

Media release

2 April 2024

Selwyn residents asked for their say on how they are represented

Consultation is now open for proposed changes to local representation in Selwyn.

The proposal is part of the Council's representation review aimed at adapting to the district's growing population. It will result in changes to electoral ward boundaries and councillor allocations to ensure fair and effective representation of communities and their interests ahead of the next local election in 2025.

Residents will also have the opportunity to propose names for the new wards.

All councils must review their representation arrangements at least every six years. Selwyn currently has 10 councillors representing four wards, Malvern (2), Ellesmere (2), Rolleston (3) and Springs (3).

Since the last review in 2021, Selwyn's population has continued to grow rapidly but unevenly across the district. There is now an uneven number of people each councillor represents, and ward boundaries that are no longer appropriate.

"One of the key principles of fair representation is that each elected member should represent around the same number of people," says Mayor Sam Broughton.

"This review will help to ensure that happens. It will also look at our ward boundaries so our residents get fair and equal representation around the Council table."

Residents are invited to provide feedback on proposed wards, the number of councillors representing each ward and if wards should have community boards. Residents can also propose names for the new wards.

"Our ward names have been around since 1989, when the Selwyn district was created", Representation Review Committee Chair Councillor Phil Dean says.

"We are now a different district, with strong heritage, but also an exciting future. This is our chance to come up with names that reflect the district today and who we want to be into the future."

Two options being considered are:

1. Four wards, eight councillors. Maintain four wards similar to the current structure with minimal boundary changes. West Melton would join Prebbleton and Lincoln, Burnham would join Rolleston.
2. Three wards, 10 councillors. Malvern would join Ellesmere, West Melton would join Prebbleton and Lincoln, Burnham would join Rolleston.

Residents can find out further information, proposed ward maps, suggested ward names and have their say on the representation proposal, by visiting selwyn.govt.nz/repreview and completing the online submission form.

Submissions are open until 5pm, Thursday 2 May 2024.

ENDS

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