Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe
Local Government Commission

Reorganisation of local government in Southland – a new Southland Council

Replacing Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council

Local Government Commission
Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

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Local Government Commission
Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

Foreword

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Commission's investigation so far. Southlanders have generously shared their experiences, concerns and aspirations with us through meetings, surveys and discussions across the region. Councils, iwi, key stakeholders, representative bodies and community organisations have provided information and perspectives that have helped shape our thinking.

After considering a range of possible changes, we identified two options for detailed investigation: a single Southland council; and two councils, one for Invercargill and one for wider Southland and Gore. We looked closely at both options, drawing on all evidence gathered through the investigation, including feedback from communities and stakeholders across Southland and independent financial modelling.

Our decision is to put forward a single Southland Council for further consultation.

Some of the decisions involved in arriving at a single Southland Council have not been easy.

One of the clearest messages we heard was how strongly Southlanders value their local identity, local voice and the ability to influence decisions affecting their communities. We also heard genuine concerns, particularly from rural, remote and geographically dispersed communities, that a single Southland Council might feel more distant. We heard concerns that decision-making could become too centred on Invercargill, or that Invercargill would overshadow smaller Southland communities, including those in rural areas. We understand these concerns and have taken them seriously.

At the same time, we heard strong concerns about affordability, rising costs and getting good value from local government. We also heard a desire for local government to operate as efficiently as possible, with less duplication and less need for residents to navigate between councils.

As part of comparing the two options, we asked consultants MartinJenkins to undertake independent financial modelling of each. Both options would involve significant costs to put in place, but the modelling found a substantial difference in their longer-term financial results. Under the modelling, a single Southland Council would recover its transition and financing costs and provide a net financial benefit of $66 million over 25 years. The two-council option would not recover those costs within 25 years and would have a net cost of $4.7 million.

We considered the financial modelling alongside everything else we heard, including the importance Southlanders place on local identity, local representation and decisions being made close to their communities. Overall, we concluded that a single Southland Council was the stronger option for Southland's future, **but only if communities continue to have genuine control over important local decisions.**

That is why local boards are fundamental to a single Southland Council. Local boards would be elected by local communities, make decisions about specified local matters and have dedicated funding for local priorities. Unlike community boards, which can be established or disestablished by councils and depend on councils for the decision-making powers they have, the existence and core decision-making role of local boards would not simply depend on the decisions of a future Southland Council. This would give communities greater certainty that important local decisions would be made locally. We consider local boards the strongest way to protect local decision-making under a single Southland Council.

We have also proposed how communities would be represented under a single Southland Council, including where wards and local board boundaries should be. The proposed boundaries are based on the information we have gathered throughout the investigation and our understanding of the communities and connections across Southland. We know that no set of boundaries or representation arrangements will perfectly reflect every community or connection. This is a **draft** plan, and consultation is an important opportunity to test and improve it.

We genuinely want to hear what Southlanders think. If there are things we have got wrong, connections we have not adequately reflected, or ways the proposal could better protect local representation while achieving the benefits of a Southland-wide council, please tell us. If there are parts of the draft plan that you particularly like, please also tell us.

Your feedback will help us decide whether to issue a final reorganisation plan and, if so, how the proposal should be refined to best serve Southland's communities into the future.

Nō reira, tēnā anō koutou katoa.

The Local Government Commission
Dr Sue Bidrose (Chair)
Bonita Bigham
Andrew Turner

18 November 2026

Local Government Commission
Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

Commission seeks community feedback on a single Southland Council

1. The Local Government Commission is consulting on its preferred option of establishing a new Southland Council. This explanatory document sets out how the Commission reached its preferred option, and the representation arrangements that would be included in a new Southland Council. A formal draft reorganisation plan is set out in Appendix A.
2. The Commission is seeking feedback on the proposed governance, representation and transition arrangements for a single Southland Council.
3. If established, Southland Council would replace Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council.
4. Southland Council would be responsible for the services and functions currently provided by both Environment Southland and the three city and district councils. This type of council is known as a unitary authority.
5. The Commission has released a draft reorganisation plan because it considers that different local government arrangements would better serve Southland. No final decisions have been made, and community feedback will help the Commission understand whether any changes should be made before a final reorganisation plan is considered.
6. The purpose of this document is to help the Southland community understand:
    - How residents and communities would be represented; and how decisions would be made in the new Southland Council;
    - What matters are included in the draft reorganisation plan now, and what would still be worked through during a transition period ahead of the first election of the Southland Council in 2028; and
    - How to provide feedback to the Commission.
7. Feedback questions are highlighted throughout this document to help you think about the types of feedback you might like to give to the Commission. You are not limited to answering these questions; your feedback is welcomed on any aspects of the draft plan.
8. Submissions close on 5 February 2027. Submissions can be made by:
    - Completing the online submission form available on the Commission's website; or
    - Sending a written submission to the Commission at lgc.feedback@lgc.govt.nz

9. If you wish, you may speak to your submission at a public hearing. Hearings are expected to be held both in Southland and online during March 2027. Details of hearing dates and locations will be published on the Commission's website following the close of submissions.

10. The Commission will consider all submissions and hearing evidence before deciding whether to make any changes and issue a final reorganisation plan. If a final reorganisation plan is issued, a public poll will then be held to determine whether to give effect to the final plan.

11. Previous reports and additional documents referred to throughout this document are hyperlinked and available on the Commission's website.

Journey to this point

12. This reorganisation process began in February 2025 when Southland District Council submitted a reorganisation initiative to the Commission proposing changes to local government arrangements in Southland. The initiative proposed two councils for Southland, but the Commission was not limited to only investigating this option. Its role was to consider whether different arrangements could improve how local government works in Southland.

13. After consulting with Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council and Te Ao Mārama Incorporated on behalf of Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku, the Commission agreed in July 2025 to formally investigate reorganisation of local government in Southland. The investigation process was confirmed in October 2025, including three phases.

Phase 1 – Understanding Southland's opportunities and challenges

14. During phase 1 the Commission sought to understand the challenges, opportunities and circumstances facing local government in Southland. Between November 2025 and May 2026, the Commission engaged with councils, Te Ao Mārama Incorporated, and communities across Southland through meetings, public and online engagement sessions, and a survey.

15. The Commission concluded that there was sufficient evidence to warrant further consideration of alternative local government arrangements. Its phase 1 report is available on the Commission's website.

16. The Commission also asked MartinJenkins to develop a framework for assessing the options against the requirements the Commission must consider under the Local Government Act 2002. This framework informed the Commission's assessment at the end of phase 2.

Phase 2 – Investigating alternative structures

17. Between May and November 2026, the Commission considered a range of options for Southland's future local government arrangements, before deciding that two warranted further detailed investigation:

    - A single Southland council responsible for both regional and city or district council functions (known as a unitary authority), supported by local boards with defined decision-making responsibilities; and
    - Two unitary authorities, one for Invercargill and the other for wider Southland and Gore, supported by local boards and a Joint Committee for selected regional functions.

18. The Commission tested these options through further engagement with communities, councils, iwi and stakeholders, including a survey that received 465 responses. Although views differed on the preferred option, there was broad consistency about the outcomes participants wanted from reorganisation.

19. The Commission also commissioned independent financial modelling from MartinJenkins. While this identified significant transition costs for both options, a single Southland Councill was considered likely to achieve stronger long-term financial outcomes and greater overall organisational efficiency than a two-council structure. The modelling report is available on the Commission's website.

Reaching a preferred option

20. The Commission used all evidence gathered to assess the two options against the statutory objectives in clause 10, Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002, using the framework developed by MartinJenkins.

21. The Commission concluded that both options offered advantages over the current arrangements, but that a single Southland Council with carefully designed wards and empowered local boards was the stronger overall option. The Commission's decision document, which sets out its assessment of the two options, is available on its website.

22. The Commission is now seeking feedback on its preferred option of a single Southland Council. No final decisions have been made. Consultation provides an opportunity to hear from the Southland community before the Commission decides whether to issue a final reorganisation plan.

Why has the Commission decided on a single Southland Council?

Why is change needed?

23. The Commission's investigation identified several challenges and opportunities facing local government in Southland.

24. Current arrangements were often described as fragmented, with responsibilities spread across four councils. The Commission heard concerns about duplicated work and different approaches between councils, rising costs, infrastructure pressures, environmental management, whether councils could attract and retain the specialist skills they needed, and how well councils could respond to future challenges. The Commission also heard that Southland could benefit from councils working more closely together, with clearer responsibility for decisions, and better coordinated planning and services.

25. The Commission concluded there was sufficient evidence that alternative local government arrangements could better address a number of these issues and opportunities than the current council structures.

Stronger regional coordination and clearer accountability

26. Many of the issues affecting Southland extend beyond individual council boundaries. Environmental management, river catchments, flood protection, biosecurity, emergency management, transport networks and economic development all require coordinated decision-making at a regional scale.

27. The Commission concluded that a single Southland Council would provide the clearest framework for addressing these issues by creating a single council responsible for both Southland-wide matters and the services currently managed by city and district councils. This would provide clearer accountability and reduce the need for coordination between multiple organisations.

A stronger organisation for the future

28. The Commission heard consistent feedback about the importance of councils' ability to attract and retain the specialist skills they need.

29. Southland's councils face growing demands for infrastructure renewal, environmental management and regulatory requirements, while some specialist skills can be difficult to recruit for. The Commission concluded that a single Southland Council would be better placed to attract and retain specialist staff, reduce duplicated roles across councils and use resources more efficiently. A larger organisation would also provide greater flexibility to respond to changing community expectations and future challenges.

A stronger long-term financial position

30. Affordability and the rising costs of council services were major concerns raised during the investigation.

31. The Commission asked consultants MartinJenkins to independently model the financial effects of both options investigated in detail. MartinJenkins' report showed that both options would involve significant costs to put into place. However, modelling found that a single Southland Council would save significantly more in ongoing operating costs because it would replace four councils with one, while the two-council option would retain two separate organisations.

32. The modelling showed that a single Southland Council would recover its transition and financing costs and provide a net benefit of $66 million over 25 years. The two-council option would not recover the costs of moving to this structure within the same period and would have a net cost of $4.7 million.

33. These figures compare the modelled costs of each option with the costs of retaining the current four council arrangement. The modelling does not provide estimates of changes to individual rates bills. Future rates would depend on decisions made by the new council about funding, debt, services and how rates are shared across different properties and areas.

34. The modelling also found that a single council would be better placed to manage financial pressures because its revenue, debt and ability to borrow would be managed together across Southland. However, reorganisation would not remove the underlying pressures facing councils, including rising infrastructure costs, a slow-growing rating base and increasing debt.

The ability to respond to future changes and challenges

35. The Commission considered not only Southland's current needs, but also how local government arrangements would need to respond to changes in the future.

36. Different parts of Southland are likely to face different population, economic and environmental pressures over time. The Commission considers that a single Southland Council would be better able to respond to these challenges and plan for Southland's longer-term needs.

Protecting local voice and local identity

37. The strongest message heard throughout the investigation was the importance Southlanders place on local identity, local representation and having meaningful influence over decisions affecting their communities.

38. The Commission also heard concerns that a single Southland Council could be perceived as more distant from local communities, and that larger population centres, particularly Invercargill, could have greater influence in a single council structure. Geographically dispersed, smaller townships and rural areas were particularly concerned about being overshadowed, or losing their local voice, within a single council structure.

39. The Commission found that a two-council structure could provide a greater sense of protection for local voices and local identity. However, it considers these concerns can also be addressed within a single-council structure through carefully designed wards and local boards that keep important decisions close to the communities affected.

40. Local boards are a fundamental part of the Commission's preferred option. They are intended to ensure that forming a single Southland Council would not mean all decisions being made centrally. Local boards would have their own elected members, decision-making responsibilities and dedicated funding for local matters. They would make decisions about matters affecting their communities, while Southland Council would be responsible for matters that need to be managed across Southland. The Commission considers this could protect local decision-making and provide a strong and consistent form of local representation across Southland.

Potential disadvantages

41. The Commission acknowledges that a single Southland Council has its own disadvantages and risks. These include:

    - Concerns that some communities may feel more distant, or less strongly represented, in relation to central council decision-making;
    - Concerns regarding the potential influence of larger population centres, particularly for smaller geographically dispersed and rural townships;
    - Significant transition costs associated with establishing a new council organisation;
    - Uncertainty for council staff during the transition process; and
    - The possibility that local identity could be weakened if local governance arrangements, including wards and local boards, are not appropriately designed and empowered accordingly.

42. The Commission considers that many of these risks can be reduced through careful design of representation arrangements, local boards, service delivery arrangements and transition planning. However, it acknowledges that these issues will remain important matters for community feedback during consultation.

Overall conclusion

43. After considering all evidence gathered during the investigation, the Commission concluded that both reorganisation options would improve on the current local government arrangements in Southland.

44. However, when assessed against the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, the Commission found that a single Southland Council was the stronger option overall. In particular, the Commission found that a single Southland Council would provide stronger regional coordination, clearer accountability, greater organisational capability, improved long-term financial sustainability, and a more durable framework for responding to Southland's future opportunities and challenges.

45. At the same time, the Commission considers that meaningful local decision-making and local identity can be maintained within a single council structure through strong local board arrangements.

46. For these reasons, the Commission's preferred option is the establishment of a single Southland Council to replace Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council.

Questions for feedback

About the proposed Southland Council:

1. Do you agree that a single Southland Council would provide:

- Stronger coordination across Southland and clearer accountability
- A council with the staff, skills and resources needed for the future
- A stronger long-term financial position
- The ability to respond to future changes and challenges
- Protection of local voice and local identity

2. Are there any other advantages or disadvantages of a single Southland Council that you think we should consider? Please tell us why.

What would Southland Council look like?

47. Southland Council would be responsible for all functions currently undertaken by Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council. Southland Council would be a unitary authority and would exercise both regional and territorial (district and city) council responsibilities across the Southland region.

48. Southland Council would be governed by a mayor and 14 councillors elected from eight wards. The Commission considers 14 councillors would provide an appropriate level of representation for Southland's population and large geographic area. Councillors would be supported by a network of local boards, providing an additional level of local representation along with localised decision-making.

49. The Commission considers that Southland is characterised by both a strong regional identity and a network of distinct subregional and local communities. The proposed governance arrangements are intended to recognise both. A single Southland Council would make decisions on matters that need a Southland-wide approach, while local boards would make decisions about specified local matters for their own communities.

50. Local boards are fundamental to the single Southland Council model. Local boards would be built into the new council structure. Their roles and responsibilities would not depend on a future Southland Council choosing what powers and funding they receive. Local boards would give communities locally elected representatives who could make decisions about specific local matters and direct dedicated funding towards local priorities. This means that communities would have greater certainty that important local decisions would be made locally.

51. In developing these arrangements, the Commission has sought to balance:

    - Fair representation of electors
    - Effective representation of communities of interest;
    - Recognition of isolated and geographically distinct communities;
    - Accessible local governance; and
    - Long-term governance arrangements that remain workable across a large and diverse region.

52. The first election of the mayor, councillors and local board members of Southland Council would take place in October 2028, as part of the 2028 local government elections. The election would use the First Past the Post voting system and postal voting. Candidate names would appear in random order on voting documents.

Representation arrangements

53. While Southland has a strong regional identity, its communities are spread across a large geographic area. The Commission considers it unlikely that electing councillors at-large across Southland would result in effective representation for communities dispersed across a large geographic area. Wards have been proposed to ensure that distinct parts of Southland are represented on Southland Council.

54. In designing the ward structure, the Commission considered both fair representation, so that councillors generally represent similar numbers of people, and effective representation, so that distinct communities are not divided or combined in ways that weaken their voice.

55. Southland would be divided into eight wards for the purpose of electing councillors to Southland Council. The wards aim to reflect Southland's major communities of interest while also providing fair and effective representation for electors.

56. Southland's communities are not defined solely by existing council boundaries. The Commission has considered existing council, ward, community board and subdivision boundaries, but these have not necessarily been retained, where there is evidence that communities extend across them. Some have been altered to better reflect communities of interest or, where appropriate, to follow geographic features.

57. **The proposed wards are as follows:**

Table 1: Ward representation by population

Ward	Population*	Councillors	Population per councillor	+/- 10% variance
Stewart Island/Rakiura	500	1	500	-93.32
Invercargill	59,800	7	8,543	+14.06
Ōreti	7,860	1	7,860	+4.94
Waihōpai Toetoe	6,820	1	6,820	-8.95
Rural Eastern Southland	7,120	1	7,120	-4.94
Gore	8,030	1	8,030	+7.21
Fiordland Northern Southland	6,630	1	6,630	-11.48

Ward	Population*	Councillors	Population per councillor	+/- 10% variance
Waiau Aparima	8,100	1	8,100	+8.14
Total	**104,860**	**14**	**7,490**	

*Based on Stats NZ 2025 population estimates (2023 census base)

58. Not all proposed wards comply with the +/-10% fair representation requirements, as explained further below. The law allows exceptions where necessary to provide effective representation for isolated or distinct communities of interest. The Commission considers this is particularly relevant for communities such as Stewart Island/Rakiura and for geographically large wards.

59. In reaching its proposed ward arrangements, the Commission considered:

- The distinct identity and geographic isolation of Stewart Island/Rakiura
- The importance of Gore as a separate urban community and service centre;
- The role of Invercargill as Southland's principal urban centre;
- Strong communities of interest identified in Fiordland, Northern Southland, Central Southland, Western Southland, and Eastern Southland; and
- The need to provide representation for large rural areas where travel distances and differing local circumstances create challenges for effective representation.

What do the ward boundaries look like?

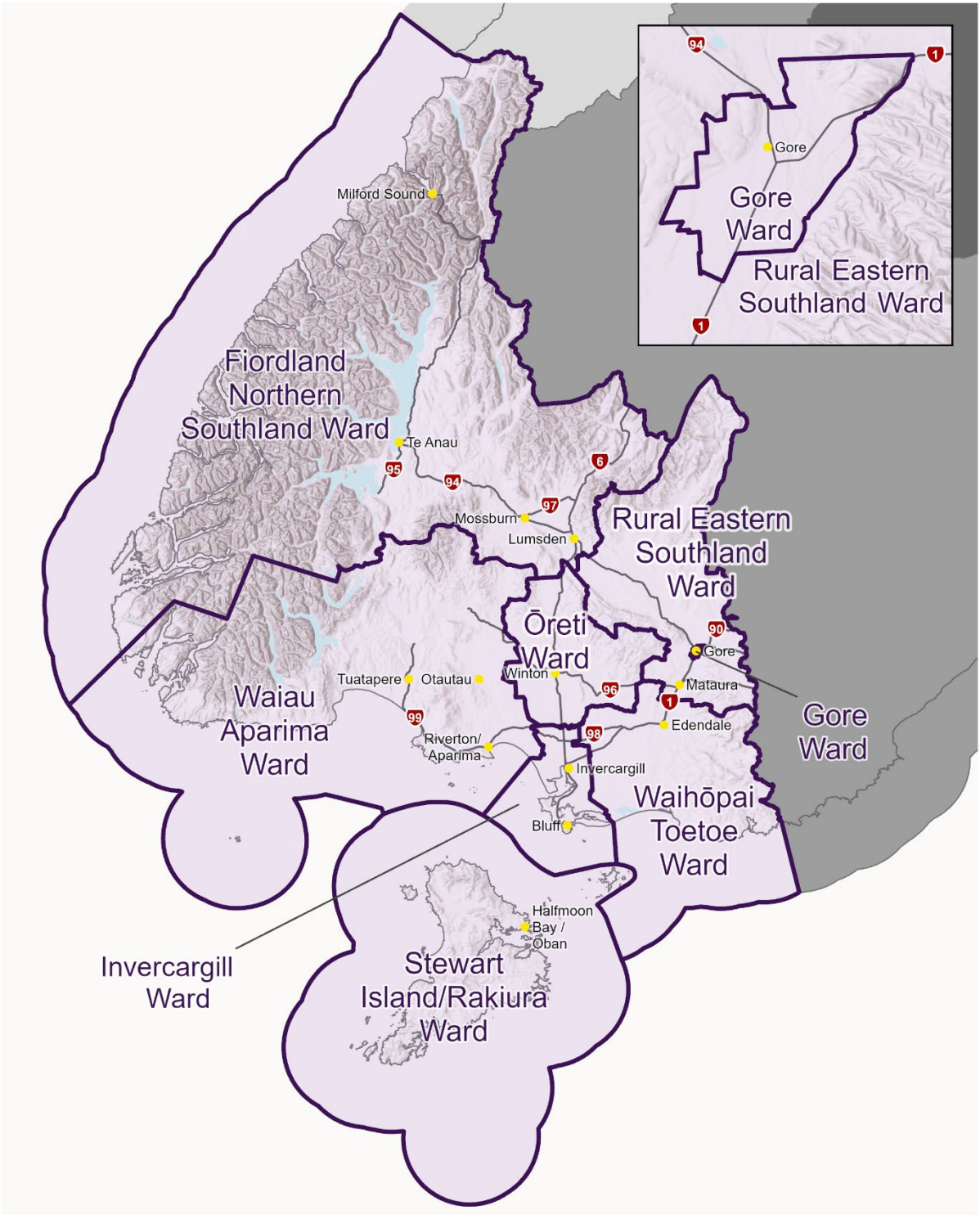
60. A brief description of each ward is provided below:

- **Stewart Island/Rakiura Ward** comprises Stewart Island/Rakiura and reflects the island's strong identity, physical separation from the mainland, and longstanding recognition as a distinct community of interest. The ward boundaries follow current ward boundaries.
- **Invercargill Ward** comprises the wider Invercargill area, including Bluff, together with closely connected fringe communities to the north-west, including Makarewa, Lorneville and Wallacetown. The Invercargill Ward is therefore expanded beyond the current Invercargill City boundaries. The ward reflects Invercargill's role as Southland's principal urban centre and service hub and recognises the close functional relationship that rural fringe communities hold with Invercargill.

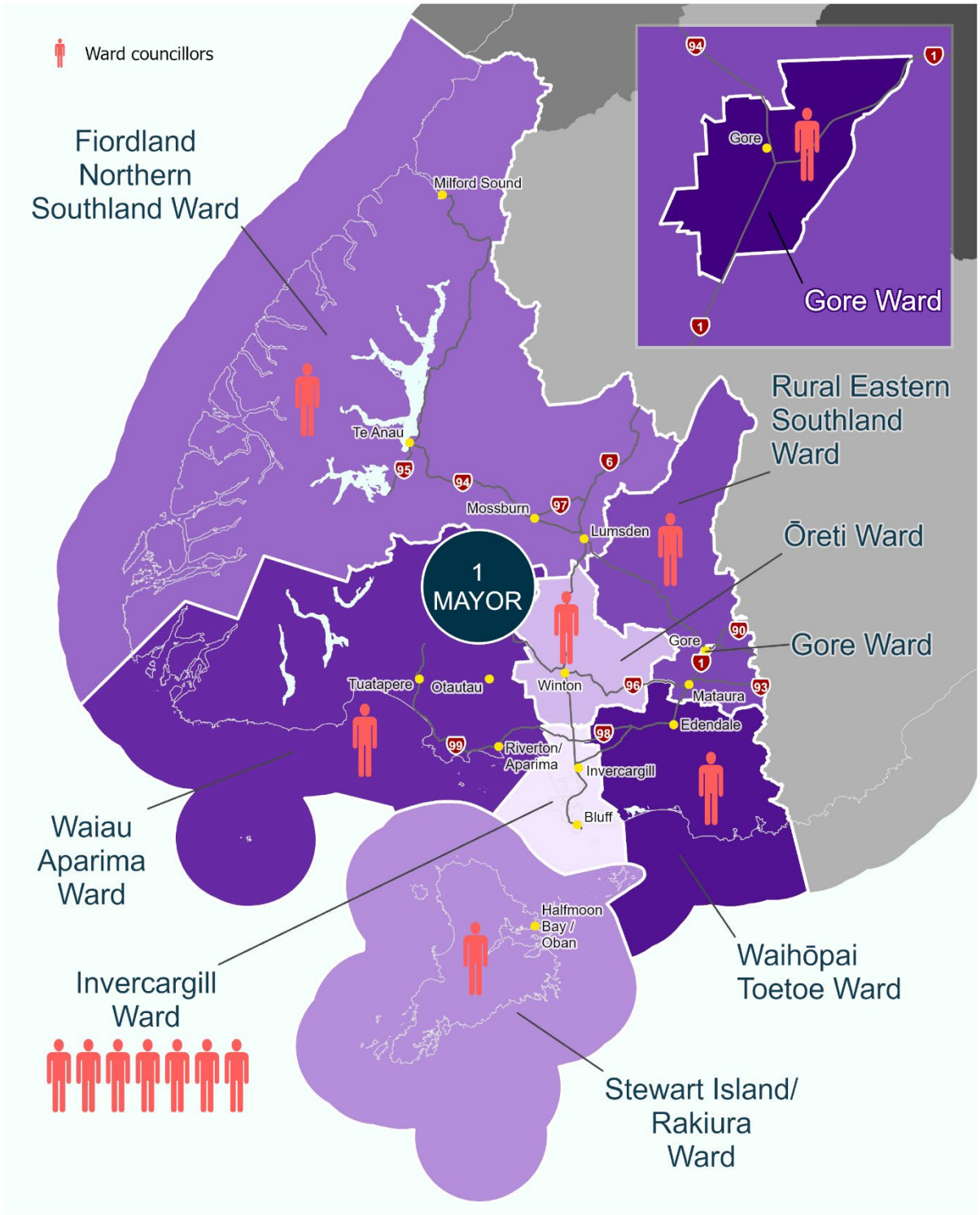
- **Ōreti Ward** comprises central Southland and surrounding rural communities, centred on Winton as the immediate service centre for central Southland. It reflects the strong functional and community relationships associated with central Southland.
- **Waiau Aparima Ward** comprises western Southland communities centred around Riverton/Aparima, Tuatapere and Otautau. It reflects both the shared identity of western Southland and the distinct communities within it. The ward boundaries follow current ward boundaries.
- **Waihōpai Toetoe Ward** comprises communities along and inland from the south-eastern Southland coastline, including the Edendale, Wyndham, Woodlands, Tokanui and Fortrose areas. The ward boundaries follow current ward boundaries.
- **Gore Ward** comprises the urban Gore area, recognising Gore as a distinct urban community with a longstanding identity and role as the principal service centre for eastern Southland. The ward boundaries follow current ward boundaries.
- **Rural Eastern Southland Ward** comprises the rural townships and communities in the eastern Southland area that generally look towards Gore for services. This includes the communities of Mataura, Waikaia, Waimumu, Riversdale, Balfour and St Patricks, and includes the area previously within the Ardlussa Community Board.
- **Fiordland Northern Southland Ward** comprises Fiordland and northern Southland, including the areas previously within the Fiordland and Northern Community Boards. While these areas maintain distinct local communities, the Commission considers that they share sufficient common functional interests and geographic relationships to support a common ward.

61. **The indicative ward maps are as follows**:

Map 1: Wards and boundaries for proposed Southland Council



Map 2: Proposed councillor representation



Why do some proposed wards not comply with the +/-10% rule?

62. The Local Electoral Act generally requires each councillor to represent a similar number of people, within +/-10%. This is known as the +/-10% rule. However, the Act also recognises that strict population equality may not always provide for effective representation of communities of interest, and allows specific departures from the +/- 10% rule:

    - To provide effective representation for island or isolated communities;
    - To avoid dividing communities of interest;
    - To avoid uniting communities of interest with few commonalities of interest.

63. The Commission has considered whether ward boundaries could be adjusted to achieve greater compliance with the +/-10% rule. However, changing boundaries to achieve compliance would either result in splitting identified communities of interest or combining communities with relatively weaker connections. The Commission considers that the exceptions to the +/-10% rule outlined below strike a better balance between fair representation and effective representation of communities of interest.

64. For Southland Council, the Commission has proposed that the following wards are justified in not meeting the +/-10% rule, as follows:

    - **Stewart Island/Rakiura** is an island community and maintains a strong community of interest distinct from the mainland. There is a significant departure from the +/-10% rule, at -93.32%. The Commission considers this is necessary for a geographically isolated island community that has distinct infrastructure, transport and governance needs, and would unlikely be effectively represented within a mainland ward.
    - **Invercargill** is Southland's principal urban community and service centre. At +14.06%, a small departure from the +/-10% rule is considered necessary to avoid splitting the wider Invercargill urban area and neighbouring fringe communities that have strong functional relationships with the city.
    - **Fiordland Northern Southland** includes distinct communities that share strong transport and functional links. At -11.48%, this is slightly outside the +/-10% rule. However, the Commission considers changing the boundary to achieve compliance would require adding additional communities to the ward which have weaker connections to Fiordland and Northern Southland and would be unlikely to enhance effective representation.

Questions for feedback

About the proposed wards:

3. **Overall, do you agree with the proposed eight wards, and their boundaries?**
4. **Do you think Invercargill should have one ward or two wards for electing councillors to Southland Council?**
   a. One Invercargill Ward, as proposed
   b. Two Invercargill wards, aligned with the two proposed local board areas
   c. Unsure/other
5. **Do you think any changes should be made to the proposed ward names, boundaries, or numbers of elected representatives?**
6. **If you would make changes, please tell us which ward you would make changes to, what you would change, and why.**

Local boards

65. The Commission proposes establishing local boards across Southland to ensure that local communities continue to have meaningful influence over decisions that affect them.

Why are local boards fundamental to Southland Council?

66. Moving from four councils to a single Southland Council would mean fewer councillors making decisions for Southland as a whole. At the same time, the Commission has heard clearly that people want accessible local representatives and a meaningful say in decisions affecting their communities.

67. The Commission therefore proposes nine local boards across Southland, with locally elected representatives. Local boards would make decisions about specified local matters, including local facilities, services and projects, and would receive dedicated funding for these responsibilities. This would mean that Southland-wide matters would be managed by Southland Council, while important local decisions would be made by representatives elected by local communities.

68. Further information about the Commission's assessment of local representation and decision-making is set out in the Commission's phase 2 decision document.

Why local boards rather than community boards?

69. Community boards provide valued local representation and advocacy in parts of Southland. However, councils can decide whether to establish or remove community boards, and what powers or budgets they should have. This means that a community board's responsibilities can change at the council's discretion.

70. Local boards would provide stronger safeguards for local decision-making. They can only be established or removed through a formal local government reorganisation process, like the process the Commission has undertaken in Southland. Their decision-making responsibilities would be decided using criteria set in legislation, and the proposed nine local boards for Southland would receive dedicated funding for the matters they are responsible for.

71. The Commission therefore considers that local boards would give communities greater certainty than community boards that specified local decisions and funding would remain in local hands under a single Southland Council.

Local board powers and responsibilities

72. The general principle of local board decision-making is that decisions should be made locally unless there is a clear benefit in making them at a Southland-wide level. Local boards would therefore make decisions on specified local matters,

while Southland Council would focus on matters that need a Southland-wide approach.

73. Local boards would continue to perform the types of local representation and community functions currently carried out by Southland community boards. However, their role would extend beyond representation and advocacy by giving them defined responsibility for local decision-making.

74. The core role of local boards would be established through the reorganisation plan. Local boards would have responsibility for the local matters identified below and would receive dedicated funding to carry out those responsibilities. Alongside the powers listed below, the Transition Body could also identify further detailed responsibilities for local boards.

75. Local boards would have decision-making responsibility and accompanying budgets for the following matters:

- Local community facilities;
- Local parks, reserves and recreation areas;
- Local placemaking and community projects;
- Local priorities and community plans;
- Local community grants;
- Local service levels within allocated budgets;
- Prioritisation of local capital expenditure within allocated budgets;
- Naming of local roads, reserves and community facilities;
- Community engagement and advocacy of local issues; and
- Any additional responsibilities agreed with Southland Council.

76. Southland council would retain responsibility for:

- Regulatory functions;
- Resource management functions;
- Planning functions;
- Financial strategy and rating decisions;
- Regional infrastructure and strategic asset management;
- Bylaw-making;
- Procurement and contract management;
- Employment of the Chief Executive; and
- Any matters requiring a Southland-wide approach.

77. Local boards would receive dedicated funding to support their responsibilities. A draft local board funding framework would be developed by the Transition Body, setting out how local boards would be funded. This would consider factors relevant to each local board area, including population, geographic size, relative deprivation, local characteristics and needs, and the cost of providing services. The framework would form the basis of a local board funding policy to be adopted by Southland Council through its Long-Term Plan process.

Proposed local board arrangements

78. The Commission proposes nine local boards across Southland. Each local board would comprise elected members from the local board area, along with one councillor elected from the corresponding ward. Each local board would elect its own chairperson from among its elected members.

79. The proposed nine local boards have been designed around recognised communities of interest and at a scale intended to maintain accessible local representation. The proposed local board boundaries generally reflect sub-regional and local communities of interest identified through the Commission's communities of interest analysis.

80. The proposed number of members for each local board considers the characteristics of each local board, including population, geography, accessibility and the number and distribution of communities within each area.

81. Most local boards are proposed to be subdivided, to ensure a geographic spread of representation and ensure that smaller communities are not overlooked within a larger local board area. Subdivisions have not been proposed for the Stewart Island/Rakiura or Gore Local Boards, as the Commission considers doing so is unlikely to improve effective local representation.

82. Where a local board is divided into subdivisions, the Commission has also considered the balance between fair representation and effective representation of communities of interest. Some proposed subdivisions fall outside the +/-10% rule. In these cases, the Commission considers that altering boundaries to achieve compliance could divide established communities of interest or result in less effective local representation. These departures from the +/-10% rule are explained under each relevant local board below.

83. **The proposed local boards are:**

- Stewart Island/Rakiura Local Board
- Bluff South Invercargill Local Board
- Invercargill Northern Communities Local Board
- Ōreti Local Board

- Waiau Aparima Local Board
- Waihōpai Toetoe Local Board
- Gore Local Board
- Rural Eastern Southland Local Board
- Fiordland Northern Southland Local Board

84. The proposed local board areas generally align with the proposed wards, reflecting Southland's identified subregional and local communities. The exception is the Invercargill Ward, where two local boards have been proposed. Given the ward's larger population base and the range of distinct communities within it, the Commission considers that a single local board would be unlikely to provide effective representation across the whole ward.

85. State Highway 1 is proposed as the boundary between the two Invercargill local boards. It provides a clear boundary line, while seeking to reflect the connections between surrounding communities and different parts of Invercargill. The Commission is interested in community feedback as to whether the proposed Invercargill local boards appropriately reflect communities of interest.

Stewart Island/Rakiura Local Board

86. **The Stewart Island/Rakiura Local Board** would represent the Stewart Island/Rakiura community. The Commission considers Stewart Island/Rakiura to be one of Southland's most distinct communities of interest, reflecting its island location, unique transport and infrastructure challenges, and strong local identity. The Board would elect five members at large:

Table 2: Stewart Island/Rakiura Local Board representation by population

Local Board/ Subdivisions	Population*	Board members	Population per members	+/- 10% variance
Stewart Island/Rakiura	500	5	100	n/a

*Based on Stats NZ 2025 population estimates (2023 census base)

Map 3: Stewart Island/Rakiura Local Board



Bluff South Invercargill Local Board

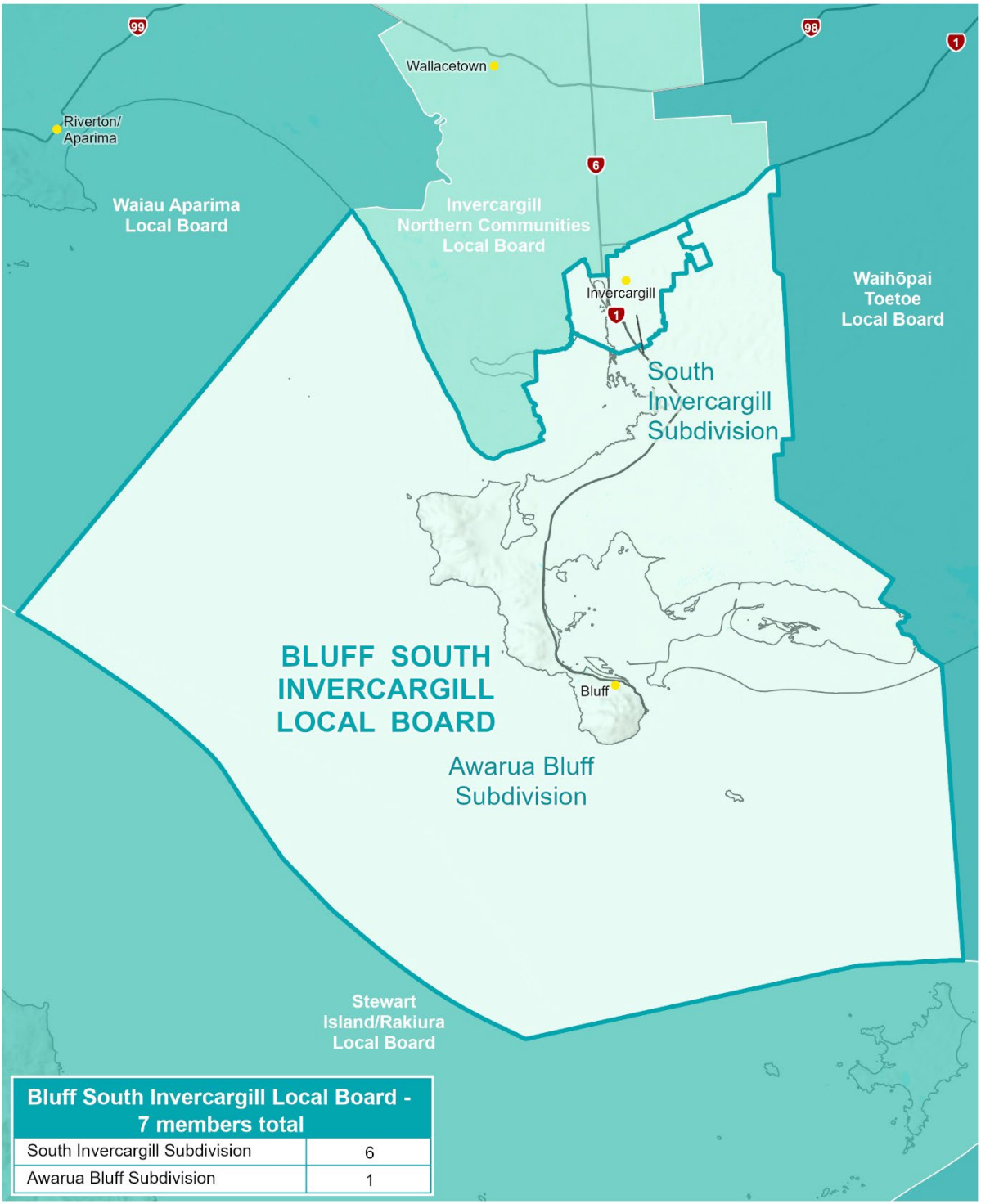
87. The Bluff South Invercargill Local Board would represent Bluff, Awarua, Woodend and the urban part of Invercargill south of Tay Street. The Board recognises the distinct identity of Bluff and the rural areas on the southern fringe of Invercargill, while also acknowledging the strong functional and economic links that exist between Bluff and Invercargill, including direct transport links with the south Invercargill area.

88. The Board would be elected from separate subdivisions as follows:

Table 3: Bluff South Invercargill Local Board representation by population

Local Board Subdivisions	Population*	Board members	Population per members	+/- 10% variance
Awarua Bluff	3,650	1	3,650	0.00
South Invercargill	21,900	6	3,650	0.00
Total	25,550	7	3,650	

Map 4: Bluff South Invercargill Local Board



Invercargill Northern Communities Local Board

89. The Invercargill Northern Communities Local Board would represent the wider Invercargill urban area north of Tay Street, together with nearby rural fringe communities including Otatara, Makarewa, Lorneville, Wallacetown and Myross Bush.

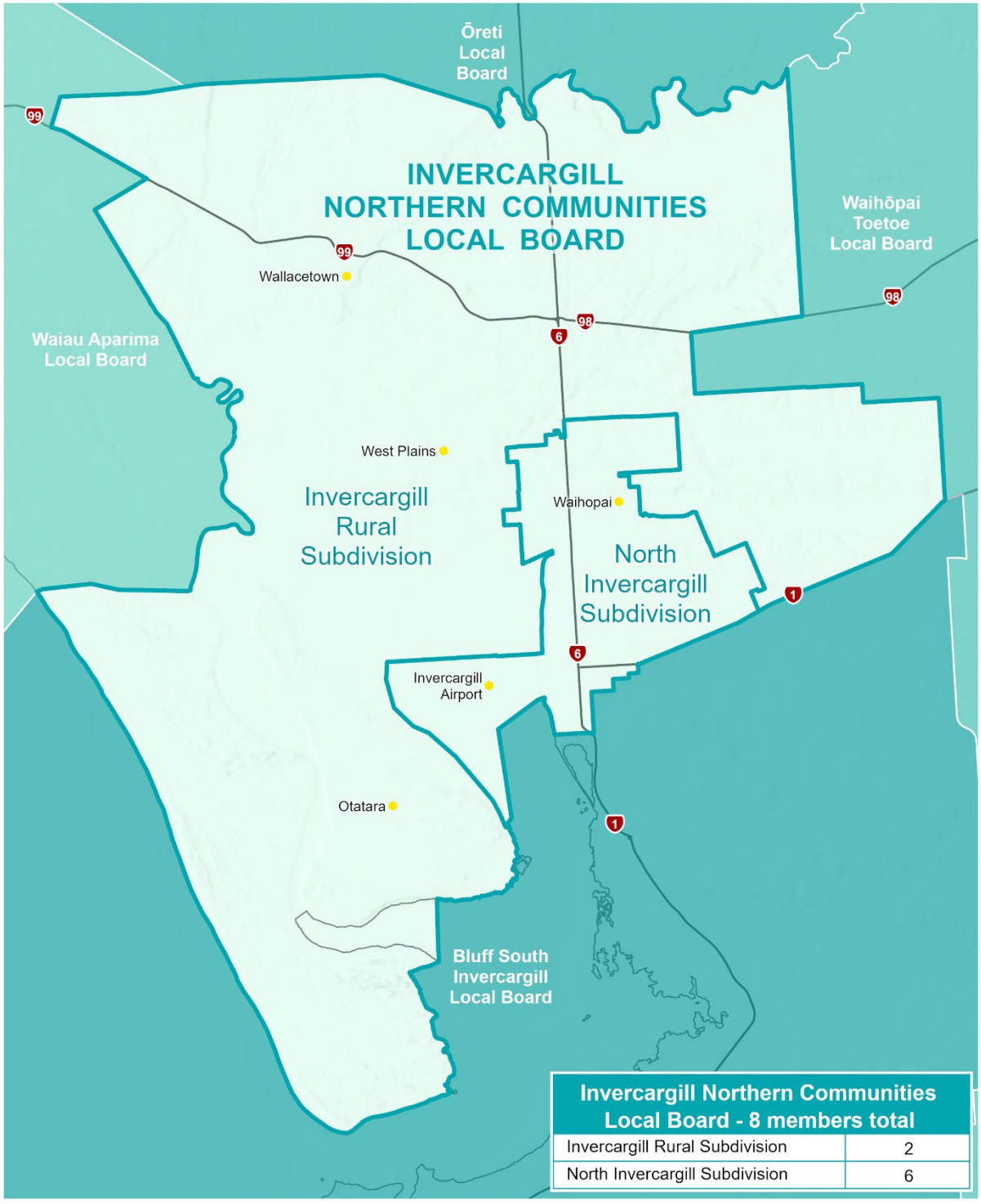
90. The board would be elected from separate subdivisions as follows:

Table 4: Invercargill Northern Communities Local Board representation by population

Local Board Subdivisions	Population*	Board members	Population per members	+/- 10% variance
North Invercargill	25,700	6	4,283	+0.28
Invercargill Rural	8,470	2	4,235	-0.85
Total	34,170	8	4,271	

*Based on Stats NZ 2025 population estimates (2023 census base)

Map 5: Invercargill Northern Communities Local Board



Ōreti Local Board

91. The Ōreti Local Board would represent central Southland and surrounding rural communities centred on Winton. The Commission considers the area to be a well-established community of interest with strong agricultural, educational, sporting and social connections.

92. The board would be elected from three subdivisions, being the Hokonui, Midlands and Waianiwa subdivisions. These subdivisions are similar to those in the current Ōreti Community Board, with the following changes:

    - The southern boundary of the Midlands subdivision has moved northwards to align along Forest Hill Crossing Road;
    - The Waianiwa subdivision takes in the southern part of the local board area, from North Makarewa/Grove Bush through to Forest Hill Crossing Road. The name of the subdivision recognises that Makarewa has moved into the Invercargill Northern Communities Local Board.

Table 5: Ōreti Local Board representation by population

Local Board Subdivisions	Population*	Board members	Population per members	+/- 10% variance
Hokonui	1,250	1	1,250	-4.43
Midlands	5,330	4	1,333	+1.83
Waianiwa	1,270	1	1,270	-2.90
Total	7,850	6	1,308	

*Based on Stats NZ 2025 population estimates (2023 census base)

Map 6: Ōreti Local Board



Waiau Aparima Local Board

93. The Waiau Aparima Local Board would represent the communities of western Southland, including Riverton/Aparima, Otautau, Ohai, Nightcaps and Tuatapere. While the area contains several distinct communities, the Commission considers these communities share a strong western Southland identity.

94. The board would be elected from three subdivisions, being the Tuatapere Te Waewae, Wallace Takitimu and Ōraka Aparima subdivisions. These subdivisions follow the current community board areas.

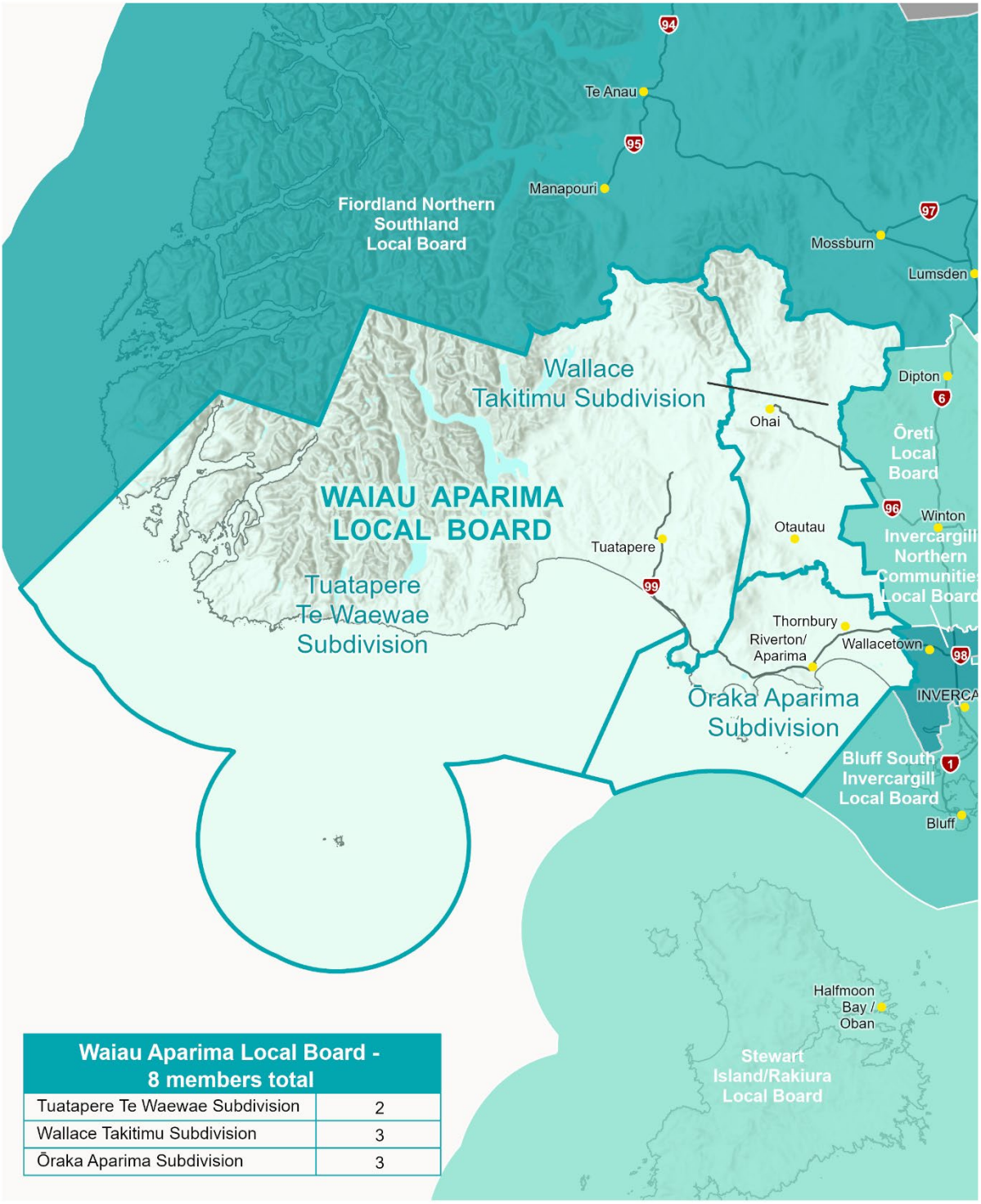
95. The Tuatapere Te Waewae subdivision falls outside of the +/-10% rule, at -14.12%, and would need to gain population from either the Wallace Takitimu or Ōraka Aparima subdivisions to comply. However, the Commission considers that moving the boundary would risk splitting communities of interest strongly connected with Colac Bay and Riverton/Aparima (in the Ōraka Aparima subdivision), or Nightcaps and Ohai (in the Wallace Takitimu subdivision).

Table 6: Waiau Aparima Local Board representation by population

Local Board Subdivisions	Population*	Board members	Population per members	+/- 10% variance
Tuatapere Te Waewae	1,740	2	870	-14.12
Ōraka Aparima	3,080	3	1,027	+1.38
Wallace Takitimu	3,280	3	1,093	+7.98
Total	8,100	8	1,013	

*Based on Stats NZ 2025 population estimates (2023 census base)

Map 7: Waiau Aparima Local Board



Waiau Aparima Local Board - 8 members total	
Tuatapere Te Waewae Subdivision	2
Wallace Takitimu Subdivision	3
Ōraka Aparima Subdivision	3

Waihōpai Toetoe Local Board

96. The Waihōpai Toetoe Local Board would represent south-eastern Southland communities, including Edendale, Wyndham, Woodlands, Tokanui, Fortrose and surrounding rural areas. The board reflects strong rural and community connections across the area while recognising differences between inland and coastal communities.

97. The board boundaries follow the current Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board area, which does not currently have subdivisions. However, given the geographic size of the board and the spread of communities across the board, the Commission has proposed electing members from Inland and Coastal subdivisions, to ensure a spread of members across the board area.

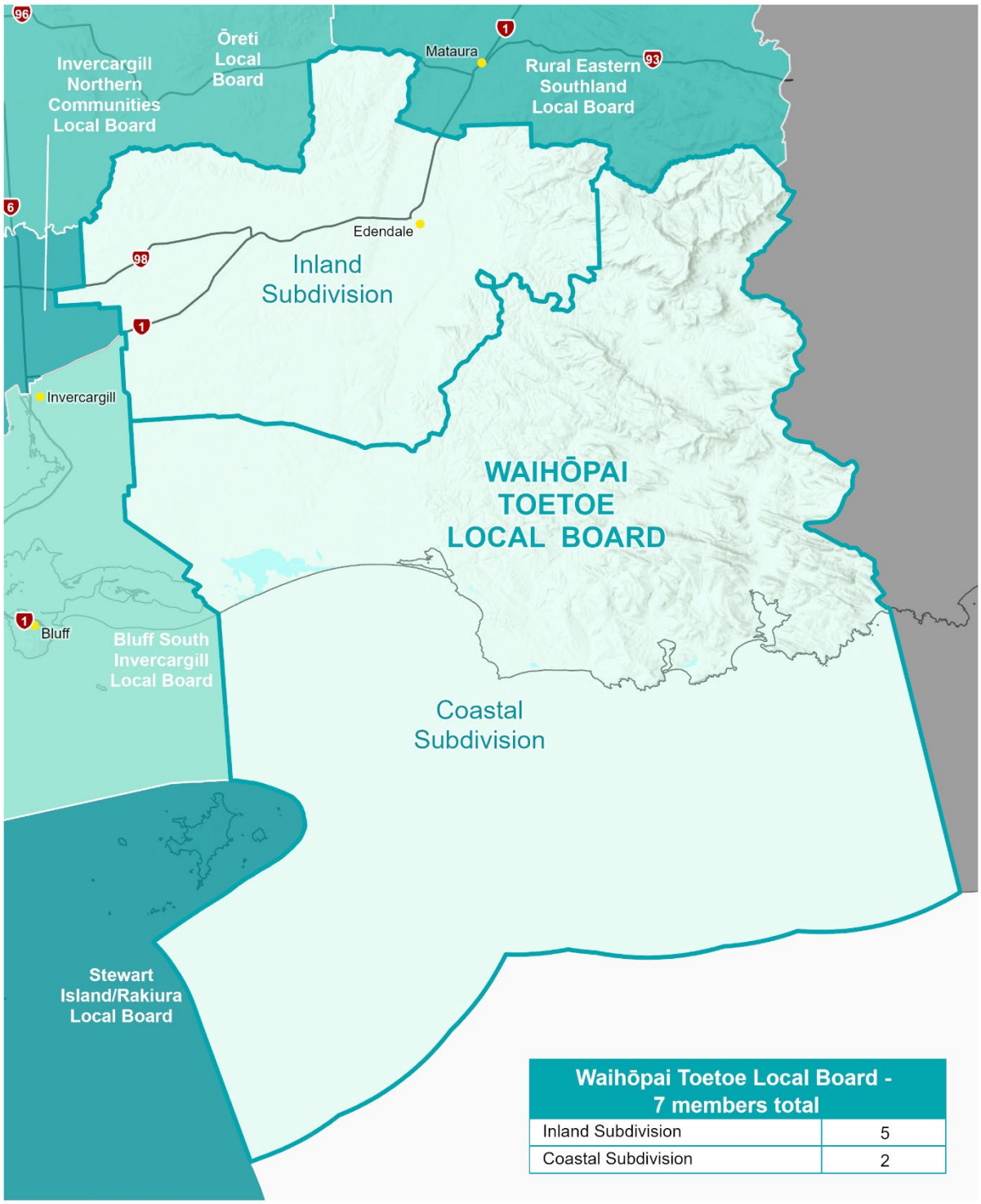
98. The Coastal Subdivision is outside the +/-10% rule at -18.81%. It includes dispersed coastal communities and the Southland part of the Catlins, with distinct tourism and farming activities. Achieving compliance would require moving the boundary to add population from the Inland Subdivision, which includes Wyndham, Edendale and communities along State Highway 1. The Commission considers that moving boundaries for this purpose would likely split communities of interest in the Inland subdivision.

Table 7: Waihōpai Toetoe Local Board representation by population

Local Board Subdivisions	Population*	Board members	Population per members	+/- 10% variance
Inland	5,230	5	1,046	+7.52
Coastal	1,580	2	790	-18.81
Total	6,810	7	973	

*Based on Stats NZ 2025 population estimates (2023 census base)

Map 8: Waihōpai Toetoe Local Board



Gore Local Board

99. The Gore Local Board would represent the urban Gore community. Gore has consistently been identified throughout the Commission's investigations as a distinct community and the principal service centre for eastern Southland.

100. The board would elect six members at large.

Table 8: Gore Local Board representation by population

Local Board Subdivisions	Population*	Board members	Population per members	+/- 10% variance
Gore	8,030	6	1,338	n/a

*Based on Stats NZ 2025 population estimates (2023 census base)

Map 9: Gore Local Board



Rural Eastern Southland Local Board

101. The Rural Eastern Southland Local Board would represent the rural areas surrounding Gore, including Mataura, Ardlussa and linked rural areas. The Commission considers these communities to share strong common interests and functional connections with Gore, while also maintaining their own identities.

102. The board would be elected from three subdivisions, being the Mataura, rural Gore and Ardlussa subdivisions. These subdivisions recognise the strong Mataura community of interest, while also recognising the dispersed geographic nature of the communities in the rural Gore and Ardlussa areas.

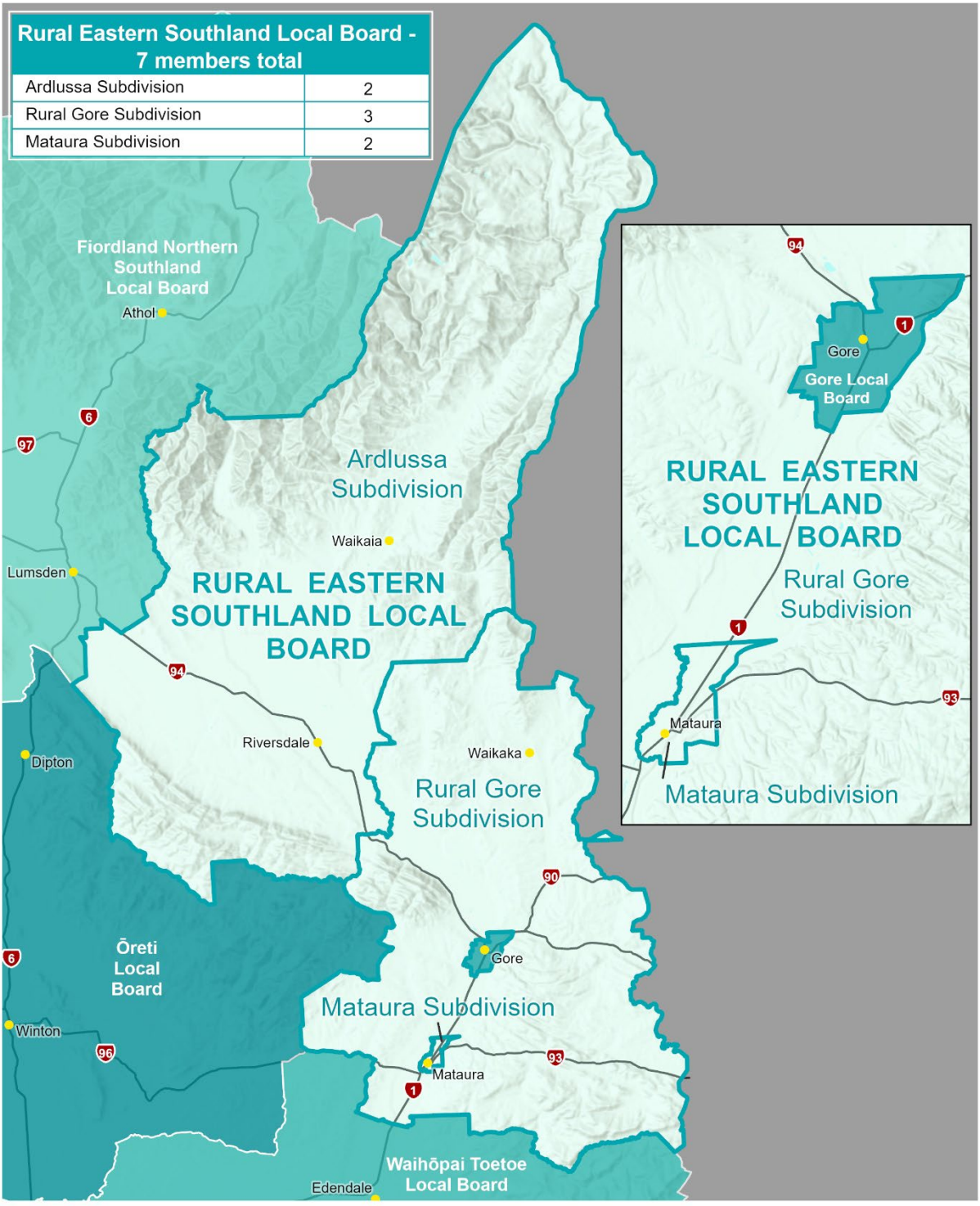
103. The proposed Mataura Subdivision is outside the +/-10% rule, at -17.89%. The Commission considers that Mataura is a strong and distinct community of interest, reflecting the current separate ward within Gore District. Achieving compliance would require expanding the proposed subdivision boundaries into surrounding rural areas to gain population. The Commission considers that doing so would likely split communities of interest in the Rural Gore subdivision.

Table 9: Rural Eastern Southland Local Board representation by population

Local Board Subdivisions	Population*	Board members	Population per members	+/- 10% variance
Mataura	1,670	2	835	-17.89
Rural Gore	3,270	3	1,090	+7.18
Ardlussa	2,180	2	1,090	+7.18
Total	7,120	7	1,017	

*Based on Stats NZ 2025 population estimates (2023 census base)

Map 10: Rural Eastern Southland Local Board



Fiordland Northern Southland Local Board

104. The Fiordland Northern Southland Local Board would represent both the Fiordland and Northern Southland communities. While Fiordland and Northern Southland are distinct communities, the Commission considers they have enough in common to support a shared local board, while subdivisions would ensure each area has its own representatives.

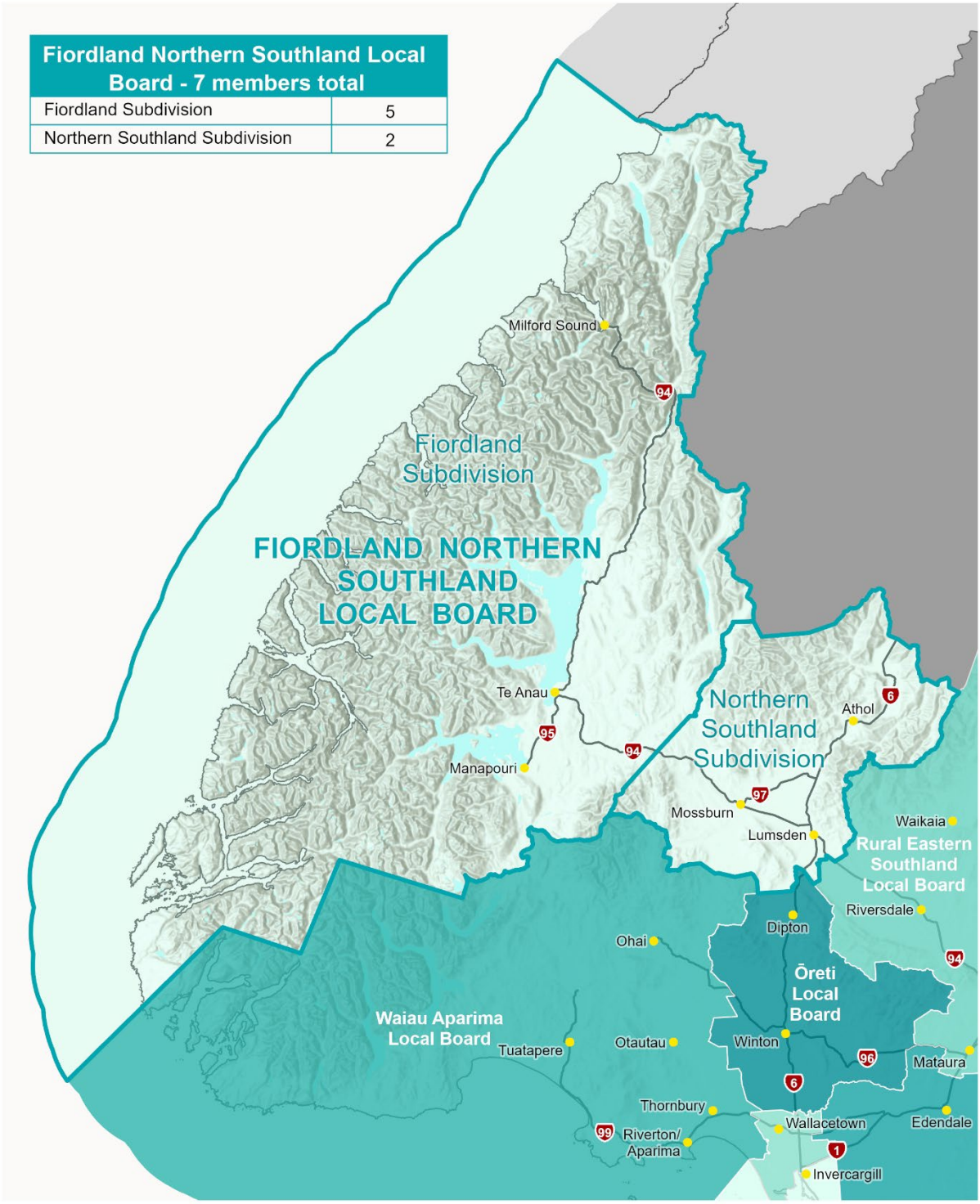
105. The board would be elected from the Fiordland and Northern Southland subdivisions. The current Northern Community Board has three subdivisions. The Commission proposes replacing these with a single Northern Southland subdivision, recognising the common rural interests and functional connections between communities including Mossburn and Lumsden.

Table 10: Fiordland Northern Southland Local Board representation by population

Local Board Subdivisions	Population*	Board members	Population per members	+/- 10% variance
Fiordland	4,580	5	916	-3.29
Northern Southland	2,050	2	1,025	+8.22
Total	6,630	7	947	

*Based on Stats NZ 2025 population estimates (2023 census base)

Map 11: Fiordland Northern Southland Local Board



Questions for feedback

About the proposed local boards:

7. **Overall, do you agree with the proposed nine local boards, and their boundaries?**
8. **Do you think any changes should be made to the proposed local board or subdivision names, boundaries, or numbers of elected representatives?**
9. **Do you agree with the proposed responsibilities and decision-making powers of local boards?**
10. **If you would make changes, please tell us which local board or subdivision you would make changes to, what you would change, and why.**

Working with Māori

106. Throughout its investigation, the Commission has engaged with Te Ao Mārama Incorporated on behalf of Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Papatipu Rūnanga in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002. The Commission has also considered the importance of existing Treaty settlement obligations, co-governance and co-management arrangements, and the long-standing relationships between Southland councils and Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku.

107. The Commission does not propose establishing a Māori ward as part of this draft reorganisation plan. Likewise, the Commission does not propose a separate Māori advisory committee at this stage. Southland Council could consider these matters in the future through the processes available in the Local Electoral Act 2001 or the Local Government Act 2002.

108. The Commission considers that the existing Charter of Understanding between Southland councils and Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku provides an appropriate foundation for the future relationship between Southland Council and Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku. The Charter of Understanding recognises the importance of partnership, communication and cooperation between local government and Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and provides an existing framework upon which future arrangements can be built.

109. The establishment of Southland Council would not alter existing Treaty settlement obligations, statutory acknowledgements, co-governance or co-management arrangements, or other responsibilities arising under legislation. These obligations would continue to apply to Southland Council.

110. During the transition process, the Commission expects Southland Council, Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and Te Ao Mārama Incorporated to consider whether any additional arrangements are desirable to support participation by Māori in local decision-making. The Commission expects any future arrangements to build upon the Charter of Understanding and the relationships that have already been developed between Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and local government across Southland.

Area offices and service centres

111. A key theme throughout the Commission's investigation has been the importance of maintaining accessible local government services across Southland. Given Southland's large geographic area and the distinct needs of local communities, the Commission considers it important that residents continue to have local access to council services.

112. The Commission proposes that the principal office of Southland Council be in Invercargill, given it is the largest urban centre and the location from which many regional services and functions are currently provided. The exact location would be decided by the Transition Body.

113. The Commission does not propose any changes to existing council offices or service centres. Existing council offices and service centres would continue to operate following the establishment of Southland Council, providing continuity for communities. The draft reorganisation plan includes a requirement for at least one service centre to continue in each local board area for at least six years; however, the Commission considers it appropriate for this arrangement to continue beyond that timeframe into the future.

Transition

114. If Southland Council is ultimately established, there would be a transition period to bring together the four existing councils and prepare the new council to begin operating. A Transition Body would oversee this work. It would include a Transition Board to provide governance and an Implementation Team to carry out the detailed work.

115. The purpose of the Transition Body would be to ensure the orderly establishment of Southland Council and to oversee the major decisions and work needed to establish the new council. Its role would include preparing implementation plans, overseeing organisational design, supporting the development of the first budgets and plans for the new council, and undertaking other activities necessary to establish Southland Council.

116. The Transition Body must be broadly representative of Southland. The Commission appoints members of the Transition Body, including the Transition Board and manager of the Implementation Team. The majority of the Transition Board must be elected members of affected local authorities, although the Commission may also appoint non-voting members to provide particular expertise to the Board. For example, the Commission may choose to appoint an independent chair, and representatives of Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku to the Transition Board.

117. The Transition Board would be supported by the Implementation Team largely comprising staff from the four existing councils, supported by other specialist staff where needed.

118. The Transition Body would be required to undertake the following tasks, along with any others, to ensure a successful transition to Southland Council:

- Developing the detailed organisational design of Southland Council;
- Supporting the development of local board arrangements and funding frameworks;
- Ensuring continuity of council services;
- Assisting with the integration of staff, systems and processes;
- Working with Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku to ensure the Charter of Understanding is supported, and appropriate mechanisms exist to enable Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku to feed into council processes;
- Preparing the first plans and budgets of Southland Council; and
- Appointing an interim Chief Executive

Questions for feedback

Anything else:

11. Is there anything else you would like us to consider about the proposed Southland Council?

Process from here

119. **The process from here is as follows:**

- **5 February 2027** closing date for submissions.
- **March-April 2027 – public hearings.** Submitters who wish to speak to their submissions will have the opportunity to do so at public hearings held in Southland or online.
- **April-May 2027 – Commission considers submissions and evidence from hearings.** The Commission will consider all information received during the consultation process, including written submissions, hearing evidence and any additional information gathered during consultation.
- **May 2027 – Commission decides whether to issue a final plan.** The Commission will decide whether to proceed with a final reorganisation plan and whether any amendments should be made to the draft plan.
- **August-October 2027 – Poll on the final reorganisation plan.** A poll of electors would be held across Southland.
- **Late 2027 – Transition process begins.** If a final reorganisation plan is approved through the statutory process, the Transition Body would be established, and preparation would begin for the new council.
- **October 2028 – first election of Southland Council and local boards.** The first election of Southland Council and its local boards would be held as part of the 2028 local government elections.

Appendix A: Draft reorganisation plan – Southland Council

Introduction

A1. This appendix sets out the formal draft reorganisation plan on which the Commission is consulting. It should be read alongside the preceding explanatory material, which explains the basis for the Commission's preference for a single Southland Council and provides context for the proposed arrangements.

A2. The Commission proposes that some matters be determined through a draft reorganisation plan, while other matters be determined during transition to the commencement of the Southland Council.

A3. The following matters are proposed in this draft reorganisation plan, and would be determined through any final reorganisation plan:

- Constitution of Southland Council and abolition of current councils
- Representation arrangements, including ward and local board arrangements
- Local board powers and funding framework principles
- Principal office and service centre arrangements
- Establishment of a Transition Body

A4. The following matters will be developed by the Transition Body, as part of its responsibilities for implementation of the final reorganisation plan:

- Organisational design and staffing arrangements, including employment of an interim Chief Executive
- Local board funding framework methodology, and any further detailed local board powers
- Service delivery arrangements
- Implementation planning
- Preparation of initial plans and budgets

Constitution

A5. Southland Council is constituted as a new local authority for Southland, comprising the area currently governed by:

- Environment Southland (Southland Regional Council)
- Gore District Council

- Invercargill City Council
- Southland District Council.

A6. The following local authorities will be abolished on the constitution of Southland Council:

- Environment Southland (Southland Regional Council)
- Gore District Council
- Invercargill City Council
- Southland District Council.

A7. Southland Council will be a unitary authority. It will be responsible for all regional and territorial functions within Southland.

Representation

A8. The first election of Southland Council will be held as part of the 2028 triennial local election, using:

- The First Past the Post (FPP) voting system;
- Postal voting; and
- Random order of candidate names on voting documents.

A9. Southland Council will comprise:

- A Mayor elected at large; and
- 14 councillors elected from eight wards

A10. The wards will be:

- Stewart Island/Rakiura Ward
- Invercargill Ward
- Ōreti Ward
- Waiau Aparima Ward
- Waihōpai Toetoe Ward
- Gore Ward
- Rural Eastern Southland Ward
- Fiordland Northern Southland Ward

A11. Indicative ward maps are included in the explanatory document

A12. Councillor representation will be:

- Invercargill ward – 7 councillors
- All other wards – 1 councillor each

Local boards

A13. The following local boards will be established:

- Stewart Island/Rakiura Local Board – 5 members elected at large
- Bluff South Invercargill Local Board – 7 members elected from two subdivisions:
    - Awarua Bluff Subdivision – 1 member
- South Invercargill Subdivision – 6 members
- Invercargill Northern Communities Local Board – 8 members elected from two subdivisions:
    - North Invercargill Subdivision – 6 members
    - Invercargill Rural Subdivision – 2 members
- Ōreti Local Board – 6 members elected from three subdivisions:
    - Hokonui Subdivision – 1 member
    - Midlands Subdivision – 4 members
    - Waianiwa Subdivision – 1 member
- Waiau Aparima Local Board – 8 members elected from three subdivisions:
    - Tuatapere Te Waewae Subdivision – 2 members
    - Ōraka Aparima Subdivision – 3 members
    - Wallace Takitimu Subdivision – 3 members
- Waihōpai Toetoe Local Board – 7 members, elected from two subdivisions:
    - Inland Subdivision – 5 members
    - Coastal Subdivision – 2 members
- Gore Local Board – 6 members elected at large
- Rural Eastern Southland Local Board – 7 members elected from three subdivisions:
    - Mataura Subdivision – 2 members
    - Rural Gore Subdivision – 3 members

    - Ardlussa Subdivision – 2 members
- Fiordland Northern Southland Local Board – 7 members elected from two subdivisions:
    - Fiordland Subdivision – 5 members
    - Northern Southland Subdivision – 2 members

A14. The chair of each local board will be elected by the members of the local board from among themselves, in accordance with clause 15(4)(e)(i), Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002.

A15. In addition to the elected members set out above, one ward councillor will also be appointed to each local board.

A16. Indicative maps of each local board area are included in the explanatory document.

Local board powers

A17. Local boards will be responsible for the following matters:

- Decision-making regarding local service levels within allocated budgets;
- Decision-making regarding local community facilities, parks and reserves within allocated budgets;
- Prioritisation of local capital projects and local investment initiatives;
- Representation and advocacy on behalf of their communities;
- Input into long-term planning and annual planning processes;
- Preparation of community plans and identification of local priorities;
- Community engagement and relationships with local organisations, businesses and community groups;
- Administration of community grants and local funding programmes;
- Initiation and support of community-led projects and development initiatives;
- Local place-making activities, streetscape improvements and community identity projects;
- Naming of local roads, reserves and community facilities; and
- Any other powers as agreed between the council and local board.

A18. The Transition Body may provide for further detailed powers of local boards.

Local board funding

A19. Local boards will receive dedicated funding through a local board funding framework.

A20. A draft funding framework will be developed by the Transition Body for adoption by the incoming Southland Council. The local board funding framework will consider factors relevant to each local board area, including population, geographic size, relative deprivation, local characteristics and needs, and the cost of providing services.

Area office and service centre

A21. The principal office of Southland Council will be in Invercargill, with the exact location to be determined by the Transition Body.

A22. At least one service centre will continue in each local board area for at least six years.

Transition Body

A23. A Transition Body will be established, which will include a Transition Board and Implementation Team.

A24. The Transition Board will include two elected members each from Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council, and any further members the Commission considers should be appointed.

A25. The role of the Transition Body will be:

- Developing the detailed organisational design of Southland Council;
- Supporting the development of local board arrangements, including a draft local board funding framework;
- Ensuring continuity of council services;
- Assisting with the integration of staff, systems and processes;
- Working with Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku to ensure the Charter of Understanding is supported, and appropriate mechanisms exist to enable Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku to feed into council processes;
- Preparing the first plans and budgets of Southland Council; and
- Appointing an interim Chief Executive

Appendix B: Advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

B1. The Commission considers that a single Southland Council could provide:

- Stronger regional leadership and advocacy for Southland;
- Clearer accountability through one council responsible for both regional and territorial functions;
- More consistent planning, regulation and decision-making across the region;
- Improved coordination of environmental management, infrastructure planning and emergency management;
- Greater local decision-making through local boards, with allocated funding to be directed into local priorities and projects;
- A larger organisation with greater access to staff and specialist skills;
- Greater ability to attract and retain specialist staff;
- A stronger long-term financial position and greater ability to manage financial pressures;
- Reduced duplication across council organisations;
- Greater ability to respond to future challenges and opportunities; and
- Greater consistency in service delivery and council processes across Southland.

Disadvantages

B2. The Commission also recognises that a single Southland Council may result in:

- Concerns regarding the influence of larger population centres, particularly Invercargill;
- Concerns that some communities may feel more distant from council decision-making;
- Concerns that local boards would be serving a greater geographic area than most current community boards, and may feel more distant from communities;
- Concerns that some communities may feel they are less effectively represented than they currently are;

- Significant transition costs associated with establishing a new organisation;
- Uncertainty for communities and council staff during the transition process;
- Risk of disruption to service delivery during implementation of a new council;
- Concerns that local identity could be weakened if local governance and representation arrangements are not effective;
- A period of adjustment as communities, elected members and council staff adapt to new governance arrangements.

Overall assessment

B3. The Commission acknowledges that no governance structure is perfect and potential disadvantages do exist. However, after considering all evidence gathered to date during the investigation, the Commission has concluded that the advantages of a single Southland Council are likely to outweigh the disadvantages and provide the strongest overall basis for promoting good local government in Southland by enabling and facilitating improvements to local governance.

Appendix C: List of iwi and hapū

C1. The Commission is required to list the names and areas of interest of iwi and hapū for each local authority proposed to be established in a draft reorganisation plan.[1]

C2. **Iwi:**

Ngāi Tahu

C3. **Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga:**

Awarua Rūnanga

Hokonui Rūnanga

Ōraka Aparima Rūnanga

Waihōpai Rūnanga

[1] The Commission has set out these details as presented on Te Kāhui Mangai (www.tkm.govt.nz)

Appendix D: Question list

D1. The questions for feedback included throughout this document are set out here in full

About the proposed Southland Council:

D2. Do you agree that a single Southland Council would provide:

- Stronger coordination across Southland and clearer accountability
- A council with the staff, skills and resources needed for the future
- A stronger long-term financial position
- The ability to respond to future changes and challenges
- Protection of local voice and local identity

D3. Are there any other advantages or disadvantages of a single Southland Council that you think we should consider? Please tell us why.

About the proposed wards:

D4. Overall, do you agree with the proposed eight wards, and their boundaries?

D5. Do you think Invercargill should have one ward or two wards for electing councillors to Southland Council?

a. One Invercargill Ward, as proposed

b. Two Invercargill wards, aligned with the two proposed local board areas

c. Unsure/other

D6. Do you think any changes should be made to the proposed ward names, boundaries, or numbers of elected representatives?

D7. If you would make changes, please tell us which ward you would make changes to, what you would change, and why.

About the proposed local boards:

D8. Overall, do you agree with the proposed nine local boards, and their boundaries?

D9. Do you think any changes should be made to the proposed local board or subdivision names, boundaries, or numbers of elected representatives?

D10. Do you agree with the proposed responsibilities and decision-making powers of local boards?

D11. If you would make changes, please tell us which local board or subdivision you would make changes to, what you would change, and why.

Anything else:

D12. Is there anything else you would like us to consider about the proposed Southland Council?