



Local Government
Commission

Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

**Better local government - what's
important to the Wairarapa?**

What tonight is all about?

- To let you know about the development of local government reform in the Wairarapa.
- To inform you about the process, timing, and options being considered.
- To give you an opportunity to give early feedback on the options.
- For you to tell us what is important to you.

Agenda

1. Mayor's introduction
2. Local Government Commission's new approach (Sir Wira Gardiner)
3. Discussion – what is the best way to consult with the community?
4. Discussion – what is important to the Wairarapa?
5. Workshop – opportunity to review the draft options and provide feedback
6. Next steps

The story so far

The Commission received two applications

- The three Wairarapa Councils for a unitary council for the Wairarapa - strategic and economic advantages for the Wairarapa
- Greater Wellington - unitary for the whole region.

The Commission proposed a unitary for whole region in December 2014.

This proposal was rejected by the community through submissions and hearings.

The Commission withdrew the proposal in June 2015.

The Commission's new approach

We want to work with councils and communities to find options for Wairarapa local government that will be supported by the community.

We want to discuss all the options with the community before coming to a preferred option.

This is different to our legislative process.

The Minister is open to considering a proposal for options not currently in legislation.

Why consider change at all?

- Application from the Wairarapa Councils – still live
- Feedback from submissions
- Joint workshop with Mayors and councillors showed there is still an appetite for change to strengthen the Wairarapa

Wairarapa submitters told us change was needed

- A stronger Wairarapa voice in the region and on national stage
- More effective council - greater “critical mass” of staff
- Larger rate-payer base
- More Wairarapa/rural influence over resource management decisions by the regional council
- Long term thinking – 30 - 40 years out

Wairarapa submitters told us what was important to keep

- Local identity and democracy
- Costs down
- Environmental standards
- A connection to Wellington

What's happened recently?

- November and December 2015 - Councillor workshops asking
 - Can we work together?
 - What are the opportunities and challenges?
 - What are all the possible ways we could address them?
- February 2016 - Initial community meetings

What will happen next?

- March and April 2016 - Commission and councils do detailed work on all the potential options – costs, benefits, risks
- May/June 2016 – Community consultation
- July 2016 - Commission announcements on progress – so not to interfere with the elections in October 2016
- If consultation supportive of change then likely poll in 2017 and new council elections in 2018 for a four year term

Potential options

Where did these options come from?

- Workshop with councillors last year
 - Can we work together?
 - What are the opportunities and challenges?
 - What are all the possible ways we could address them?
- Open to working with us and together with regional council
- Range of views – similar to submitters
- Workshop came up with a range of potential options, which we want to share with you today at this early stage
- These potential options not set in stone, no detailed work done on them
- There may be additional options you want us to consider

What do the options try to achieve?

All options for change aim to give the Wairarapa:

- A stronger, unified voice
- A more efficient and effective council

Options C to F aim at:

- More Wairarapa/rural influence over resource management decisions by the regional council
- Balancing “more say” and “more pay”

Initial 'kick the tyres' on the potential options

- We don't expect you to decide on your preferred option now. We don't have enough information for you yet.
- But do let us know your initial feedback and what questions you'd want answered in May/June during consultation.

Option A – status quo



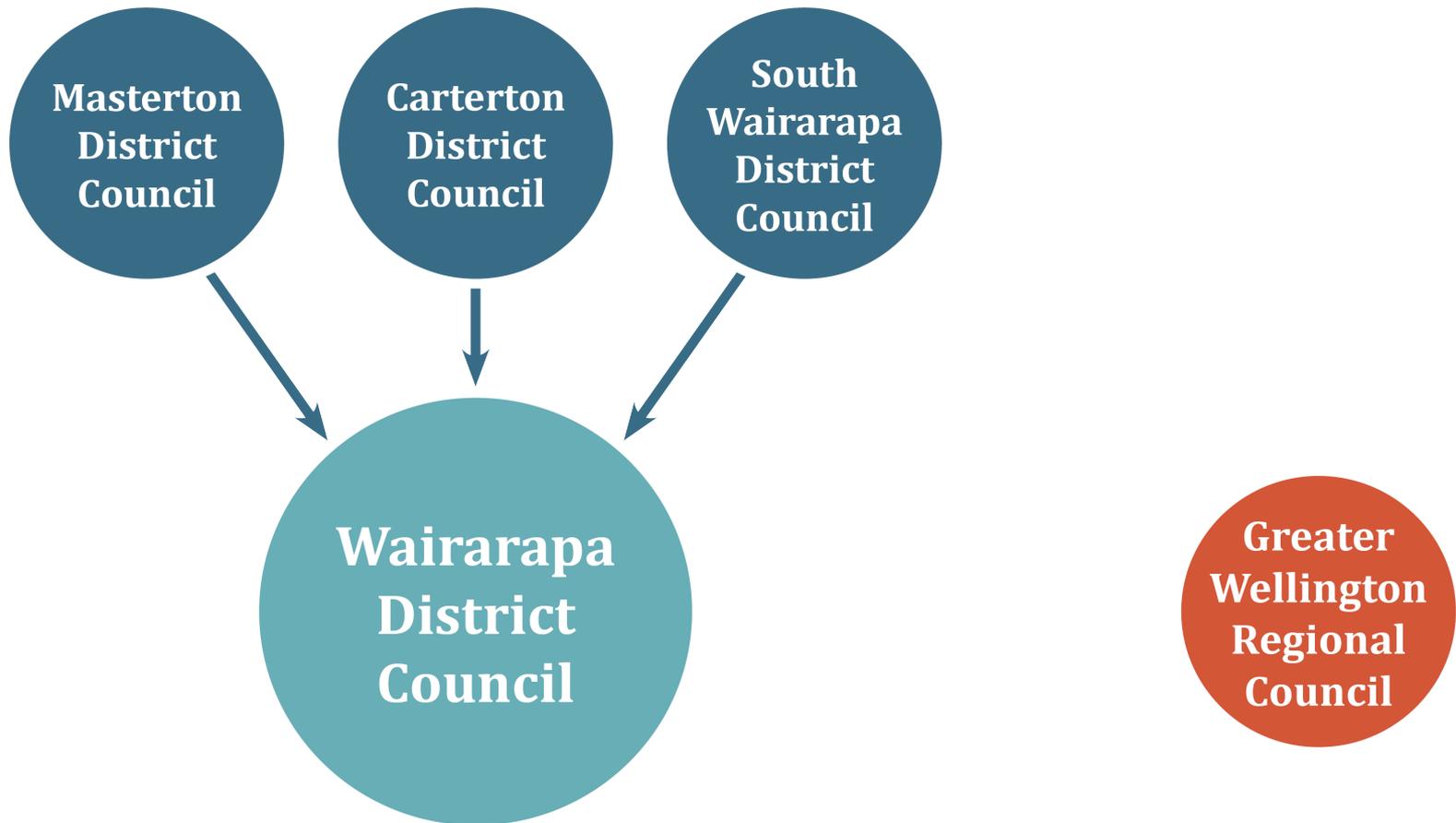
**Masterton
District
Council**

**Carterton
District
Council**

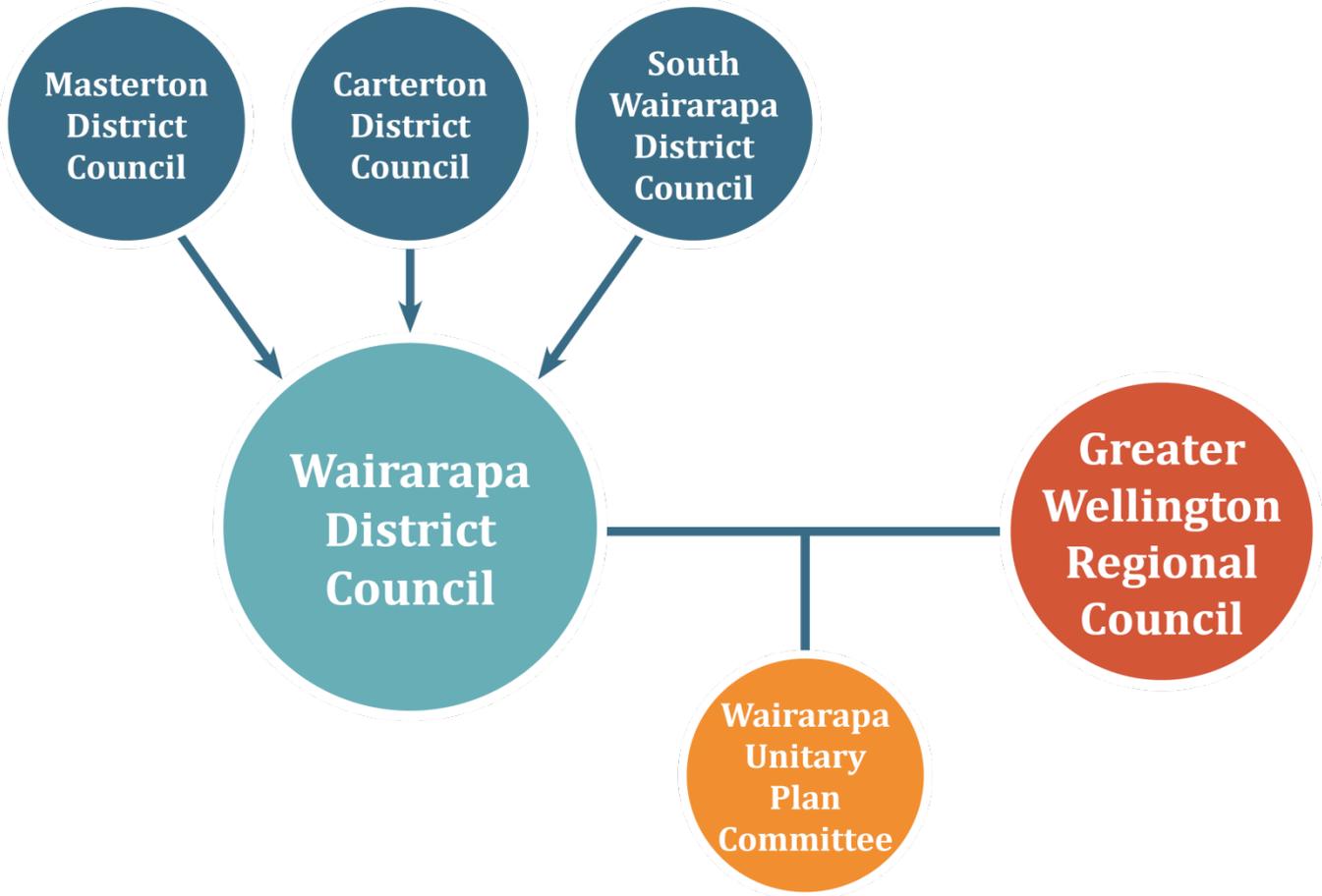
**South
Wairarapa
District
Council**

**Greater
Wellington
Regional
Council**

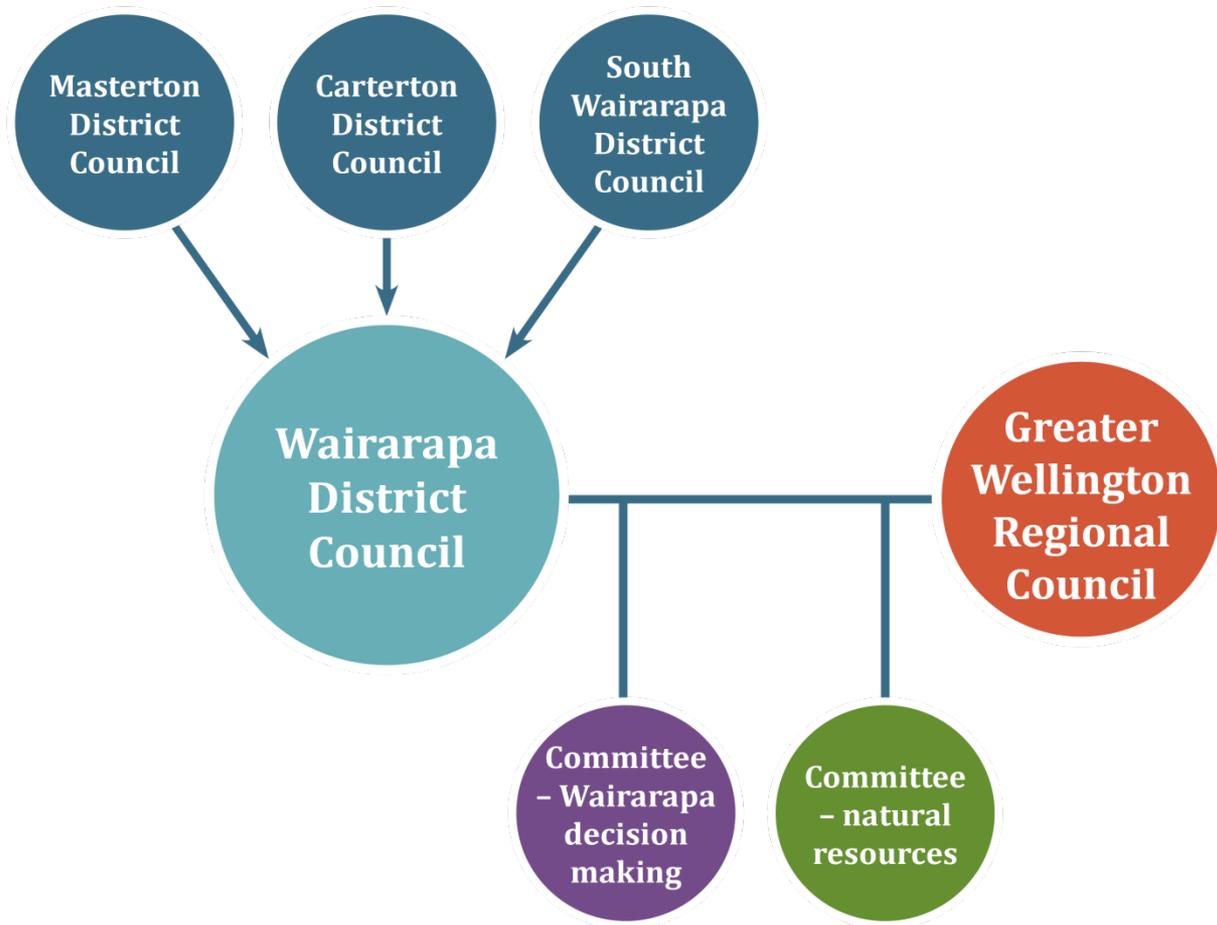
Option B – Wairarapa District Council



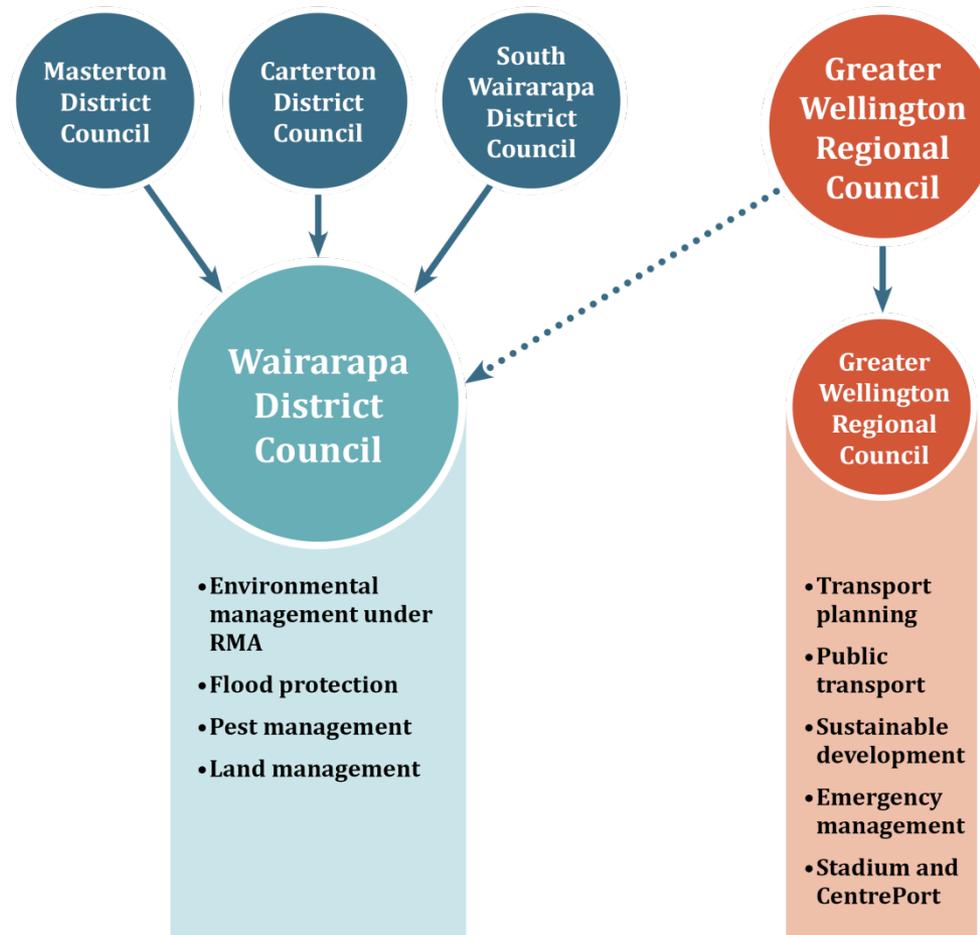
Option C – Wairarapa District Council and joint Wairarapa Unitary Plan Committee



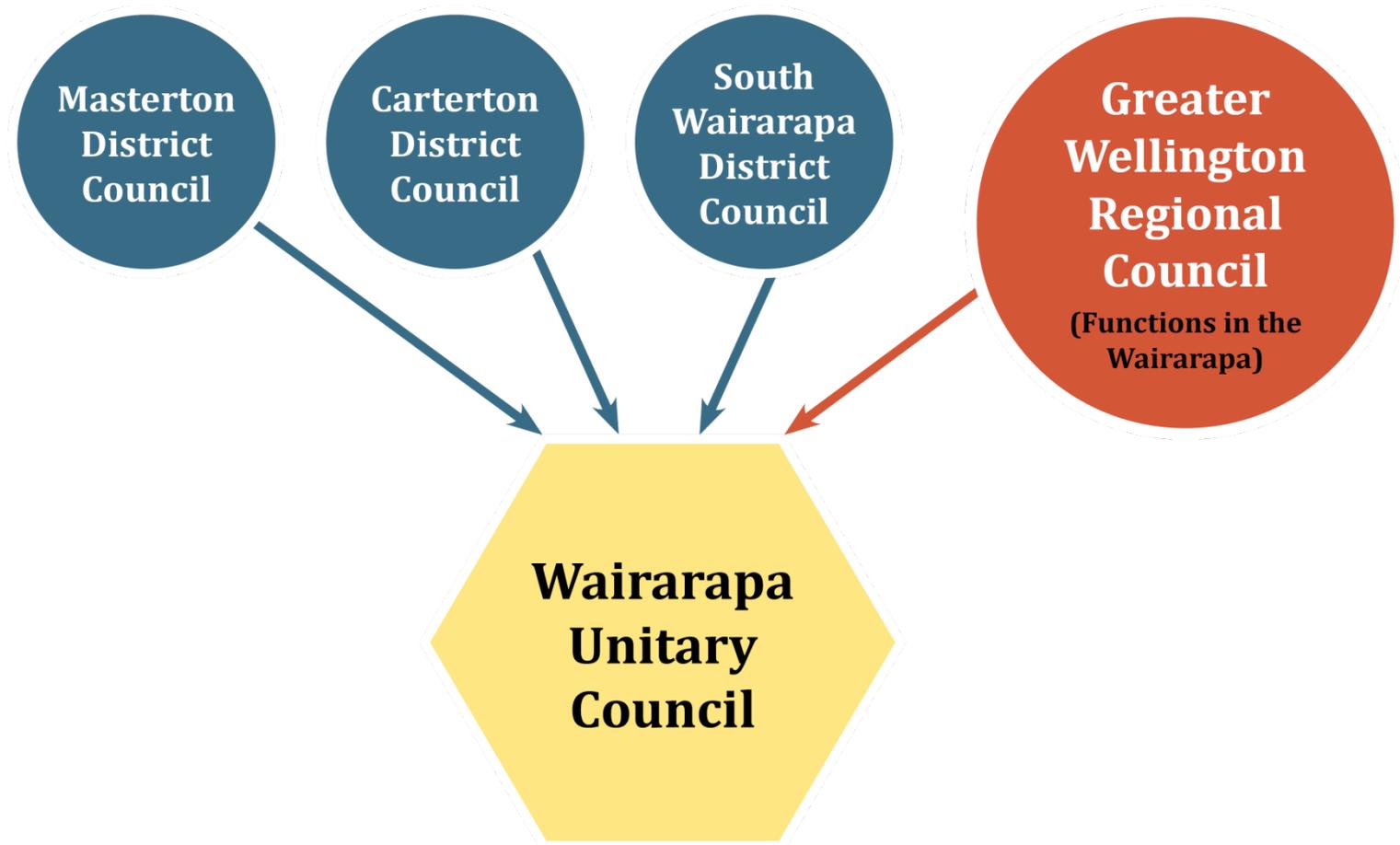
Option D – Wairarapa District Council and two committees with the regional council



Option E – Wairarapa District Council takes on most regional council functions



Option F – Wairarapa Unitary Council



Next steps

- Feedback from today included in our thinking
- Notes on the LGC and Wairarapa's Future websites
- March and April 2016 - Commission and councils do detailed work on all the potential options – costs, benefits, risks
- May/June 2016 – Community consultation
- July 2016 - Commission announcements on progress – so not to interfere with the elections in October 2016