

Help us redraw the lines



Representation Review 2021

The way your Council is structured is changing.

Selwyn District Council is currently undertaking a representation review, which will result in changes to the way the Council is elected and structured in the future. This includes possible changes to the number of wards (electoral areas within Selwyn), ward boundaries, the number of councillors that represent your ward, and whether there should be community boards.

What is the representation review?

Local elections are held every three years so you can decide who will represent you around the Council table. To make sure that residents have fair and effective representation, all councils must review their representation arrangements at least every six years. Selwyn last undertook a representation review in 2015, in preparation for the 2016 elections. So we need to do another review this year (2021).

How the review is undertaken is set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001. The Council must provide for effective representation of communities of interest, and fair representation of voters. This includes ensuring each elected member represents a similar number of people.

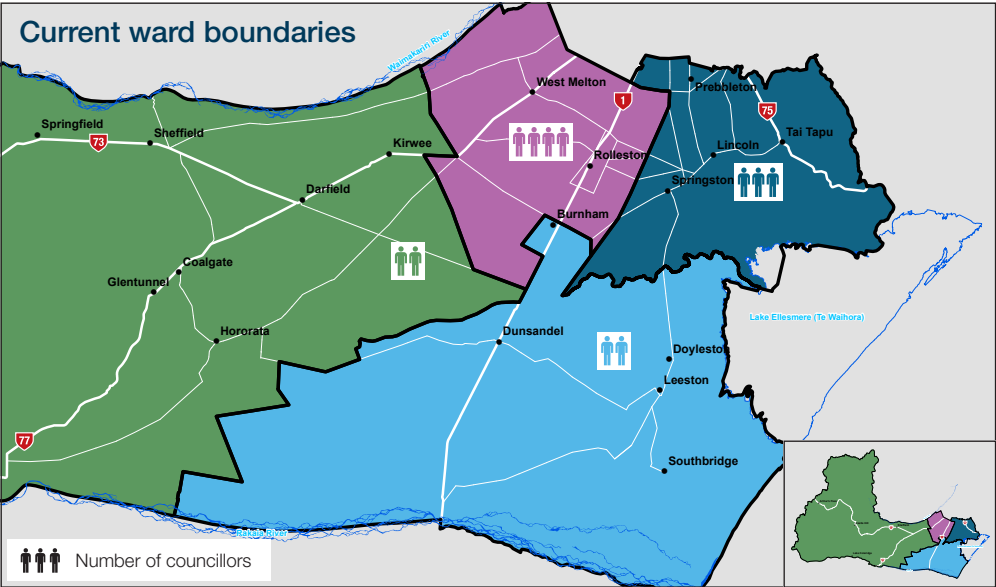
Some of the factors the Council must consider include:

- Communities of interest
- Effective representation of communities of interest
- Number of elected members
- Fair representation of electors.

What's the current situation?

At present, the Council is made up of the mayor, who is elected by all voters in Selwyn district (also referred to as at large), and **11 councillors**, who are elected by voters within each of the four existing wards: Ellesmere (2), Malvern (2), Selwyn Central (4), and Springs (3).

There is also one community board, in the Malvern Ward, which has five elected members across two subdivisions: Tawera (2) and Hawkins (3).



What's changed since 2015?

Selwyn's population has been growing rapidly in recent years. However, population growth has not occurred evenly across the district, with much faster growth in the Selwyn Central and Springs wards.

	2014 estimated population*	2020 estimated population*	% increase
Malvern Ward	8,460	9,320	10%
Selwyn Central Ward	19,450	30,640	58%
Ellesmere Ward	7,480	9,620	29%
Springs Ward	14,050	20,100	43%
Total	49,440	69,680	41%

*Source: Statistics NZ

One of the key requirements for fair and effective representation is that each elected member should represent roughly the same number of people. The population of each ward, divided by the number of members to be elected by their ward, must produce a figure no more than 10% greater or smaller than the population of the district, divided by the total of elected members.

For example, at the time of the last Representation Review in 2015, the district population was 49,440. With 11 councillors, each councillor represented around 4,494 people.

Because of the rapid but uneven growth in Selwyn over recent years, the ratio of population per councillor no longer meets the +/-10% requirement. In particular, the ratio in Selwyn Central is now well above the average, which means councillors in this ward represents a higher number of people than councillors in other wards, such as Malvern and Ellesmere wards where the ratio is significantly lower.

This means the current ward boundaries and number of councillors must be reviewed to provide for fair and effective representation.

What's proposed?

Following preliminary research and analysis the Council's Representation Review Subcommittee has developed **four options** for representation and is now seeking community feedback on these. We're also seeking your feedback on community boards. See over for more information.

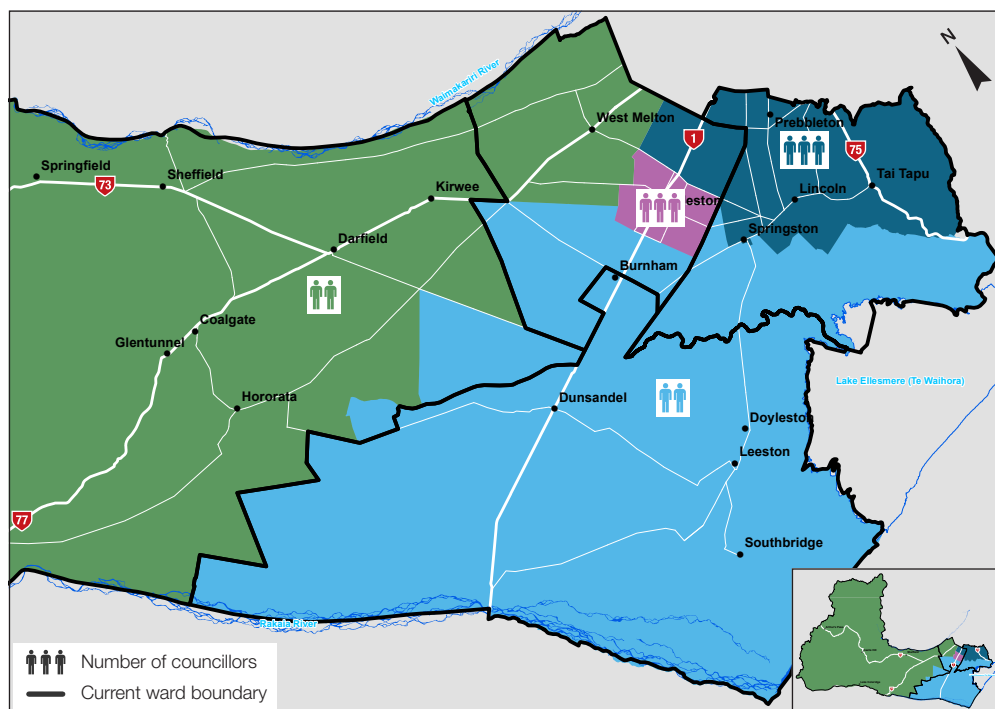
The four options are preliminary proposals. After the consultation, the subcommittee will recommend to the Council its preferred option, which will then go out for further public consultation.

The four representation options proposed for consideration are:

1. Four wards with 10 councillors
2. Three wards with 10 councillors

3. Three wards with 9 councillors
4. Four wards with 7 councillors

Option 1: Four wards with 10 councillors



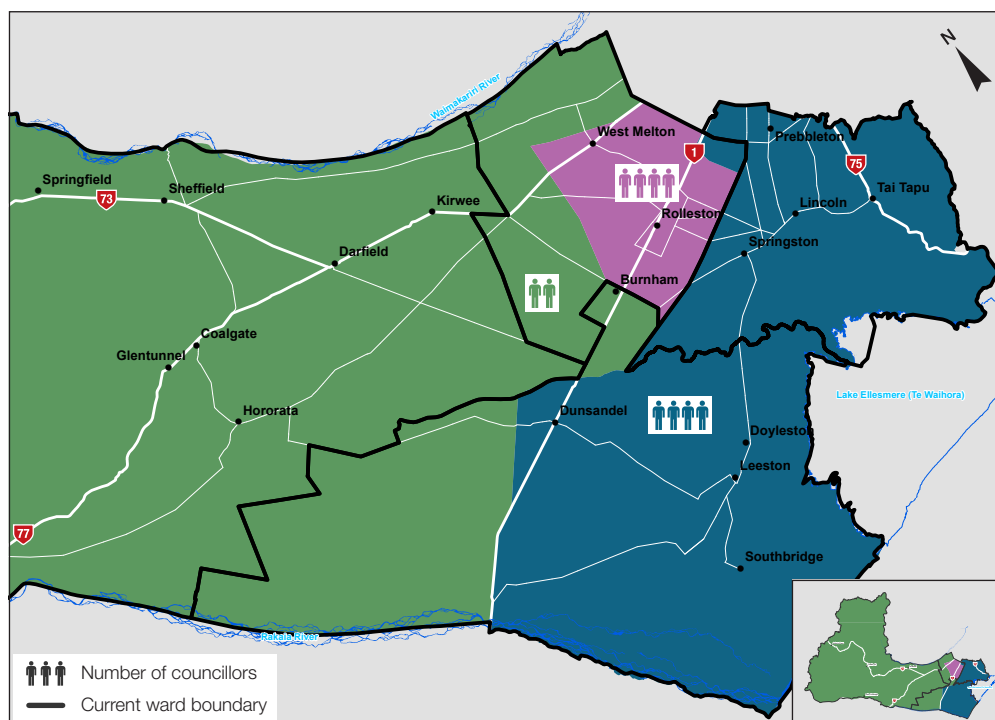
Under this option the existing ward structure would largely be retained. The major changes include:

- West Melton moving from the current Selwyn Central Ward to the Malvern Ward
- The area between Burnham and Rolleston moving from the current Selwyn Central Ward to the Ellesmere Ward
- An area east of Rolleston moving from the current Selwyn Central Ward to the Springs Ward.

The total number of councillors would reduce from 11 to 10.

Ward	Population	Population per councillor
Malvern	14,900	7,450
Selwyn Central	22,390	7,463
Ellesmere	12,700	6,350
Springs	19,690	6,563
Total	69,680	6,968

Option 2: Three wards with 10 councillors



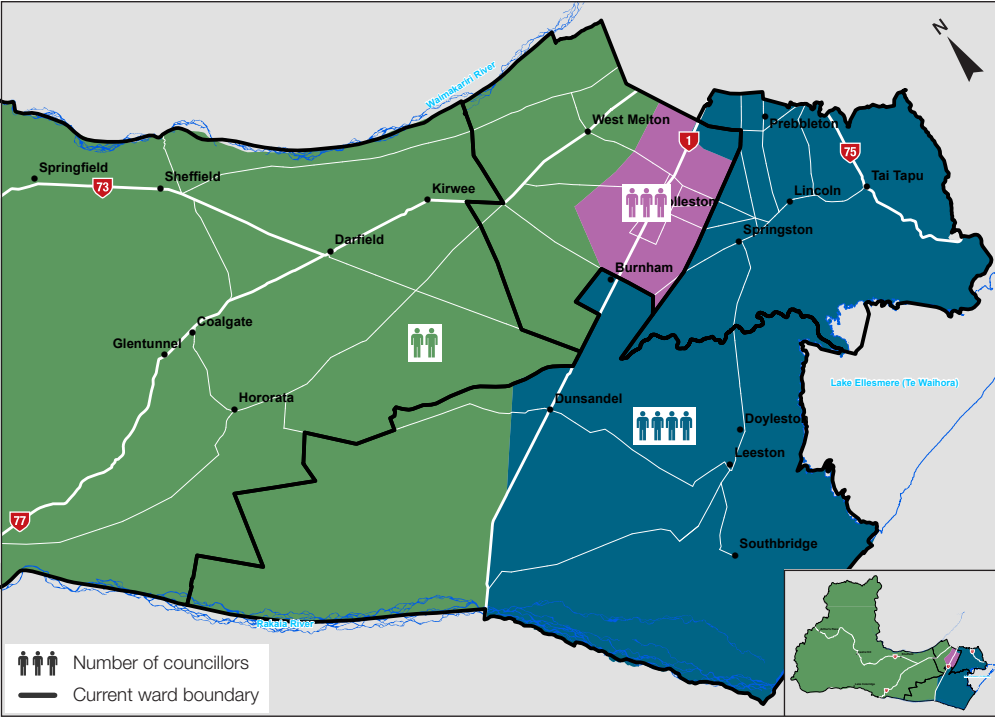
Under this option, the existing Springs and Ellesmere wards would combine into a single new ward, Springs-Ellesmere. Selwyn Central and Malvern Wards would remain. The major changes include:

- Burnham moving from the current Ellesmere Ward to the Malvern Ward
- The area around Bankside moving from Ellesmere Ward to the Malvern Ward
- An area east of Rolleston moving from the current Selwyn Central Ward to the Springs-Ellesmere Ward.

The total number of councillors would reduce from 11 to 10.

Ward	Population	Population per councillor
Springs-Ellesmere	27,490	6,873
Selwyn Central	28,310	7,078
Malvern	13,880	6,940
Total	69,680	6,968

Option 3: Three wards with 9 councillors



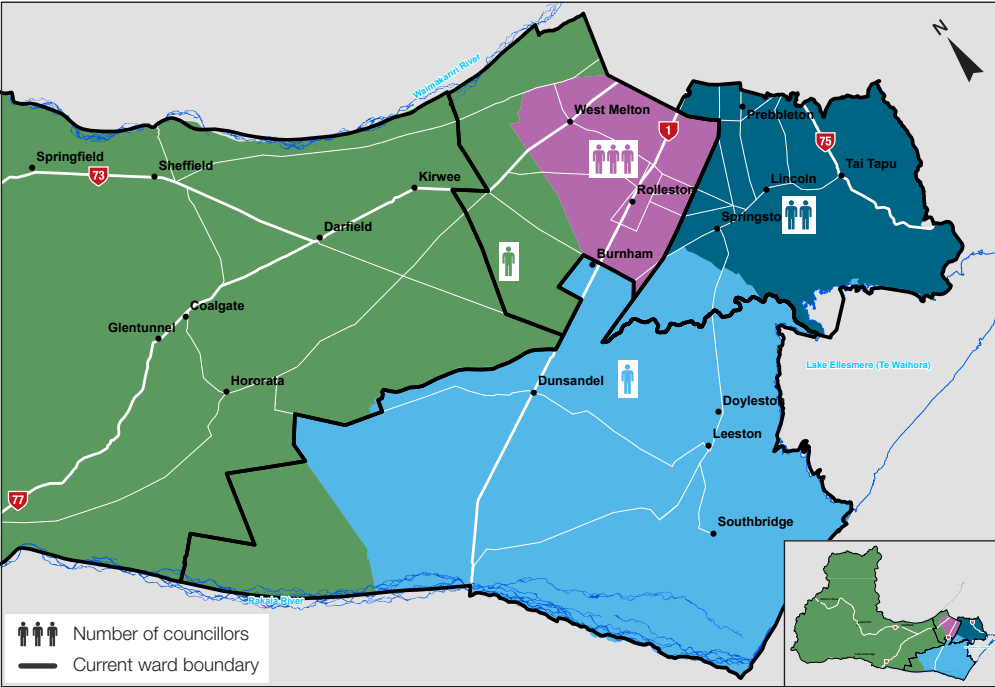
Under this option, the existing Springs and Ellesmere wards would combine into a single new ward, Springs-Ellesmere. Selwyn Central and Malvern wards would remain, but with altered boundaries. The major changes include:

- West Melton moving from the current Selwyn Central Ward to the Malvern Ward
- The area around Bankside moving from Ellesmere to the Malvern Ward
- An area east of Rolleston moving from the current Selwyn Central Ward into the Springs-Ellesmere Ward.

The total number of councillors would reduce from 11 to nine.

Ward	Population	Population per councillor
Springs-Ellesmere	29,050	7,263
Selwyn Central	24,340	8,113
Malvern	16,290	8,145
Total	69,680	7,742

Option 4: Four wards with 7 councillors



Under this option the existing ward structure would largely be retained, with only minor changes being made to ward boundaries.

The significant change with this option is that the total number of councillors would reduce from the existing 11 to seven councillors. This means that Malvern and Ellesmere wards would move from having two ward councillors to one councillor in each ward.

Ward	Population	Population per councillor
Malvern	10,830	10,830
Selwyn Central	29,330	9,777
Ellesmere	9,920	9,920
Springs	19,600	9,800
Total	69,680	9,954

How do the proposed options affect my rates?

Councillors are funded from district rates, but changes to the ward boundaries or the number of councillors will not have a significant impact on rates. Councillors' remuneration is based on a fixed pool of funds which is set independently by a government agency, the Remuneration Authority. This amount does not go up or down in relation to the number of councillors. It also means that any change in the number of councillors would not affect the total amount paid to councillors overall, as the total is divided between the number of elected members.

Community boards are funded by a targeted rate within the respective ward (see next page).

Other representation matters

- The following matters have already been considered and decided by the Council as part of the current representation review:
- **Mayor:** The mayor will continue to be elected 'at large' across the whole district.
 - **Electoral system:** The Council has resolved to retain the 'first past the post' voting system.
 - **Māori wards:** Following consultation with local rūnanga, the Council has resolved not to establish Māori wards at this time.

What about community boards?

The Council must also consider whether community boards are appropriate to provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities within our district.

Community boards are often established in wards which cover a wide geographical area and contain groups with significantly different communities of interest. A community board is an unincorporated body and is not a committee of the council. Currently, only the Malvern Ward has a community board.

Community boards can have a range of purposes including:

- representing and advocating for the interests of its local community
- considering and reporting on matters referred to it by the council
- maintaining an overview of services provided by the council within the local community
- preparing submissions to the council for funding within the community
- communicating with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- undertaking any other responsibilities delegated to it by the council.

Community board members can be elected from different areas, also referred as subdivisions, within a ward. Again, the ratio of population per elected board member must be even (within +/- 10%) across the subdivisions.

Community boards are funded by a targeted rate within the respective ward. Based on the current targeted rate for the Malvern Ward, a rough estimate of the targeted rate for a community board in other wards would be around \$30 to \$50 per rateable property.

We are seeking community feedback on whether residents want to have a community board in their ward.

What happens with your feedback?

The Council's Representation Review Subcommittee will consider the community's feedback along with other analysis and community information before making a decision on which option to proceed with.

The subcommittee comprises Councillors Mark Alexander (Chair), Shane Epiha (Deputy Chair), Grant Miller and Jenny Gallagher, Mayor Sam Broughton and Malvern Community Board Chair Mr John Morten.

The subcommittee's decision will be in the form of an 'Initial Proposal', which will be discussed and adopted by the full Council in August 2021. The Initial Proposal will then go to the community for formal consultation in September 2021.



Have your say

The Council is seeking your feedback on the preliminary options, including the number of councillors, number of wards, ward boundaries and community boards.

You can provide your feedback:

 via online form at www.selwyn.govt.nz/representation

 via hard copy form available at all Council service centres and libraries. Once the form is filled out you can:

- **Hand it in** at one of the drop-in sessions

- **Post it to:** Freepost 104 653
Representation Review
Selwyn District Council
PO Box 90, Rolleston 7643

- **Email it to:** representation@selwyn.govt.nz.

Consultation is open until 5pm, Friday 30 July 2021.

Drop-in sessions

You can come to one of the following drop-in sessions to find out more about the proposed options being considered:

Township	Date	Time	Venue
Leeston	Tuesday 13 July	5–7.30pm	Leeston Community Room, Leeston Library and Service Centre
West Melton	Thursday 15 July	5–7.30pm	Pearce Lounge, West Melton Community and Recreation Centre
Rolleston	Monday 19 July	5–7.30pm	Rolleston Community Centre
Lincoln	Tuesday 20 July	6–8pm	Habgood Lounge, Lincoln Event Centre
Darfield	Thursday 22 July	5–7.30pm	Rooms 1a and 1b, Darfield Library

More information

For further background information, copies of minutes and agendas of the Representation Review subcommittee check the Council's website at www.selwyn.govt.nz/representation.

selwyn.govt.nz