



Media Release

Monday 29 June 2015

Council seeks feedback on representation

Selwyn District Council is seeking community feedback on options for changes to the way the Council may be structured in the future.

The Council is undertaking a Representation Review, which looks at possible changes to the number of wards, ward boundaries, the number of councillors, whether councillors should be elected across the whole district or within wards, and whether there should be community Boards.

Four public meetings are taking place on 7 and 9 July for people to give feedback on options. Anyone can attend these meetings and talk to councillors and staff about the review.

Councils are required to review representation arrangements at least once every six years. Selwyn District Council last undertook a review in 2009, in preparation for the 2010 elections.

“Since 2010 the district’s population has grown rapidly to reach over 50,000, however population growth has not occurred evenly across the district,” says Councillor Mark Alexander, Chair of the Representation Review Subcommittee. “This means the existing ward boundaries no longer provide fair representation across the district.”

The sub-committee has developed four initial options for reorganising ward boundaries and councillor numbers. These are preliminary proposals only at this stage. After public feedback is received on the options, the sub-committee will determine a final proposal which will then go out for formal public consultation later in the year.

The options proposed for consideration are:

- four wards with 11 elected representatives
- three wards with 10 elected representatives
- three wards with 9 elected representatives
- district-wide elections – 10 elected representatives elected across the entire district

The Council must also consider whether community boards are appropriate to provide fair and effective representation. Currently two of the four wards (Selwyn Central and Malvern) have community boards, and two do not. The Council is proposing that community boards are not retained under the proposed options, and is seeking feedback on this proposal.

Public meetings to discuss options being considered as part of the representation review will be held at:

- Darfield Recreation & Community Centre, Tuesday 7 July, 6pm
- Rolleston (Council Headquarters), Tuesday 7 July, 8pm
- Lincoln Events Centre, Thursday 9 July, 6pm
- Leeston Community Room (next to the library), Thursday 9 July, 8pm

More information about these options, and an online feedback form, will be available from Tuesday 30 June at www.selwyn.govt.nz/representation.

Ends

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