

Analysis of submissions

*duplicate of what was seen in the report that went to the Strategy & Policy Committee on 13 August 2024.

Question one: Do you support the number of councillors remaining at 12?

58% of respondents supported the retention of 12 councillors. The consensus among submitters is that the current system operates effectively and provides a strong level of expertise. Additionally, submitters argued that as our population grows, maintaining this level of representation is essential to ensure fairness and effective governance.

37% of respondents did not support the retention of 12 councillors. Comments from this group favoured a reduction to 10 councillors, citing research that suggests a smaller number of representatives can be more effective. Additionally, it was theorised that fewer councillors could lead to increased remuneration for each member, which might enhance engagement and passion in their roles.

5% did not know. The comments from this group generally expressed reservations but conveyed trust that thorough work had been done to verify the proposal.

Question two: Do you support retaining the Rural Community Board?

67% supported the retention of the Rural Community Board. Comments in favour highlighted that the rural community has distinct needs and constitutes a significant portion of our district.

13% did not support the retention of the Rural Community Board. The criticism from this group was that regular councillors are capable of addressing rural issues and that, without voting rights, the Rural Community Board has limited influence.

20% did not know. A common theme in this feedback was the perception that the community board does not contribute sufficiently to its sector.

Question three: Do you support the proposed arrangement overall?

39% of respondents supported the overall proposal. Comments expressed enthusiasm for the introduction of a Māori ward and appreciation for the inclusion of rural representation.

50% did not support the overall arrangement. Comments indicated a desire for a stronger voice for the rural community, including voting rights. However, the prevailing sentiment was opposition to Māori wards.

Note: It's important to clarify that Māori wards are not a part of this consultation.

11% did not know and did not provide additional comments.

ADDITION:

Important clarification: Of the 94 respondents who disagreed with the proposal, 46 of them had shared disagreement with Māori wards specifically. Because they are out of scope, it is advised that we share an adjusted percentage breakdown as below;

52% of respondents supported the overall proposal. (75 submitters)

33% did not support the overall arrangement. (44 submitters)

14% did not know (21 submitters)