration by the Commission**

#### *Procedural issue*

16. A number of appellants/objectors questioned the Council's use of Referendum '06 as part of its consultation process, and its interpretation of the results in framing the publicly notified reasons for its representation review decisions.
17. We note, in respect of questions 4 and 5 regarding representation review issues, that there did not appear to be a clear mandate for change. The strong support from the residents of the Rural Ward to retain it, contrasts significantly with the overall district-wide vote in which a small majority favoured an at large system. Caution also needs to be exercised as the referendum information brochure provided to residents did not fully explain the nature and possible ramifications of the effective and fair representation principles that apply to the review process.
18. The Council subsequently submitted that, during a series of LTCCP seminars involving rural residents and the Council, the majority of rural residents in attendance expressed their support for an at large system. The Council explained this as due to the fact that the implications of the requirement to ensure fair representation under section 19V(2) could be better explained in person than they were in the Referendum '06 brochure provided to electors.
19. The referendum brochure stated, as one of the advantages of reducing councillor numbers, *"It may be possible to reduce the amount paid out each year for councillor salaries and reduce the overall salary pool"*. In our view this statement may have created an expectation that councillors elected at the 2007 election would seek, through the Remuneration Authority, a voluntary reduction in their salary. The Remuneration Authority is solely responsible for determining councillors' salaries. We understand that councillors do not have the ability to decline the salary determined by the Remuneration Authority. We agree with appellants/objectors who said that the alleged advantage of a reduced number of councillors was erroneous.
20. Some appellants said that some councillors and the Mayor had not engaged in the representation review process in an open and transparent manner, instead deferring to the referendum results. We note that the High Court has

ruled<sup>1</sup> that the weight of numbers in favour of a particular position cannot be a mandatory consideration for it, and that a single submission may, in itself, provide sufficient material for the Commission to reach a decision.

21. We are satisfied that Referendum '06 ultimately formed a small part of the Council's formal representation review process. We note that the full range of representation review variables and possibilities were identified and discussed at a meeting of the Council's strategy committee held on 11 May 2006, and subsequently reported to Council. The statutory criteria relating to the representation review process were identified in the Council's notification of its proposals. We are satisfied that the Council acted in accordance with the required statutory process.

#### *Effective and fair representation*

22. A review of representation arrangements under the Act is to ensure that:
- the method adopted for the election of members (i.e. at large, wards, or a combination of both) will provide effective representation of communities of interest within the district (section 19T); and
  - in determining the number of members to be elected by each ward, electors of that ward will receive fair representation (section 19V).
23. For the purpose of achieving fair representation, section 19V(2) requires that the population of each ward divided by the number of members to be elected by that ward produces a figure no more than 10% greater or smaller than the population of the district divided by the total number of elected members. The Act does not define 'effective representation' or 'communities of interest'.
24. The steps in the process for achieving effective and fair representation are not statutorily prescribed. The Commission believes that the following process for determining representation arrangements will achieve a robust outcome that is in accordance with the statutory criteria:
- (a) identify the district's communities of interest;
  - (b) determine the best means of providing effective representation for the communities of interest; and
  - (c) determine fair representation of electors for the district.

#### *Wanganui District*

25. The Council's existing ward arrangements recognise, and distinguish between, two broadly defined groups of communities. These are the communities within the Wanganui urban area (the Urban Ward), and the rural and outlying communities (the Rural Ward). The Council identified three general groups of residents within the Rural Ward, these being "farmers, lifestyle, and rural settlement dwellers".

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<sup>1</sup> Ford & others v The Local Government Commission & others (High Court, Christchurch, CIV-2004-409-948, 16 August 2004, Hansen J)

26. We believe that future representation reviews may require a thorough examination of the similarities and dissimilarities between communities of interest in the Wanganui urban and peri-urban areas. This is in the light of:
- an examination of socio-economic and demographic indicators, landscape and roading patterns;
  - advice that some urban residents identify with a specific area of the Urban Ward (e.g. Castlecliff or St. Johns Hill) as much as with the Urban Ward or Wanganui District as a whole; and
  - rapid population growth as a result of subdivisions in the Mosston, Otamatea, and Westmere areas.
27. The Council's review process, however, generated no discussion regarding alternative ward arrangements impacting on areas other than the Rural Ward. We viewed this as a level of satisfaction with the existing arrangements for the Urban Ward and did not pursue possible alternative options for the Urban Ward.
28. We applied the requirements of section 19V(2) to the existing boundaries and populations of the Rural and Urban Wards, and councillor numbers as illustrated in the following table:

<b>Total number of councillors</b>	<b>Number of councillors elected from the Urban Ward</b>	<b>Number of councillors elected from the Rural Ward</b>	<b>Rural Ward % deviation from district average population per councillor</b>
8	7	1	-2.90%
12	10.5	1.5	0.00%
14	12	2	+9.97%
15	13	2	-2.91%
16	14	2	-3.53%

\*These figures are based on 2005 population estimates provided by the Government Statistician

29. The implications of section 19V(2) for existing representation arrangements are significant, requiring us to:
- (a) consider whether the effective representation of communities of interest within isolated communities requires enhanced representation over that provided for under section 19V(2) in relation to fair representation of electors;
  - (b) examine existing ward boundaries to ensure they best reflect distinct groups of communities of interest; and
  - (c) consider the total number of councillors necessary to ensure effective representation of communities of interest in the district;
  - (d) consider the nature of communities of interest within the existing Rural Ward; and
  - (e) consider whether wards or at large representation will provide a better basis for effective representation of communities of interest.
30. The existing Rural Ward covers an area of 2,369km<sup>2</sup> (approximately 98.5% of the total land area of the district), and contains approximately 13% of the district's total population. The ward has a range of unique rural landscapes, including coastal, farming and national park land, as well as a rapidly expanding area of lifestyle subdivision surrounding the Urban Ward. Much of

the area is characterised by the impact of rivers and streams, which create natural barriers between areas of the ward.

31. We were told that some rural roads in the district are prone to closure due to slips and flooding. These events will only impact on the residents of outlying areas. They do not generally impact on the majority of the population of the Rural Ward who live in close proximity to the Wanganui urban area. When reviewing council membership, we must assess the impact of the potential isolation of communities of interest within the context of the district as a whole.
32. We are not satisfied that communities of interest comprising the existing Rural Ward are isolated to an extent that justifies exemption from the requirements for fair representation under section 19V(2). This is based on the small proportion of residents of the Rural Ward who would be affected by road closures within geographically specific areas, the quality of main arterial routes, and the distances between most rural areas and the Wanganui urban area.
33. The boundary between the Urban and Rural Wards was established in 1992, and has not been altered since then. It does appear somewhat arbitrary in places. We are aware of some instances where meshblock boundaries split single property titles. This has resulted in a number of properties being located in both the Rural and Urban Wards. This creates difficulties in areas such as election management and the collation of statistical data.
34. We note that the Rural Ward now contains some small areas of new urban subdivision. We believe it is appropriate to include some of these areas in the Urban Ward. The clearest examples of this are in the areas of Otamatea (Great North Road), Wikitoria Road, Marions Way and Cracroft Drive. However, we also found it necessary to consider areas surrounding Montgomery and Mosston Roads, and Somme Parade and Papaiti Road, including McNeill Street. From a population perspective, the implications of the potential transfer of at least some of these areas are minor.
35. Our examination suggests that the transfer of additional areas of the Urban Ward to the Rural Ward, allowing that ward to elect two councillors under the requirements of section 19V(2), would compromise the effective representation of some urban communities of interest.
36. We considered the nature of communities of interest in the Rural Ward. We agree with the Council that the ward contains distinct groups of rural communities, these being rural lifestyle, farming and outlying settlement communities. We also believe that communities of interest within the Rural Ward can be distinguished by their location and proximity to State Highway 3 (northwest of the Wanganui urban area, and southeast of it), State Highway 4 and the Whanganui River Road. Typically, rural roads connect to only one of these arterial routes. A general effect of this roading network is to separate discrete areas of the Rural Ward from each other. Travel between discrete rural areas generally requires a route via, or in close proximity to, the Wanganui urban area. We believe the roading network would create significant challenges for a councillor elected from the Rural Ward in terms of reasonable access for constituents.

37. The majority of the population of the Rural Ward resides within 10 minutes of the Wanganui urban area. The population of the Urban Ward, and the district as a whole, has declined slightly since the 1996 and 2001 censuses. However, the population of the Blueskin area unit<sup>2</sup>, which is located in the existing Rural Ward, has increased by 11.4% between 1996 and 2001, and by 3.5% between 2001 and 2006. The population of the Otamatea area unit has increased by 2.1% between 1996 and 2001, and by 9.3% between 2001 and 2006. This population growth is largely a result of infill, and lifestyle block, subdivision to the north and northeast of the Wanganui urban area.
38. We accept that some residents of the Rural Ward, regardless of their close proximity to the Wanganui urban area, share an environmental or rural perspective with other residents of the Rural Ward. We note that many of these residents are provided with separate wastewater and water schemes, or septic tanks. However, we also believe that, from a social and functional perspective, most residents located within 10 minutes of the Wanganui urban area would purchase basic supplies, and utilise employment, medical, educational, social and sporting services in the Wanganui urban area to a similar extent that many urban residents would. This belief is supported by the fact that there are few basic services within the Rural Ward, other than country pubs, primary schools, and garages.
39. The nature of the arterial routes in the district suggests that most rural residents would travel to the Wanganui urban area rather than other urban centres located outside of the district in order to access a wide range of services. This supports the argument that many rural residents have regular contact, and share social, cultural, and business interests with residents of the Urban Ward.
40. We do agree that a councillor elected from the Rural Ward would typically have a better knowledge and understanding of general rural issues than a resident of the Wanganui urban area would. However, we note that the Rural Ward comprises a collection of distinct areas or groups of communities, and we are not convinced that, for example, a resident of Kakatahi would have a clearer understanding of the specific local community concerns and interests of the residents of Kaitoke or Westmere than a resident of the Wanganui urban area might.
41. In light of these considerations, we believe that at large representation would provide a better basis for effective representation of rural and outlying communities than retaining the Rural Ward. In summary, this is based on the following key factors:
- the electors of the Rural Ward would not be entitled to elect more than one councillor unless additional urban areas were included in the Rural Ward;
  - the majority of rural residents are in close proximity to the Wanganui urban area;
  - while all residents of the Rural Ward share general rural concerns and interests (as distinct from urban concerns and interests), we also believe that the ward contains a collection of discrete communities with different local concerns and interests depending on their location and landscape;

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<sup>2</sup> Area units are determined by Statistics New Zealand, and used for statistical purposes only. Area unit maps may be viewed at [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz). Blueskin includes the areas of Mosston and Westmere.

- access between areas of the Rural Ward generally requires a route via the Wanganui urban area; and
  - representation of communities of interest in the Rural Ward is supported by the Rural Community Board (as discussed below).
42. Accordingly we uphold the Council's decision to move to at large elections.
43. We also considered the total number of councillors required to ensure effective representation of communities of interest within the Wanganui District. The 2001 census provides some broad indicators of demographic diversity within the district. This data indicates wide disparity in medium income between area units within the district. The district has a higher than national average proportion of Māori residents, and of both younger and older people.
44. Diverse landscapes and roading also impacts on residents' sense of distinct community identity. The district covers a large land area and comprises many small, rural and outlying settlements. Based on these factors, and with regard to councillors' likely workloads, obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), and the expectations of constituents, we believe that a reduction in the number of councillors cannot be justified, and would unduly compromise the Council's capacity to provide effective representation of communities of interest. We also do not believe that there is a level of public demand for increasing the number of councillors. We find, therefore, that the Council will continue to comprise 12 councillors.

#### *Communities and community boards*

45. Few submitters or appellants questioned the need to retain the Rural Community Board. Some appellants, however, questioned the boundaries of the community. Others suggested the board's membership should be reduced to four elected members.
46. We support the retention of the Rural Community Board. We believe that the board provides a necessary role in supporting effective communication between rural residents, community groups, and the Council. The board is active in ensuring rural concerns and interests are reflected in the Council's long-term planning. The board is represented on all Council committees and subcommittees. We believe that this level of integration contributes to the board's, and the Council's, ability to develop timely strategies for addressing rural issues. While at present the board has no financial delegations, we heard that the Council has adopted the vast majority of the board's recommendations to it.
47. We believe, however, that the boundaries of the rural community should be altered to exclude small areas on the urban fringe of the Wanganui urban area currently located in the Rural Ward. One of the purposes of this is to strengthen the board's focus on issues of a rural nature. At present these issues include rural roads, disposal of rural solid waste, wastewater and stormwater, rural halls, animal control, rural fire preparedness and funding, and forestry and farming concerns.

48. The Council may wish to address further the most appropriate boundaries of the Rural Community prior to the 2010 or 2013 local elections. At this stage we have removed from the Community, properties that are connected to the reticulated system and small properties adjacent to the urban area. Properties affected by these changes are located in the areas of Otamatea, Wikitoria Road, Marions Way, Cracroft Drive, Somme Parade and Papaiti Road. Statistics New Zealand has altered meshblock boundaries in these areas. It has also taken the opportunity to align meshblock boundaries (and therefore, the boundaries of the community) with single property title boundaries.
49. We note that there are different types of rural communities (lifestylers, farmers and outlying settlement dwellers) within the Rural Community. These communities are separated from each other because of topography and the roading network. We believe that subdivision of the Rural Community is necessary to ensure that all rural communities of interest receive an appropriate level of community board representation.
50. Subdivision of a community is subject to the requirement for fair representation under section 19V(2) of the Act. Section 19V(3)(a) allows for greater flexibility from this requirement if this is necessary to ensure the effective representation of communities of interest within isolated communities situated within the community board area. The majority of the population of the Rural Community resides within 10 minutes of the Wanganui urban area. However, the Rural Community also contains extensive inland areas. We were told that many parts of the inland rural area of the district are prone to slips and flooding. We note that some outlying settlements are 50 minutes from the Wanganui urban area.
51. We previously found, in relation to wards, that these circumstances did not warrant greater flexibility than that allowed under section 19V(2) in determining fair representation. This was because the communities of interest affected by these circumstances comprised a very small proportion of the population of the district. However, we believe that, in the context of the Rural Community, the proportion of outlying residents affected by potential isolation is sufficient to warrant a greater degree of flexibility when determining fair community board representation than that generally allowed under section 19V(2).
52. We determine there will be three subdivisions of the Rural Community as follows:
- Kai Iwi – covering peri-urban and rural lifestyle areas northwest of the Whanganui River, and areas either side of State Highway 3 north of the Wanganui urban area.
  - Kaitoke – covering areas southeast of the Wanganui urban area with the northern boundary extending from the Wanganui urban area to the Lismore Forest; and
  - Whanganui – covering the remainder of the Rural Community, including the areas of the Whanganui River, State Highway 4, and rural and outlying areas.
53. We determine that the board will comprise seven elected members and two appointed members. The reasons for this are:

- the community covers a large area and contains many settlements areas;
- it enables fairer representation of electors within the community, without compromising the effective representation of outlying communities located in the Whanganui subdivision; and
- it maintains the existing overall membership of the board.

54. The relationship between the Commission's decision on subdivision boundaries, the number of community board members, and the requirements of section 19V(2), is illustrated in the following table:

Subdivisions	Population*	No. of members per subdivision	Population per member	Deviation from community average population per member	Percentage deviation from community average population per member
Kai-Iwi	2,520	3	840	+68.57	+8.89
Whanganui	1,260	2	630	-141.43	-18.33
Kaitoke	1,620	2	810	+38.57	-4.50
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>771.43</b>		

\*These figures are rounded 2006 population estimates, being the most up-to-date available, provided by the Government Statistician

### Commission's Determination

55. Under section 19R of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the Commission determines that for the general election of the Wanganui District Council to be held on 13 October 2007, the following representation arrangements shall apply –
- (1) Wanganui District as delineated on S.O. Plan 36047 deposited with Land Information New Zealand, shall not be divided into wards;
  - (2) The Council shall comprise the mayor and 12 councillors, elected by the electors of the district as a whole;
  - (3) There shall be a Wanganui Rural Community, comprising the area as delineated on S.O. Plan 386523 deposited with Land Information New Zealand;
  - (4) The Wanganui Rural Community shall be divided into three subdivisions;
  - (5) Those three subdivisions shall be -
    - (a) the Kai Iwi subdivision, comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 386526 deposited with Land Information New Zealand;
    - (b) the Whanganui subdivision, comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 386525 deposited with Land Information New Zealand; and
    - (c) the Kaitoke subdivision, comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 386524 deposited with Land Information New Zealand;
  - (6) The Wanganui Rural Community Board shall comprise two members of the Council elected by the electors of the district as a whole and seven members elected by the electors of the subdivisions of the community, as follows -

- (a) three members elected by the electors of the Kai Iwi subdivision;
- (b) two members elected by the electors of the Whanganui subdivision; and
- (c) two members elected by the electors of the Kaitoke subdivision.

56. As required by sections 19T(b) and 19W(c) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the boundaries of the above subdivisions coincide with the boundaries of current statistical meshblock areas determined by Statistics New Zealand and used for Parliamentary electoral purposes.

#### **THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

Sue Piper	(Chair)
Gwen Bull	(Commissioner)
Wynne Raymond	(Commissioner)

5 April 2007