# Representation Review - recap

- Representation Review is a statutory requirement for all councils under Local Electoral Act 2001

  - Reviews current representation structure

  - Must be undertaken at least every six years

  - Carterton District representation was last reviewed in 2018/19

  - New arrangements will apply for local elections in 2025 and 2028

- Representation arrangements to be determined

  - Number of electoral subdivisions (wards)

  - Boundaries and names of wards/community boards

  - Number of elected members

  - Basis of election: wards/at large/mix of wards and at large

  - Establishment/retention/reduction of community boards

# Representation Review - timeline

| | |
|---|---|
| **From** 20 December **2023** | Earliest date to resolve Initial Proposal |
| By 31 July 2024 | Last date to resolve Initial Proposal |
| By 8 August | Notification of Initial Proposal – open consultation (14 days from resolution) |
| By 8 September | Public submissions on Initial Proposal close (not less than one month after notification) |
| By 3 November | Last date for notification of Final Proposal (8 weeks after end of submission period) |
| By 3 December | Last date for public appeals/objections on Final Proposal |
| By 10 April **2025** | If appeals/objections – last date for Local Government Commission determination |

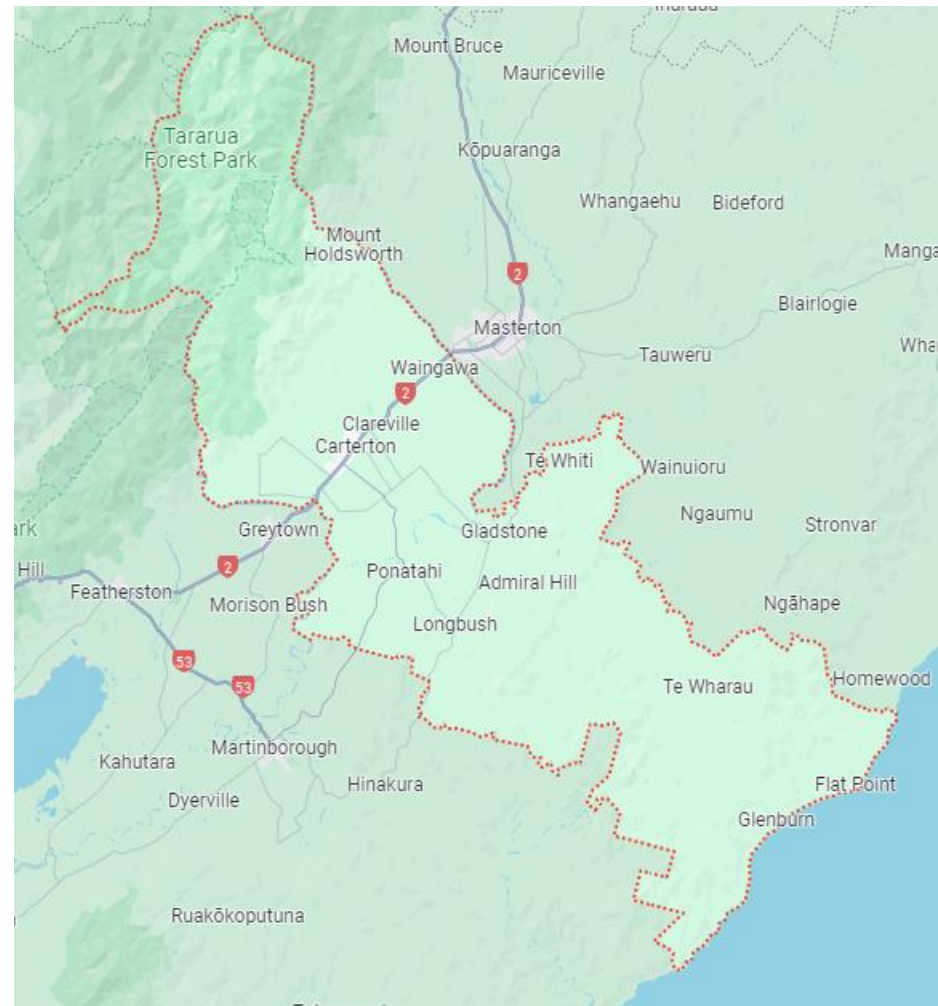# Representation Review – Carterton's steps to date

- Voting system

  - Previously decided to retain First Past the Post (FPP)

  - Next opportunity to review will be for 2028 elections

- Māori representation

  - Carterton has resolved not to establish a Māori ward

  - At this stage, current legislation and decisions remain in place for the 2025 and 2028 elections

  - Next opportunity to review Māori representation would be prior to the 2028 elections

  - A decision to establish a Māori ward/s would trigger the requirement to undertake a full Representation Review

# What do we want from today?

- Note: Today is not a decision-making meeting.

- It is a workshop, and no decisions are being sought.

  - *informal forum for staff to bring items to inform Elected Members*

  - *allow Elected Members to give guidance to staff*

- Seeking guidance and an initial indication of Council's views

- Identify any possible issues to explore further, eg

  - representation options for consideration and further development

    - whether to retain current arrangements or consider new

    - whether to consider establishing wards – and if so, where

    - whether to consider establishing Community Board/s

  - whether to undertake informal preliminary engagement with community, Community Boards, stakeholders

- Today's discussion will help guide staff in developing options

- Informs decision-making around Initial Proposal

- Key questions are <mark>highlighted</mark>

- The district is represented by a mayor and 8 members elected **at-large**

  - The district is not split into wards, or sub-divisions.
  - All councillors represent all residents
  - There are no community boards

- No change at last Representation Review

# What's changed since 2018?

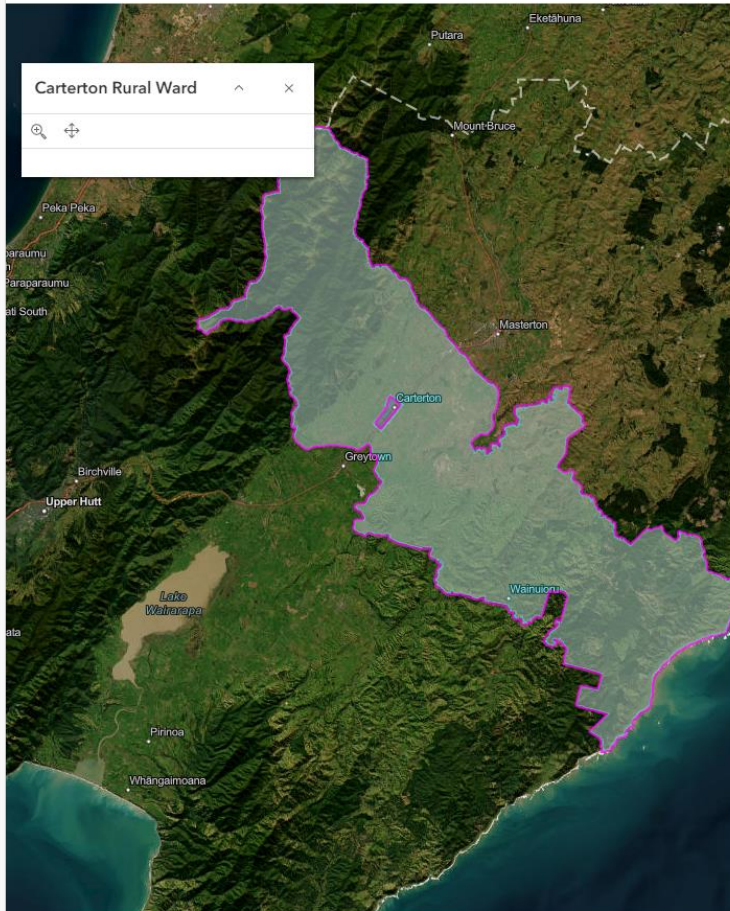- Population growth
  - Overall, nearly 10% across the district

| | 2018 | 2023 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carterton District | 9,198 | 10,250 | 11.4% |

  - Where has growth occurred?

- Any other relevant changes?
  - Population
  - Development
  - Demographics
  - Transport linkages

## 2012 Wards

### Carterton Rural Ward

## Carterton Population Change 2013-2023

**2012 Wards**
- Carterton Rural Ward
- Carterton Urban Ward

**2013_2023 Population Change**

Custom
- 250% - 300%
- 200% - 250%
- 150% - 200%
- 100% - 150%
- 50% - 100%
- 1% - 50%
- (49%) - 0%
- (99% - 50%)
- (100%)

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# Key points for discussion

- Representation arrangements to be determined
  - Number of electoral subdivisions (wards)
  - Boundaries and names of wards/community boards
  - Basis of election: wards/at large/mix of wards and at large
  - Number of elected members
  - Establishment/retention/reduction of community boards

- These will be formally determined in the Initial Proposal (by 31 July 2024)
- Today's discussion is to get an initial view on these points
- Will help staff develop options
- We can take these ideas out to the community for feedback through preliminary engagement
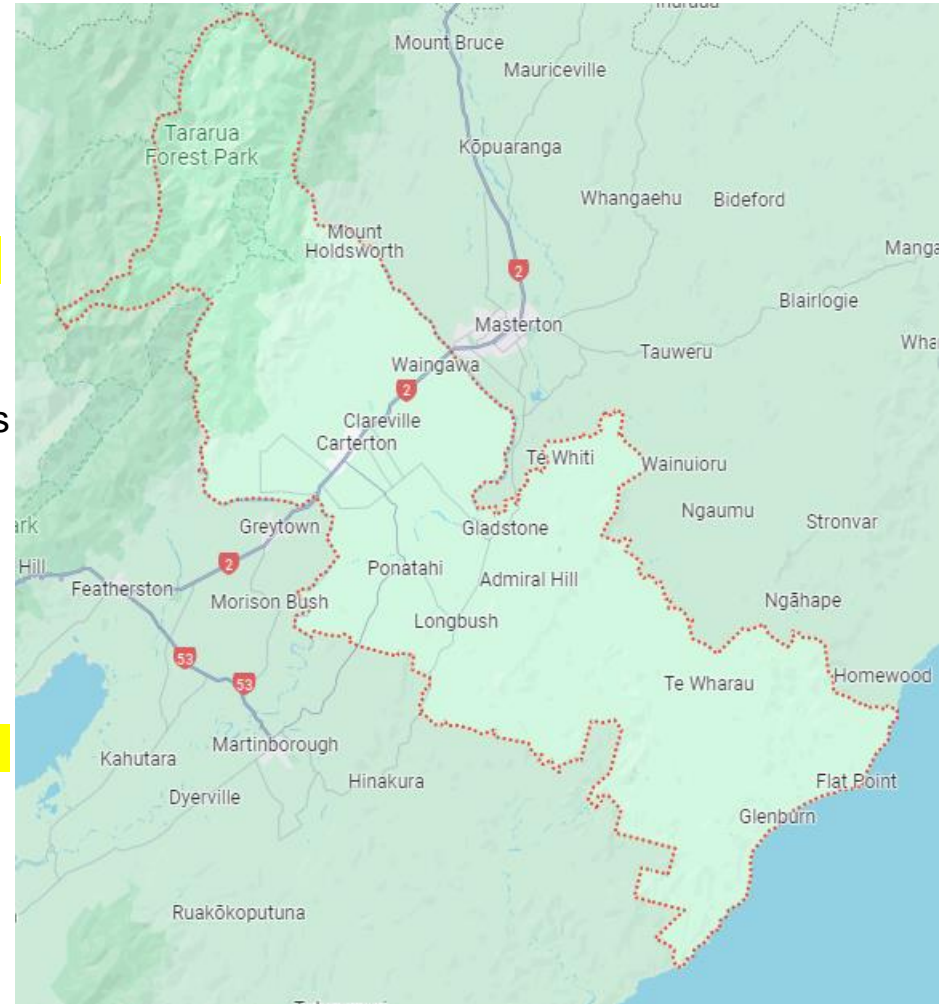
# Principles to guide discussion

Three key concepts:

- Communities of interest
    - Identify what communities of interest exist across the district
    - Perceptual, functional, political dimensions
    - Relevant to determining the **number and boundaries of wards**

- Effective representation of communities of interest
    - What's the best structure to maintain access and representation that recognises these communities of interest?
    - Relevant to determining **number of members**
    - Relevant to determining the **basis of election**: by wards, at-large, or a mix of both

- Fair representation of electors
    - +/- 10% requirement: Population of each ward, divided by number elected members, must be within +/- 10% of the population of the district, divided by total number of elected members
    - Ensure that all votes are of approximately equal value, unless there are good grounds for exception (these are set out in legislation, LEA s.19V(3)
    - Relevant for ensuring equality of representation per member

# Communities of interest

- Representation should reflect communities of interest

- <mark>Does the current at-large system provide effective representation for the district's communities of interest?</mark>

    - Consider perceptual, functional, political factors

    - Geographic factors

    - Avoid splitting areas of common interest, or combining areas of disparate interest

- <mark>Are there specific communities of interest that are not being effectively represented?</mark>

- <mark>Should any change to the at-large system be considered?</mark>
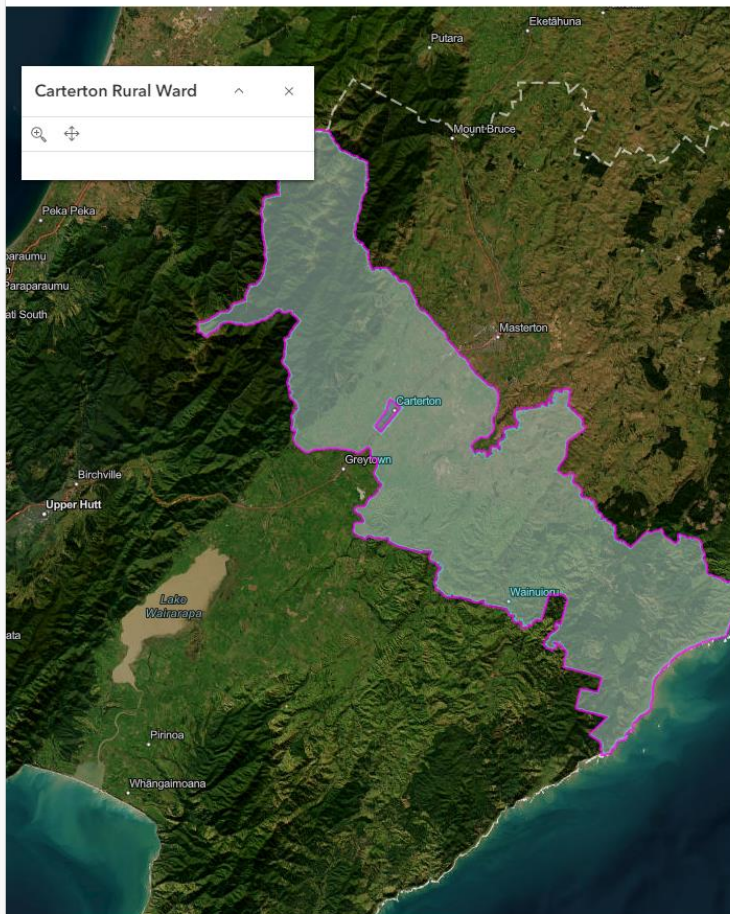
# Communities of interest

- Elections are currently held at large:

  - *a shared, common community of interest at the district level, and/or*

  - *communities of interest that are spread across the district rather than being geographically distinct*

- At-large elections were adopted under the Representation Review 2012 and have been in place for the 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022 elections.

- Previously a wards-based system.

- LGC - A study of communities of interest in Wellington Region, 2016:

  - *Carterton District was originally divided into four wards being three rural wards (Western, Eastern and Central) and a ward based on the town of Carterton.*

  - *These wards were reduced to two in 1998 (Urban and Rural) and then in 2013, the council decided to adopt an at large system of representation.*

  - *Carterton District Council services are also primarily provided on a district-wide basis and include: events centre; holiday park; library; parks and reserves; sportsfields; playgrounds; swimming pool; transfer station.*
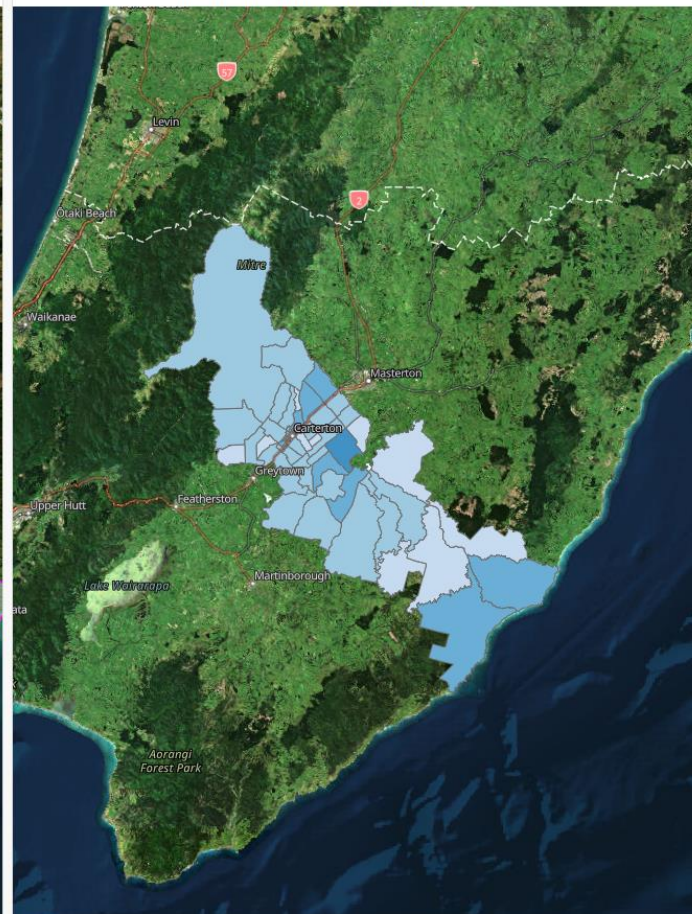
2012 Wards
- Carterton Rural Ward
- Carterton Urban Ward

## 2012 Wards

Carterton Rural Ward

## Carterton Population Change 2013-2023

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# Effective representation

- **Number of Councillors**
  - <mark>Is the overall number of Councillors appropriate?</mark>
    - Legislation allows for between 5 and 29 members
  - <mark>Does this number enable effective representation of communities?</mark>
  - <mark>Should we consider having more/fewer?</mark>

Note: How does Carterton compare to other similar-size councils (5-20,000)?

| District (Popn. 20-30,000) | Population | No. of Councillors | Basis of election |
|---|---|---|---|
| Otorohanga | 11,000 | 9 | Wards |
| Waitomo | 9,720 | 6 | Wards |
| Kawerau | 7,820 | 8 | At-large |
| Wairoa | 9,290 | 6 | Wards (1Gen. 1M) |
| Stratford | 10,300 | 11 | Wards (Urb/Rur/Māori) |
| South Wairarapa | 11,870 | 9 | Wards (+MW in 2025) |
| Grey | 14,260 | 8 | Wards |
| Buller | 9,680 | 10 | Wards |
| Hurunui | 13,800 | 10 | Wards |
| Waimate | 8,400 | 8 | Wards |
| Gore | 13,050 | 11 | Mix – Wards/At-large |
| **Carterton** | **10,250** | **8** | |

# Effective representation

- **Basis of election**

- <mark>Should members be elected by ward, at-large (across entire district) or a mix of wards and at large?</mark>

- Currently all members are elected by ward

- *LGC Guidelines:*

  - *2.16 … consider whether effective representation for identified communities of interest is best achieved by way of elections held at large, wards, or a mix of both.*

  - *5.21 General characteristics of territorial authorities that have opted for elections at large include:*

    - *the district has a relatively compact geographic area, and/or*

    - *a shared common community of interest at the district level, and/or*

    - *communities of interest that are spread across the district rather than being geographically distinct.*

- Wards are appropriate where a district has several distinct communities of interest, which can best be served by separate representation

# THREE SYSTEMS

**(example of a Council with 13 Councillors)**

## 1. AT-LARGE

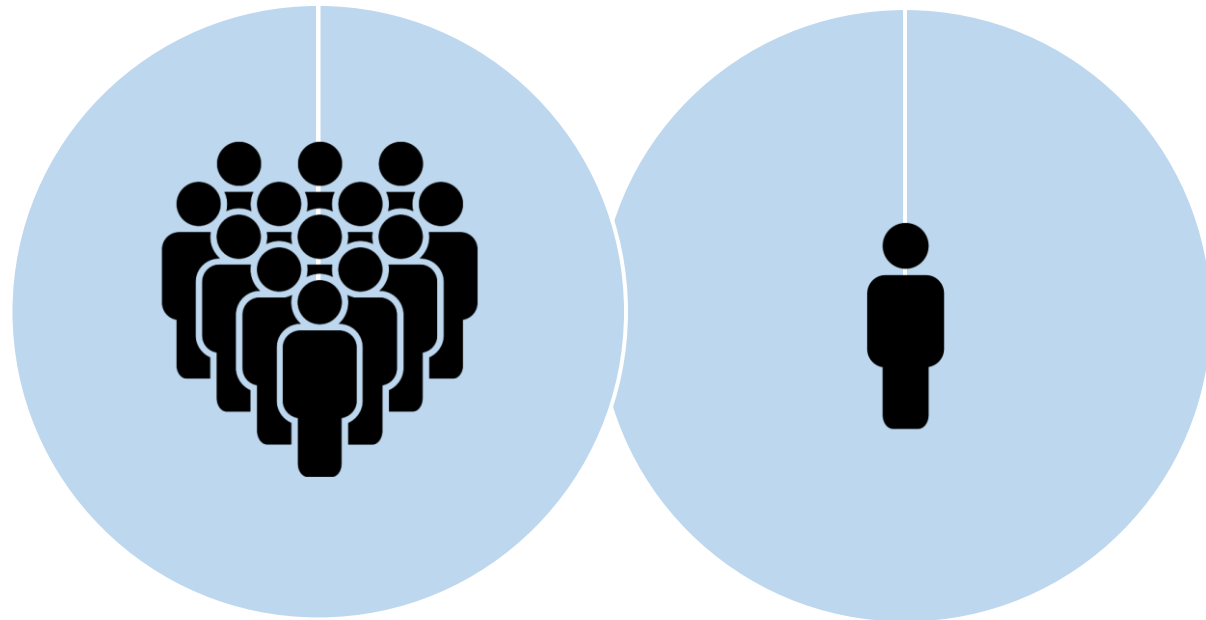**ALL Councillors
elected AT LARGE
(voted by ALL people enrolled in the
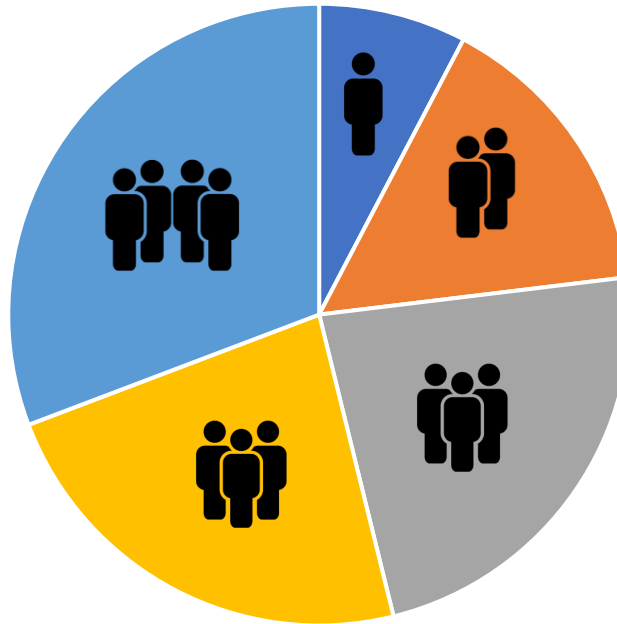district)**

**Note:
Mayor is ALWAYS elected at large**

**Examples:
Kawerau, Upper Hutt, Invercargill,
Dunedin, Kaikoura, Whanganui**

- All electors get 1 vote for Mayor
- PLUS $n$ votes for the total number of Councillors in the district

# 2. WARDS

**Councillors
elected by WARD
(voted by people
enrolled in each Ward)**

# 3. MIXED: WARDS AND AT-LARGE

**Some Councillors elected by WARD (voted by people enrolled in each ward)**
**PLUS**
**Some Councillors elected at large (voted by ALL people enrolled in the district)**

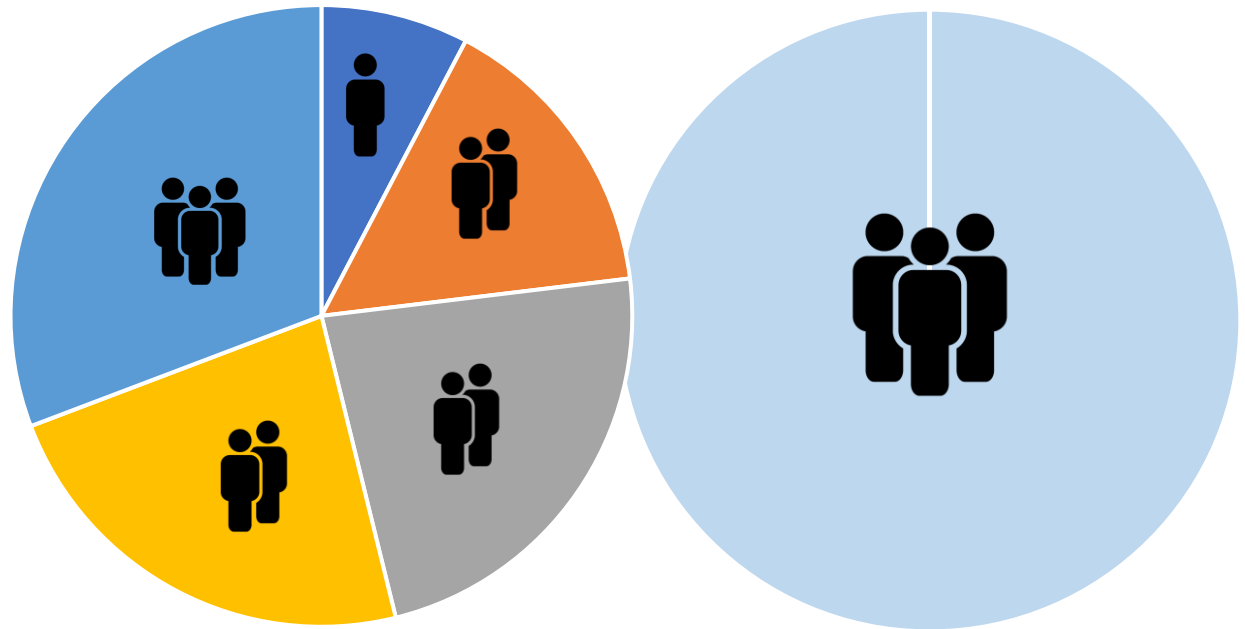**Examples:**
**Nelson, New Plymouth, Gore, Lower Hutt, Kapiti Coast**

- All electors get 1 vote for Mayor
- PLUS *n* vote/s for the number of councillors in their Ward
- PLUS *n* votes for councillors elected at-large (across district)

# Fair representation: +/-10% requirement

- Does not apply in a fully at-large arrangement
- Does apply for wards, and for wards in a mixed system
- Membership of wards … is required to provide approximate population equality per member, that is, all votes are of approximately equal value … unless there are good (prescribed) reasons to depart from this requirement (LGC Guidelines 5.29)
  - Grounds for exceptions include:
    - To provide for effective representation within isolated/island communities
    - To avoid dividing a community of interest, or combining communities with few commonalities of interest

- If wards were to be established in Carterton, the +/-10% rule would apply

| Carterton District | Population | Members | Population-member ratio |
|---|---|---|---|
| At large | 10,250 | 8 | 1,281 |

# Possible representation options to consider

- Retain the status quo (at-large)?

- Change from at-large to a wards basis
  - How many wards? eg.
  - 2 Wards: 1 Urban/1 Rural
  - 2 Wards: North/South

- Change to a mixed basis: some councillors elected by wards, some at-large (across district)

- Consider other options to address representation and participation:
  - Establish one or more community board/s, eg rural
  - Establish a rural committee (outside this Representation Review process), eg change Rural Advisory Board to a Rural Committee

# Community Boards

*LEA s19J Review of community boards*

*A territorial authority must… determine …whether, in light of the principle set out in section 4(1)(a) (which relates to fair and effective representation)*

*(a) there should be communities and community boards; and*

*(b) if so resolved, the nature of any community and the structure of any community board.*

Current status: no community board/s

- Process for establishing new Community Board/s
  - Option to seek community feedback on options through preliminary engagement
  - Council could propose new Board/s in the Initial Proposal, which will then be open for formal consultation

# Community Boards

- Why do we have Community Boards?

  - "Community boards typically represent a smaller area within their council/kaunihera, to ensure smaller communities' voices aren't lost in the big picture conversations/kōrero" (LGNZ)

  - Local functions are set through Delegations

- Requirement to review:

  - How many?

  - Boundaries

  - How many members (legislation allows for between 4 and 12)?

  - How many appointed members (must be less than half)?

  - Should there be subdivisions?

- Would Community Board/s helping to achieve effective representation?

- Do we consider engaging with community on establishing one or more new Community Boards, eg

  - Rural – what boundaries?

# Preliminary engagement

- Not a statutory process
  - Opportunity to seek early input from community on possible options or changes
  - Provide information on what the Representation Review is about
  - Provide information on process and timeline, and how people can contribute
  - Provide information on any possible changes

- Seek informal feedback and comment
  - Possible Ward boundary changes being considered
  - Possible Community Board changes being considered

- Engagement can include Community Boards, iwi, resident groups, other stakeholders

- Range of methods including online, surveys etc

- Councillors can engage with own communities

- Feedback will come back to Council and help to inform decision on the Initial Proposal
  - Initial Proposal then open for formal consultation

- Detailed plan on 24 April

# Process from here

- Today   Workshop to canvass options

- 24 April   Workshop to confirm options

- May   Preliminary engagement on options

- 5 June   Workshop to receive feedback and confirm preferred option

- 26 June   Council meeting to adopt Initial Proposal

  - Public notification

- July (tbc)   Initial Proposal open for submissions

- 4 August (tbc) Submissions close

- 20 August (tbc) Hearings and deliberations on Final Proposal

- 18 September Council meeting to adopt Final Proposal

  - Public notification and appeals/objections open

*Thank You*

*Questions?*