

## **REPORT**

**TO:** Representation Review Subcommittee

**FOR:** 11 August 2021

**FROM:** Deputy Electoral Officer

**DATE:** 10 August 2021

**SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION REVIEW: SUPPLEMENTARY  
DISCUSSION DOCUMENT – COMMUNITY BOARDS**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That the Representation Review Subcommittee receive the report;*
- (b) That the Subcommittee considers options for the future of community boards, as part of its recommendation to the Council on representation arrangements.*

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the subcommittee with information on possible options for community boards, as part of its consideration of an Initial Proposal for consultation.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

Councils undertaking a representation review must give consideration to whether community boards are appropriate to provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities in its district.

The representation review provides a process for a territorial authority to propose the constitution of new boards, alterations to existing boards, or disestablishment of existing boards.

The principles of fair and effective representation, and the requirements of the +/- 10% rule apply to community boards as they do to wards.

Local Government Commission guidelines for reviewing community boards, and statutory provisions, are attached at Appendix 1.

For further information on the status and role of community boards, including powers and delegations, see the report to the Subcommittee meeting of 23 June 2021.

### **3. PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION**

A separate report to this Subcommittee meeting sets out the findings from non-statutory preliminary consultation undertaken to seek community feedback on four options for future electoral arrangements.

These were:

- Option 1: Four wards, 10 councillors
- Option 2: Three wards (Springs/Ellesmere combined), 10 councillors
- Option 3: Three wards (Springs/Ellesmere combined), 9 councillors
- Option 4: Four wards, 7 councillors

No specific community board options were presented in the preliminary consultation. The Subcommittee instead agreed to include a general question asking respondents to indicate whether they would like to have a community board in their ward.

Detailed findings are presented in the separate report.

- Overall 62% of respondents favoured having community boards compared to 38% not.
- Respondents who selected Option 2 (3 wards, 10 councillors) had the highest level of preference for community boards.
- A majority of respondents in Malvern desire a community board, while only slightly more respondents in Selwyn Central desire a community board than not.
- If a four-ward option is chosen, then respondents in Springs desired a community board, while those in Ellesmere do not.
- A greater number of respondents who selected a three-ward option wanted a community board but not significantly.

If the Subcommittee decide to maintain or create new community boards then the Subcommittee must recommend the name of the community board, subdivisions and number of elected community board representatives.

Options for possible subdivisions for the Malvern Ward, under options 1 and 2, will be tabled for the Subcommittee's consideration at the meeting.

#### 4. COMMUNITY BOARD OPTIONS

An analysis of community board subdivisions has been carried out for Options 1 and 2 with the options noted below.

##### **Option 1: 4 wards with 10 councillors**

###### **Option 1A. No Community Boards**

Option 1 is very similar to the current representation arrangements with the main change being the reduction of one councillor.

With the Malvern ward currently having a community board, removing the community board may increase the workload of the Malvern councillors. This in turn could be expected to reduce ratepayers' access to elected members. In practice, however, Malvern councillors could expect assistance from district councillors and in addition ratepayers may directly contact a councillor from outside their ward which may offset some of the potential increase in workload.

###### **Option 1B: One community board 3 subdivisions 8 members**

Under option 1B the Malvern community board would be retained. However, consideration is required to determine whether the current Malvern community board should remain subdivided into the Hawkins and Tawera subdivisions and whether the current five community board members is appropriate.

The decision to subdivide is essentially made by determining whether there are different communities of interest that would be best represented by members being elected from their local area. This in turn will determine the number of elected members as the +/- 10% rule must be complied with.

With Option 1 proposing to extend the Malvern ward to include the urban area of West Melton and its surrounds the ward would see an increase of 5,450 people and the inclusion of another community of interest.

West Melton and its surrounds are of similar size to the current Hawkins subdivision so a new subdivision would be a natural fit. To ensure the +/- 10% rule was met the new subdivision would include three community board members bringing the total elected community board members in the Malvern ward to eight.

See Map: Option 1B – Malvern Ward, 3 Subdivisions, 8 members

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Subdivisions</b>	<b>Community board members</b>
Malvern	Tawera	2
	Hawkins	3
	West Melton	3
Total	3	8

Subdivisions	Population	Members	Population per Member	Difference from Quota
Tawera	3580	2	1790	-4%
Hawkins	5450	3	1817	-2%
West Melton	5870	3	1957	5%
	14900	8	1863	

A total of eight members on a community board may be considered larger than an ideal size, so an option has also been developed which reduces the number of representatives to a total of five, achieved by moving Sheffield into the Hawkins subdivision.

### **Option 1C: One community board 3 subdivisions 5 members**

See Map: Option 1C - Malvern Ward, 3 Subdivisions, 5 members

Ward	Subdivisions	Community board members
Malvern	Tawera Hawkins West Melton	1 2 2
Total	3	5

Subdivision	Population	Members	Population per Member	Difference from Quota
Tawera	3030	1	3030	2%
Hawkins	6000	2	3000	1%
West Melton	5870	2	2935	-2%
	14900	5	2980	

## **Option 2: 3 Wards with 10 Councillors (Ellesmere and Springs combined)**

### **Option 2A. No community boards**

The comments made in Option 1A are equally applicable for Option 2A.

### **Malvern**

#### **Option 2B: One community board 2 subdivisions 5 members**

As the majority of West Melton will remain in the Selwyn Central ward, it is reasonable to continue with the status quo of 2 subdivisions in the Malvern Ward. Boundary changes are required however to ensure the +/- 10% Rule is complied with.

See Map: Option 2B - Malvern Ward, 2 Subdivisions, 5 members

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Subdivisions</b>	<b>Community board members</b>
Malvern	Tawera Hawkins	2 3
Total	2	5

Subdivisions	Population	Members	Population per Member	Difference from Quota
Hawkins	5100	2	2550	-8%
Tawera	8780	3	2927	5%
	13880	5	2776	

### **Springs and Ellesmere**

#### **Option 2C: New community board 2 subdivisions 4 members**

The Subcommittee may also wish to consider options for a community board in a combined Springs-Ellesmere ward, should that be considered as an option for the Initial Proposal.

Using the existing Ellesmere/Springs boundary would generate one representative from the Ellesmere subdivision and three representatives from the Springs subdivision.

See Map: Option 2C, Springs-Ellesmere Ward, 2 Subdivisions, 4 members

Ward	Subdivisions	Community board members
Springs-Ellesmere	Dunsandel/Leeston Lincoln/Prebbleton	1 3
Total	2	4

Subdivisions	Population	Members	Population per Member	Difference from Quota
Dunsandel/Leeston	7060	1	7060	3%
Lincoln/Prebbleton	20430	3	6810	-1%
	27490	4	6873	

### Option 2D: New community board 3 subdivisions 4 members

Another approach which could be seen to enhance communities of interest would be to divide the ward into three subdivisions.

See Map: Option 2D -Springs-Ellesmere Ward, 3 Subdivisions, 4 Councillors

Ward	Subdivisions	Community board members
Springs-Ellesmere	Dunsandel/Leeston Lincoln Prebbleton	1 2 1
Total	3	4

Subdivision	Population	Members	Population per Member	Difference from Quota
Dunsandel/Leeston	7060	1	7060	3%
Lincoln	13980	2	6990	2%
Prebbleton	6410	1	6410	-7%
	27450	4	6863	

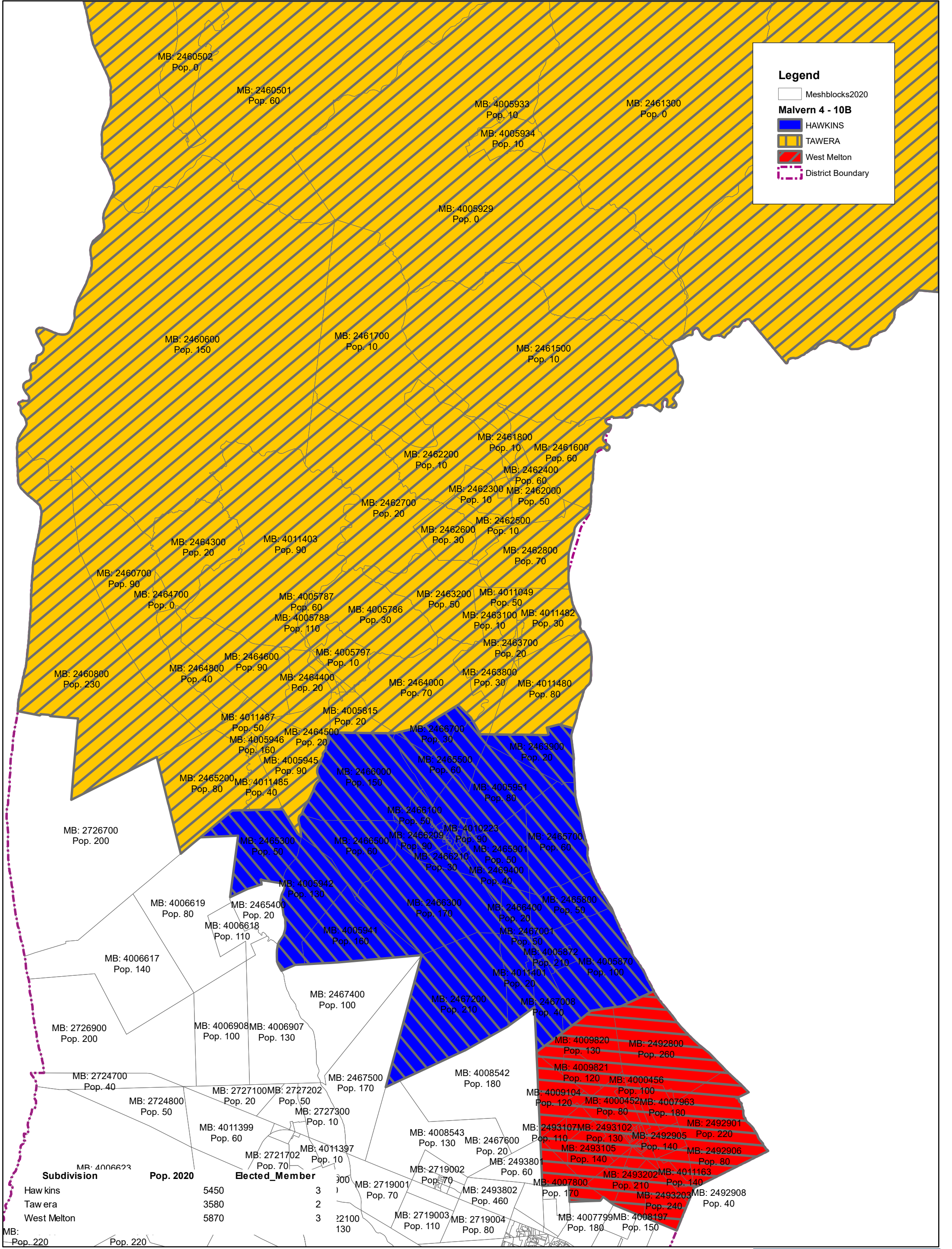


Stephen Hill

**Group Manager Communication and Customers/Deputy Electoral Officer**

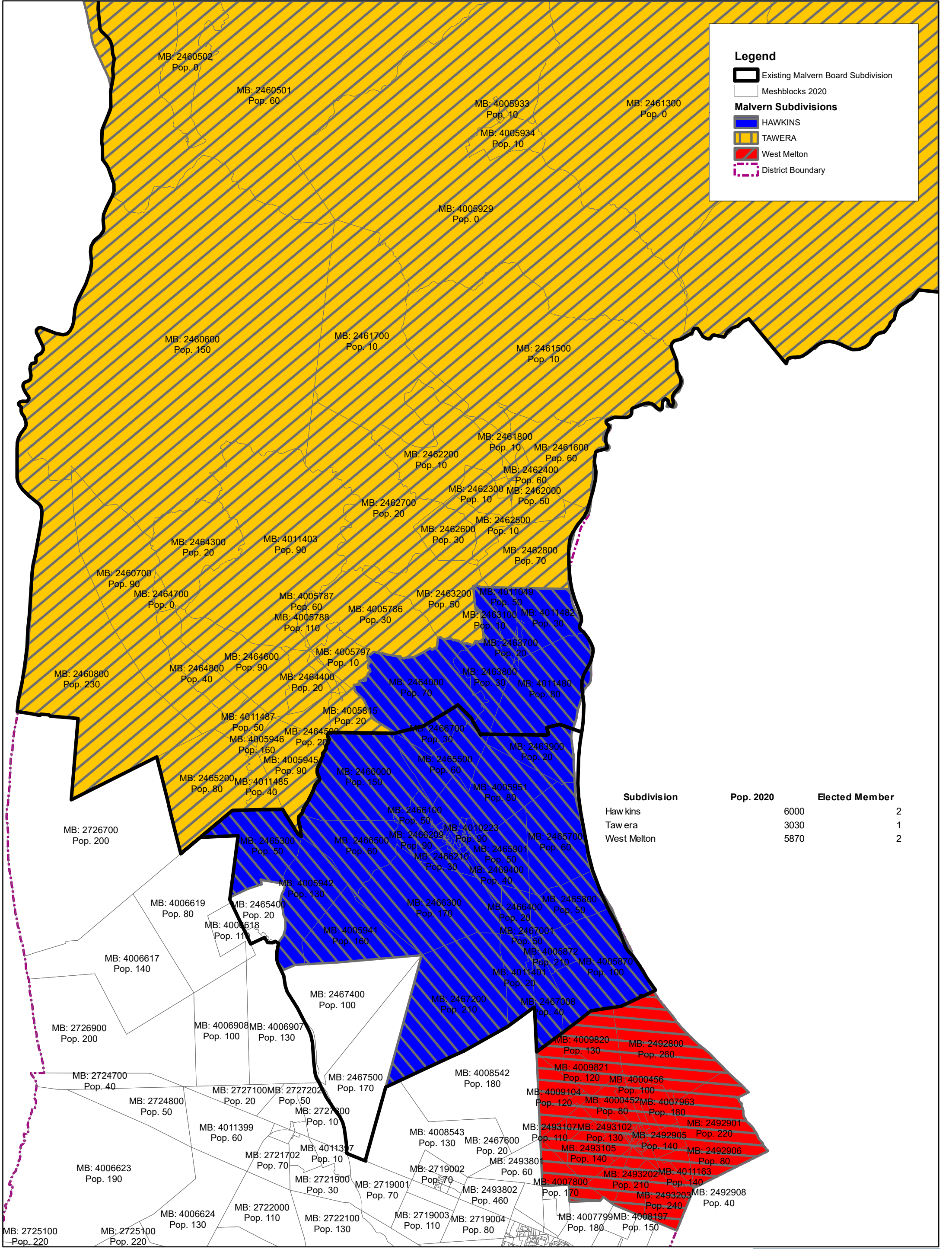
Attached: Maps (to be tabled)

Appendix 1. Reviewing communities and community boards, from Local Government Commission Guidelines.



Option 1B-Malvern Ward,  
3 Subdivisions, 8 Councillors





# Option 1C - Malvern Ward, 3 Subdivisions, 5 Councillors



Existing Malvern Board Subdivision

Meshblocks 2020

Malvern 3SE - 10C

Hawkins

Tawera

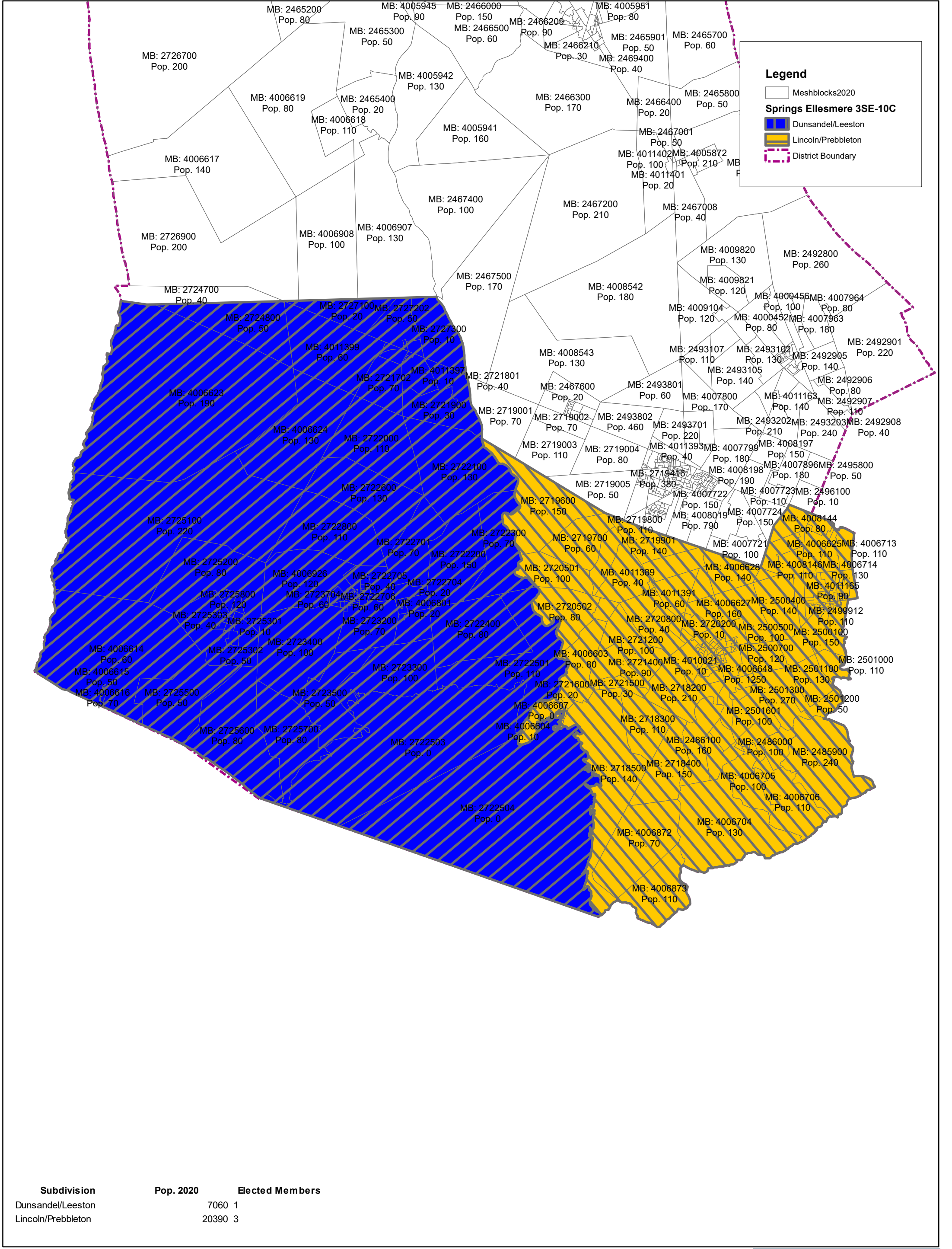
District Boundary

Township Boundary

The map illustrates the proposed subdivisions for Malvern Ward under Option 2B. The area is divided into two main subdivisions: Hawkins (shaded blue) and Tawera (shaded yellow with diagonal lines). The map includes numerous meshblocks, each labeled with a Malvern Board (MB) number and its 2020 population. Key features include the district boundary (dashed purple line) and the township boundary (dashed blue line). A north arrow is located in the bottom left corner.

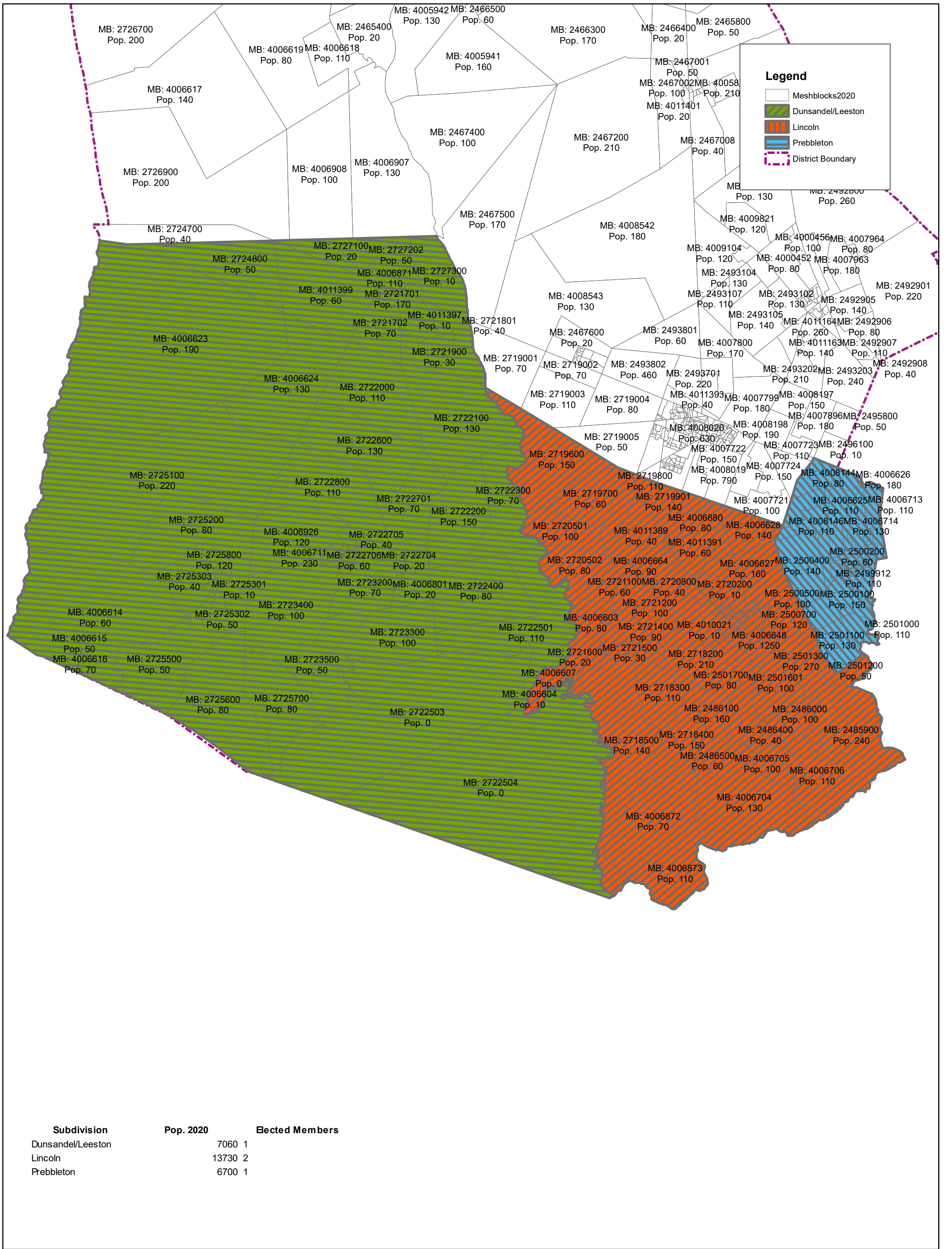
Subdivision	Pop. 2020	Elected Members
Hawkins	8820	3
Tawera	5100	2

# Option 2B, Malvern Ward, 2 Subdivisions, 5 Councillors



# Option 2C, Springs Ellesmere, 2 Subdivisions, 4 Councillors





Option 2D (3 Wards, 10 Councillors)  
3 Springs-Ellesmere Subdivisions

