

What is a Representation Review?

In New Zealand every three years, elections are held for local councils. This includes Mayors, Councillors, Community Board members and Local Board members. These are called the triennial elections.

In addition to these elections, local councils are also required to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years. As part of the Representation Review, councils take a fresh look at the existing structure, including their membership and the way Councillors are elected.

Any member of the public can make a written submission on a proposed Representation Review. The Council considers all submissions and may change its proposals as a result.

A Review Must Consider the Following:

- Whether Council members should be elected from the whole district (at large), wards, or from a mixture of both wards and 'at large'.
- The areas of any wards and constituencies and their boundaries.
- The number of members to be elected from any ward and constituency.
- Whether there should be Community Boards in a district.
- If there are to be Community Boards, the number of members of the Board, the boundaries of the community and whether the area is to be divided for electoral purposes.

Your Role as a Panel Member:

As a Panel Member it will be your job to engage with the public. We will need you to be able to explain easily and clearly what a Representation Review is and what the consequences of changing the system will mean to the voting public, both positive and negative. We will also be depending on you to be engaging and able to interpret individual's opinions and help develop them into a workable document.

You will need to bring together the opinions of the public, work through the feedback you have received and draw on your own insights and that of your fellow panel members to write a comprehensive report for Council on what you think would be the best way for the community to be represented by the Invercargill City Council.

Your report for the Representation Review needs to be based on evidence and needs to show that the panel have worked to present information that is relevant and not just based on their individual opinions. It will be important for you to be thorough and comprehensive in detailing your conclusions. We will ask that you use quotes and references for your suggestions so that the Council understands the basis for your insights.

The Process is as Follows:

- The Representation Review Panel will meet to discuss the current electoral system.
- The Panel will engage with the public to educate and gather opinions.
- The Panel will meet as a group to develop a proposal for representation arrangements.
- Once a written report is ready, this will be presented to Council and made available to the public.
- The Council will consider the Panel's report and make a decision using their report as guidance.
- Once the Council makes a decision it will be open to public submission.
- Upon review of the public submissions Council may maintain their decision or change it depending on the public feedback.

Once the decisions are made final, Council will submit a report to the Local Government Commission and the representation arrangements will stay in effect for six years or until the next review.

What is Required of Your Time:

As a member of the Panel, you will be expected to attend three meetings with the public and three meetings with your fellow panel members. You will also be expected to attend the Council meeting at which your report will be presented.

It is estimated that you will spend about 20 hours of your time on meetings activities and an additional five hours in preparation and research over the course of 3 months. The total time that we expect this will require is about 25 hours for which you will be remunerated.

Where Do I Get More Information?

If you would like to know more about the Representation Review, please contact the Corporate Planning Department on 211 1777 or by email policy@icc.govt.nz.

Council is accepting written expressions of interest. Please include any relevant skills that you have that you feel will benefit the Review Panel.