

Representation

Review 2024



Consultation Document

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What is a

representation review?

We are undertaking a representation review and seeking your feedback on how you are represented by the Selwyn District Council.

Local elections are held every three years where you get to decide who will represent you around the Council table. To support this process, all Councils must do a representation review at least once every six years, so that when it comes time for an election, you can be sure we have fair and effective representation arrangements in place.

The new representation arrangements determined through this process will be in effect for the local body elections in 2025.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 sets out how the review is undertaken. Some factors the Council must consider are:

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

A representation review looks at things like changes in our population, the number of councillors needed to fairly represent our communities, the existence of wards and community boards, and where the ward boundaries are. It's also an opportunity to consider the establishment of Māori wards or constituencies, and the electoral system that would be used for upcoming elections (such as first past the post or single transferrable vote).

In Waikirikiri Selwyn, we do representation reviews more often than the minimum of one every six years. This is because our population is growing quickly and some parts of our district are growing more than others.

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, each elected member should represent roughly the same number of people (+/- 10%). Since our last review in 2021, our population has grown about 13% and there is now an uneven number of people that each councillor represents. Doing more regular reviews allows us to ensure we have effective and fair representation of our people at election time.

- Fair representation considers population size, and looks at ensuring each councillor is representing approximately the same number of people (+/-10%). Effective representation considers accessibility as well as the size and configuration of a place. It also considers communities of interest.

This review has looked at changes to the number of wards (electoral areas in Waikirikiri Selwyn), ward boundaries, the number of councillors that represent your ward, and whether there should be community boards.

In April 2024, we asked for your feedback on options for future representation. The Council's Representation Review Subcommittee has considered this feedback and we have now adopted an initial proposal for formal public consultation.

Within this document you will find more information on the initial proposal, and how you can make a submission. Feedback is welcome until
5pm on Thursday 12 September.

How am I

currently represented?

Following our last election in 2022, the Council is made up of:



1 mayor – elected at large
(ie. all voters in our district get
to decide this)

The mayor is elected to lead the council and wider community. They provide the vision and direction for the district by leading the development of council policies, plans and budgets. They also appoint the deputy mayor and the chairs of the Council's subcommittees such as Transport and Infrastructure, Community Services, and Finance and Performance.



1 community board –
for the Malvern Ward, with
five members elected from
three subdivisions

- Hawkins subdivision (two members)
- Tawera subdivision (one member)
- West Melton subdivision (two members)

The Community Board is delegated by the Council to oversee certain local services and facilities. The Ellesmere, Springs, and Rolleston wards have no community boards as the Council directly oversees their local services and facilities.



10 councillors – elected
from four wards:

- **Ellesmere** (two councillors, includes Burnham, Dunsandel, Doyleston, Leeston, and Southbridge)
- **Malvern** (two councillors, includes Hororātā, Coalgate, Glentunnel, Darfield, Kirwee, Sheffield, Springfield and West Melton)
- **Rolleston** (three councillors, includes Rolleston)
- **Springs** (three councillors, includes Prebbleton, Lincoln, Tai Tapu, and Springston)

Councillors are elected by residents to act as representatives and advocate for communities on local issues. They also help make decisions about how your rates are spent on things like roads and community facilities and guide the policies that shape day-to-day life and activities around the district.

What is proposed?

Selwyn District Council has approved an initial proposal for our representation arrangements to ensure people have fair and effective representation following the 2025 local government elections.

The initial proposal has been based on extensive research and preliminary consultation with our communities. Our initial proposal is:

Reduce the number of councillors from 10 to eight.

Malvern and Ellesmere wards would move to one councillor each, with three councillors each for Rolleston and Springs wards. This, together with some ward boundary changes, would enable each councillor to represent roughly the same number of people each (+/-10%) – as required by the Local Electoral Act 2001. The Council would have eight councillors, plus the mayor.

Maintain our four wards with some boundary changes and rename the wards.

West Melton would move to Springs Ward and Burnham would join Rolleston Ward. The names would be Tawera Malvern Ward, Kā Mānia Rolleston Ward, Te Waihora Ellesmere Ward, and Kā Puna Springs Ward.

No community boards.

It is proposed that no community boards be elected. This would result in the disestablishment of Selwyn District Council's only community board, the Malvern Community Board.



Make your submission today
selwyn.govt.nz/repreview

Maintain our four wards with some boundary changes and rename the wards

Since 2021, our population has grown about 13%, with some towns and areas seeing more growth than others. To accommodate this uneven growth and ensure fair representation in each ward, we propose making minor adjustments to the ward boundaries, including moving West Melton into the Springs Ward, and putting Burnham in the Rolleston Ward.

Having fair and effective representation means removing barriers to participation and not splitting recognised communities of interest, or grouping together those which have few common interests. We also must consider things such as the size of a constituency (ward) and how accessible it is, as well as whether residents can meet with an elected representative easily.

The term 'community of interest' is not defined in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and may mean different things to different people. Overall, it is about considering the interests of groups of people within a constituency (ward); for some this is the iwi they belong to, while for others it is where they live, a community they feel part of, or where they shop or work.

Taking account of the above matters, the Council considers that moving:

- West Melton to the Springs Ward; and
- Burnham to the Rolleston Ward,

will ensure fair and effective representation.

In our preliminary consultation earlier this year, we considered changing the number of wards from four to three, but most respondents did not support this option. It was found that the four wards were

well accepted and most closely aligned with the communities' ideas of local representation.

In addition to keeping the four wards, the proposal also includes renaming them. Together with input from the community and with rūnaka, we are proud to have been gifted names for the four wards. They are taonga that acknowledge local landmarks and significant features in each area.

Reduce the number of councillors

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, each elected member should represent roughly the same number of people (+/- 10%). Since our last election, some parts of our district have grown much faster than others, and we now have an uneven number of people that each councillor represents. Adjusting the number of councillors to eight would support fair representation across the four wards.

After our last representation review in 2021, the 10 councillors represented roughly 7,000 people each. Under this initial proposal, the eight councillors would represent roughly 10,155 people each (+/-10%).

When we initially discussed this option with the community in April 2024, 65% of submitters favoured having eight councillors and four wards.

Keeping the same number of councillors that we have now (10) would require significant ward boundary changes, notably, joining Malvern and Ellesmere wards into one rural ward. Those who responded to our preliminary consultation did not agree with this idea.

We have therefore proposed to reduce councillor numbers from 10 to eight.

Existing Wards



Proposed Wards



The proposed ward names are:

Tawera Malvern Ward

This name speaks to the Torlesse Range, Kā Tiritiri O Te Moana the Southern Alps and the Oxford area, and the district stretching from the mountains to the lake and sea.

Te Waihora Ellesmere Ward

Te Waihora refers to Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere and the significant role water plays in the district.

Kā Mānia Rolleston Ward

Kā Mānia references the plains and the important narratives of navigation, settlement and mahika kai.

Kā Puna Springs Ward

Kā Puna refers to the natural springs found along the northern edge of the district and Kā Puna Karikari o Rākaihautū, the springs created by the ancestor Rākaihautū.

The wards, number of people represented in each one, and the number of councillors is shown in the table below:

Ward	Population	Number of elected members	Population per elected member	Percentage difference from average population per member
Tawera Malvern	9,510	1	9,510	6.35%
Kā Mānia Rolleston	32,310	3	10,770	-6.06%
Te Waihora Ellesmere	10,930	1	10,930	-7.63%
Kā Puna Springs	28,490	3	9,497	6.48%
Total	81,240	8	10,155	0.00%

No community boards

Our initial proposal is to have no community boards. Currently Malvern is the only ward with a community board and this proposal would result in the disestablishment of the board. This would give all wards the same level of representation.

Research as part of this representation review found that 9% of Malvern residents felt the board had primary responsibility for representing their issues and opinions while 43% said it was their ward councillor's responsibility.

The use of community boards has traditionally been a way of ensuring local views are heard. Community boards are often broken up into subdivisions to allow representatives to easily service the needs of each area. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, new technology and changed communication behaviours have made it easier to connect with local communities and hear their voice. These changes are assisting with providing effective representation.

All of these factors have shaped our initial proposal to have no community boards.

How would the proposed changes affect my rates?

Councillors are funded from district rates, but changes to the ward boundaries or number of councillors will not have a significant effect 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. Under our initial proposal, the current targeted community board rate of \$25 a year per property for the Malvern Ward would be disestablished.

Other representation matters

The following matters have already been considered and decided by the Council as part of the representation review:

- Electoral system: The Council has resolved to retain the first past the post voting system.
- Māori wards: Following consultation with local rūnaka, the Council has resolved not to establish Māori wards at this time. Waikirikiri Selwyn does not meet the population threshold required, and rūnaka have indicated at this stage they do not support having a Māori ward.

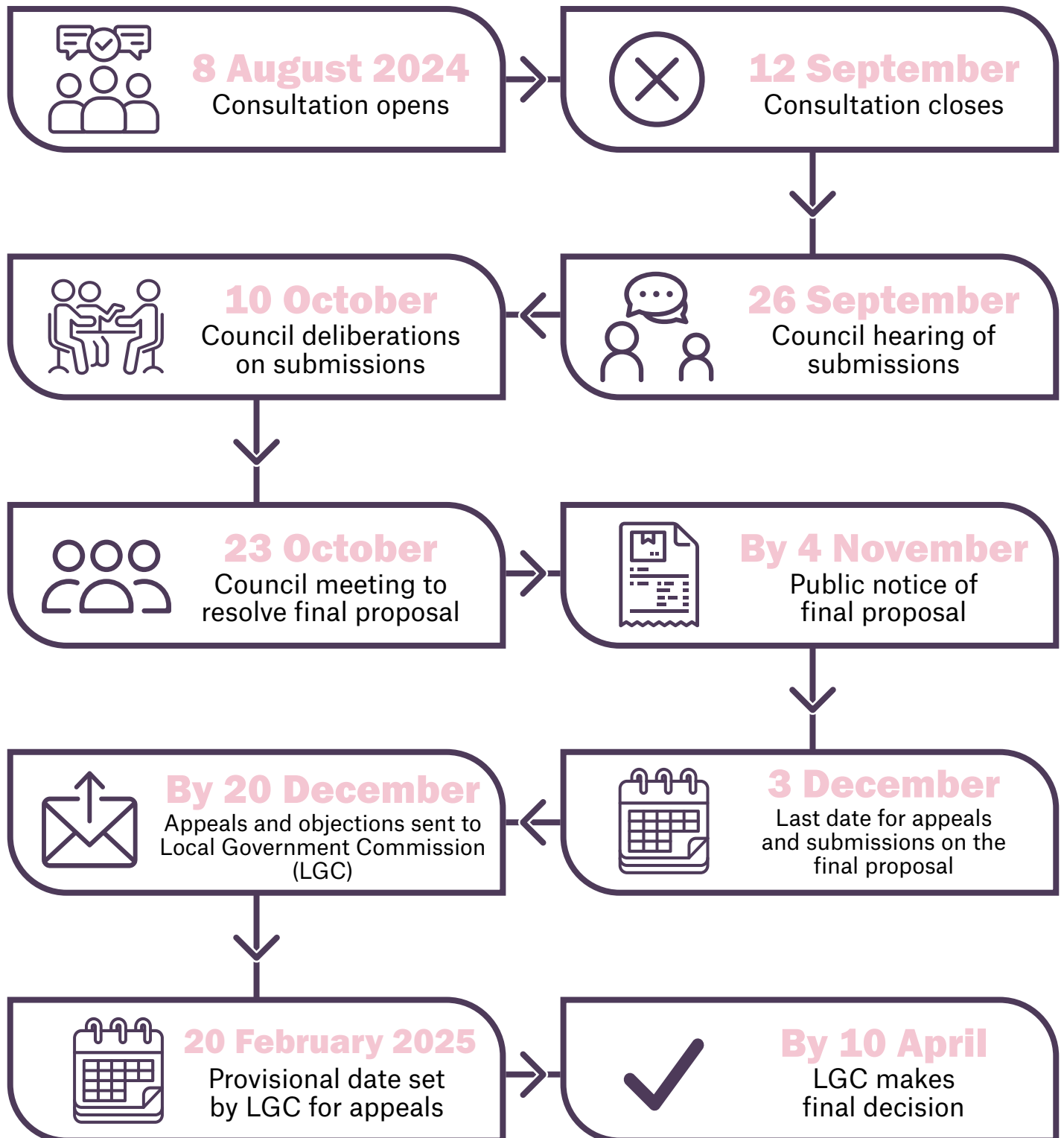
What we're consulting on

We want to know what you think about the:

- Proposed structure of Council with eight councillors
- Proposed wards with some boundary changes to accommodate our population change
- Proposed names for the four wards
- Proposed representation to no longer include community boards



Timeframes



Have your say

District councillors act on your behalf, so it's important you have a say in how your voice is represented.

You can provide feedback on the Representation Review by:

- Visiting **selwyn.govt.nz/repreview** on your computer or mobile device and answering the questions on the Representation Review submission form.
- Completing the submission form on the back of this document and dropping it off at one of our Representation Review stands or with our Customer Service Teams at:
 - Council Rolleston Offices 2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston
 - Te Ara Ātea 56 Tennyson Street, Rolleston
 - Darfield Library 1 South Terrace, Darfield
 - Leeston Library 19 Messines Street, Leeston
 - Lincoln Library 22 Gerald Street, Lincoln

OR, posting it to:

- Selwyn District Council, 2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston; PO Box 90 Rolleston 7643
- Emailing **repreview@selwyn.govt.nz**
- Calling **0800 SELWYN (0800 735 996)**

All posted submissions must be received by Council by 5pm, 12 September 2024. Please allow time for your submission to be delivered by this deadline.

For more information, visit
selwyn.govt.nz/repreview

Councillors and staff will be visiting Darfield, Leeston, Lincoln and Rolleston during the consultation, where you can speak to them and ask questions.

These drop-in sessions will be advertised on our Facebook page and on **selwyn.govt.nz/repreview**.

Scan the QR code below to go direct to our Events listing on Facebook.



Initial Proposal Submission Form

Selwyn District Council is conducting a representation review to determine how the communities that make up the Waikirikiri Selwyn district should be represented in our coming elections.

Please read the consultation document and information available online at www.selwyn.govt.nz/repreview before completing and dropping off this form at a Council Library and Service Centre by 5pm on Thursday 12 September.

You can make a submission using this form, or by completing the online submission form at selwyn.govt.nz/repreview.

Submitter details

Please note: all fields marked with an asterisk () are compulsory. These details will be used for the purpose of contacting you about this consultation.*

First name*

Last name*

Address*

Town*

Postcode*

Contact number*

Email address*

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?*

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please state the name of the organisation*

Do you wish to attend a hearing to present your submission in person?*

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, someone will be in contact with you to arrange the date and time.

Which electoral ward do you live in or own property in?*

☐ Ellesmere ☐ Malvern

☐ Rolleston ☐ Springs

☐ I don't live in or own property in these wards

If you need extra space for your submission, use additional paper and attach it to this form. Please include your name on the additional paper.

Anyone can make a submission. Submissions will only be used for the purpose of this consultation process. All submissions will be considered by Council before making a decision.

Privacy statement

Submissions are part of the public consultation process, and are a public record. Submissions will be made publicly available on the Council website and in official documents. We will remove any contact details.

Questions

1. Do you support the initial proposal to change the ward boundaries and the number of councillors (four wards, eight councillors) for local elections?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please add your comments

2. Do you support the initial proposal to have no community boards? This would mean that the Malvern Community Board would be disestablished.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please add your comments
