

Final proposal for representation arrangements for the 2025 LOCAL ELECTIONS

SUBMISSIONS

On 13th August 2024 the Timaru District Council considered the submissions received on its initial proposal regarding the representation arrangements for the Council and its constituent community boards to apply for the local elections to be held on 11th October 2025, and subsequent elections until altered by any subsequent decisions.

The Council received 48 submissions on its proposal. Three submissions were in favour of the Council's proposal, and 45 were in opposition. The majority of submitters indicated that they preferred to retain the current representation arrangements.

Several submitters proposed alternatives, including:

- One submitter suggested the retention of the existing ward boundaries and an increase in the number of Councillors to 15.
- One submitter suggested the division of the District into two wards, electing nine members.
- One submitter suggested the division of the District into four wards, electing eight members.

FINAL PROPOSAL

Having considered all the submissions, the Council resolved a final proposal that differed from the initial proposal in the following aspect:

- The ward boundaries outlined in the initial proposal be amended so that the existing ward boundaries are retained. This means that Council's final proposal is that the Kakahu, Orari and Rangitata Island areas remain within the Geraldine Ward and do not become part of the Pleasant Point-Temuka Ward.

The Council considers this change is appropriate for the following reasons:

- A clear majority of submitters supported retaining the current representation arrangements, and opposed the initial proposal.
- A clear majority of submitters articulated that the Kakahu, Orari and Rangitata Island shared a community of interest with the wider Geraldine Ward, and cited historical links, community organisations, transport, schooling, and emergency situations to evidence this.
- A clear majority of submitters stated that the current representation arrangements provided them with effective representation, and that this would be undermined by the initial proposal.

The Council rejected the other matters raised by submitters because it was not satisfied that any of the other proposals would accurately reflect communities of interest within the district, nor provide for fair and effective representation of the same.

Therefore the final proposal is as follows:

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

It is proposed that the Council comprise nine (9) members elected from three (3) wards, and the mayor. The three (3) wards reflect the following identified communities of interest:

Ward	Communities of interest
Timaru	The Timaru Ward is the area delineated on SO Plan No. 19947 deposited with Land Information New Zealand. This is the same as the current Timaru Ward.
Pleasant Point-Temuka	The Pleasant Point-Temuka Ward is the area delineated by LG-064-2013-W-2 deposited with Land Information New Zealand. This is the same as the current Pleasant Point-Temuka Ward.
Geraldine	The Geraldine Ward is the area delineated on SO Plan No. 19948 deposited with Land Information New Zealand. This is the same as the current Geraldine Ward.

The population that each member will represent is as follows:

Ward	Population*	Members	Population per member
Timaru	32,720	6	5,453
Pleasant Point-Temuka	9,930	2	4,965
Geraldine	6,230	1	6,230
Total	48,880	9	5,431

*as per the 2023 population estimates provided by Statistics New Zealand

In accordance with section 19V(2) Local Electoral Act 2001 the population that each member represents must be within the range of 5,431 +/- 10% (4,888 to 5,974), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise.

Only the representation of the Geraldine Ward falls outside the stipulated range. Council believes this is warranted because it considers that amending ward boundaries to achieve compliance would limit effective representation by dividing a community of interest between wards.

COMMUNITY BOARD REPRESENTATION

It is proposed that three (3) community boards be elected. The three (3) community boards reflect the following identified communities of interest:

Community Boards	Area of Community
Temuka	The Temuka community, comprising the area delineated by the former SO Plan 19949 deposited with Land Information New Zealand. This is the same as the current Temuka Community Board.
Pleasant Point	The Pleasant Point community, comprising the area delineated by the former SO Plan 19946 deposited with Land Information New Zealand. This is the same as the current Pleasant Point Community Board.
Geraldine	The Geraldine community, comprising the area of the Geraldine Ward. This is the same as the current Geraldine Community Board.

The community boards will not be subdivided for electoral purposes. The membership of each community board will be:

Community Boards	Membership
Temuka	Five (5) elected members from the Temuka community as a whole and two (2) appointed members (the appointed members being the Pleasant Point-Temuka Ward Councillors).
Pleasant Point	Five (5) elected members from the Pleasant Point community as a whole and two (2) appointed members (the appointed members being the Pleasant Point-Temuka Ward Councillors).
Geraldine	Six (6) elected members from the Geraldine community as a whole and one (1) appointed member (the appointed member being the Geraldine Ward Councillor).

APPEALS AND OBJECTIONS

Any person who made a submission on the Council's initial proposal may lodge an appeal against the Council's decision. An appeal must relate to the matters raised in that person's submission.

Any person who objects to the final proposal may lodge an objection to the Council's final proposal. Any objection must identify the matters to which the objection relates.

Appeals and objections must be made in writing and must be received by Council no later than 15th September 2024.

Appeals and objections can be lodged via mail or email:

Mail
FreePost Authority Number 95136
Attention – Brendan Madley
Timaru District Council
Representation Review Appeals and Objections
PO Box 522, Timaru 7940

Email
brendan.madley@timdc.govt.nz

PROCEDURE AFTER CLOSE OF APPEALS/OBJECTIONS

The Local Government Commission will make a final determination about the representation arrangements because not all wards are compliant with section 19V(2) Local Electoral Act 2001.

The Local Government Commission may hold a hearing, which may take place in the Timaru District. Any appeals and objections will be forwarded to the Local Government Commission to be considered as part of their final determination.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Direct any queries regarding the Council's decision to Brendan Madley (brendan.madley@timdc.govt.nz or 03 687 7200).

Nigel Trainor
Chief Executive, Timaru District Council
15th August 2024

All previous information on the Representation Review is available on the Council's website:
www.timaru.govt.nz/representationreview