



How can we represent you?

Te Arotake Pōti-ā-Rohe

In 2021 Invercargill City Council is undertaking a Representation Review. This occurs every six years and is required by the Local Electoral Act 2001.

We are also asking whether we should have a Māori ward.

What is a Representation Review?

This Review looks at all aspects of how the residents of Invercargill are represented on Council. This includes Community Boards.

We are asking our community:

- How many Councillors should we have? *We currently have 12 plus the Mayor and can have as few as six and as many as 30!*
- Should we elect the Councillors 'at large' (status quo), introduce a Ward system or have a mixture of both?
- Should there be a Māori Ward in Invercargill?
- Should we retain the Bluff Community Board? If so how many members should it have? Are there other areas in Invercargill which should also have Community Boards?

How can we represent you?

The Review is now underway!

We are seeking feedback and comment on all aspects of representation.

You can share your feedback with any level of detail you like - whether it be a quick comment, or you'd like a more detailed discussion.

These issues affect everyone who lives in our city district.

Email us at repreview@icc.govt.nz

Feedback on this part of the Representation Review closes 30 April 2021.

Your Community Panel

Invercargill City Council has appointed a Community Panel, Chaired by Councillor Rebecca Amundsen, to talk with the

Community and gather views which will be used to create a formal report.

Community Panel members will be asking you how ICC can best represent you.

The Panel members are;

- Councillor Rebecca Amundsen (Chair)
- Anna Ford
- David Pottinger
- Aditi Raj
- Michael Skerrett

Your Community Panel will be out and about at events, or keen to chat with anyone they interact with in their own communities about the Representation Review.

If you see them, feel free to ask about the Representation Review, and share your thoughts with them!

Next Steps

There are formal and informal requirements and stages of the Representation Review process.

After the Council has considered the Community Panel's report, Council will prepare the "Initial Proposal".

The Initial Proposal will reflect the feedback from the Panel's report and the community.

When the Initial Proposal is adopted by Council, there will be another chance to have your say - as it will be open to submissions from the community.

There will be a formal hearing process for these submissions and from this, Council will prepare a "Final Proposal".

This is then notified to the public and it can be appealed to the Local Government Commission, which will determine the appeal in time for the 2022 Election.

In 2015 there were no appeals to the Council Final Proposal.

Want to know more?

This booklet includes more details on Māori Wards, what a Ward system might look like for Invercargill, how community boards might be defined, and what might impact the number of councillors we should have.

If you have more questions, contact repreview@icc.govt.nz

Important info about 'representation'

There are two key concepts that form a Representation Review - *Communities of Interest* and *Fair and Effective Representation*.

Communities of Interest

A Community of Interest is a community that has a sense of common identity and belonging.

This might be because of geographical features of their area, economic or social activities tied to their area, distinct local history, and/or a rohe of local hapu/iwi. There could also be a distinct shared set of facilities that the community use.

Usually, a Community of Interest is linked to a specific geographical area (for example, a particular suburb or township).

Think about this in the context of Invercargill;

- Are there communities that have a strong sense of identity and belonging at a smaller level than Invercargill City as a whole?
- What about areas that might have a distinct history that is unique to that area, rather than being part of the historical narrative of Invercargill?

Fair and Effective Representation

Fair and Effective Representation is about making sure each Community of Interest has a level of representation at Council which means that the community is advocated for and their views are heard.

This means that it might not be effective to group two different Communities of Interest together if they don't have much in common - as that would not enable fair representation.

What is a Ward? And what does At Large mean?

Elections to Invercargill City Council are currently done on an "At Large" basis. This means that all 12 Councillors are elected from anywhere within the district, and they do not represent a single area. It means you can approach any of the 12 councillors about any particular issue in the city.

A Ward is where a Councillor is nominated to stand and represent a certain area. Where this happens, the City is divided up into a number of "Wards" and each Ward will have a certain number of Councillors to represent it.

You can have a mix of both. So, for example, (based on the current number of councillors) you could have six elected by Ward and six At Large. This model can also work where there is a Māori Ward.

There are several rules that apply to having a Ward system, this includes that each Ward needs to have plus or minus 10 percent of the population in other Wards, and that the ratio of people per member in each ward needs to be plus or minus 10 percent of the ratio for the City as a whole.

Confused? Check out the maps at the back of this booklet for maps showing how Wards could work, following the population rules!

Wards are often seen as providing for more direct representation of communities like Bluff, Otatara, Omaui, or Kennington.

However, to ensure compliance with the rules, a number of communities often need to be linked together and have one Councillor representing them because their populations aren't large enough on their own- as is shown on the maps.

This means 'At Large' is sometimes seen as a better way to ensure all communities are free to contact whichever Councillor they would like, and works where the council's district is compact.

Check out the section on Community Boards to see how this might be another option for representing communities.

Common Questions

Q: Can we have Wards and At Large?

A: Yes, we can have a number of Councillors elected from a Ward and a number from At Large.

Q: Do Wards have names?

A: Yes, each Ward would have a name to reflect it.

More about Māori Wards

Following a recent change to the Law, Council is able to look at the issue of whether Invercargill should have a Māori Ward.

A Māori Ward would work on the basis of all people enrolled on the Māori Roll (Te Tai Tonga

is the electorate that covers Invercargill for the elections to Parliament) would be able to vote for a candidate in the Māori Ward.

The Local Electoral Act sets out the formula for how many Councillors will be elected in the Māori Ward - in Invercargill this will be one Councillor.

Common questions

Q: Can I vote for more than one Councillor if I am enrolled on the Māori Roll and there is a Māori Ward?

A: No, you would only be able to vote for one person to represent you as a Councillor, but you will still be able to vote for the Mayor.

Q: Is there a way I could vote for more than one?

A: Yes, if Council was to adopt a mixed system of some Wards and some Councillors elected At Large then you would be able to vote for the Candidate in the Māori Ward and the number of Councillors standing At Large.

Q: Will the Candidates need to be Māori to stand?

A: Candidates will not need to be on the Māori Roll or even live in the Ward area, they will however need to be nominated by two people who do live in the Ward area and are on the Māori Roll.

Q: Is there a difference between Mana Whenua and Maata Waka Māori?

A: Yes, but either may be elected to the Māori Ward.

Community Boards

A Community Board is a subset of Council. It is elected to ensure there is adequate governance for a specific area.

Invercargill only has one Community Board – Bluff. In the past we had two others – Otatara and Bush.

Community Boards ensure there are local voices being heard and able to make decisions.

They also ensure there is fair and effective representation for a community of interest.

Common questions

Q: How many Community Boards can we have?

A: There is no limit, however each Board would need to be justified as to why it is needed.

Q: What powers does a Community Board have?

A: The powers of a Community Board are delegated by Council - this would be defined at a later conversation.

Number of Councillors

There is no set number for the number of Councillors on a Council. Each community should have the number of Councillors it considers necessary to ensure a good job is done.

We currently have 12 plus the Mayor.

The Act sets that the minimum number is six and the maximum is 30. The average for councils with populations of between 45,000 and 55,000 people is 11.5 Councillors.

Councils need to have enough Councillors to ensure there is an even work load and that the business of Council is efficient.

Too few Councillors can result in burn-out and very limited effective representation.

Too many Councillors can result in a number of Councillors having less involvement and not being seen as contributing.

Councillors pay is set independently of Council.

An amount is determined by the Remuneration Authority based on what they consider is appropriate to govern a City the size of Invercargill. This is then split up between the Councillors so there would be a pay rise for Councillors if there were fewer people elected, and a pay decrease if there were more Councillors (at its most basic).

The Mayoral salary is separate from the amount set for Councillors.

Common Questions

Q: How many Councillors do we have to have?

A: There is no fixed number, we can have as few as six and as many as 30.

Q: Do those numbers include the Mayor?

A: No, the Mayor is not considered as part of the number of Councillors.

Q: If we have less Councillors, that means we'd be paying less through our rates, right?

A: No. Councillors are paid from a 'pool' of funding set by the Remuneration Authority. The number of Councillors we have doesn't affect the funding pool.

So - How can we represent you?

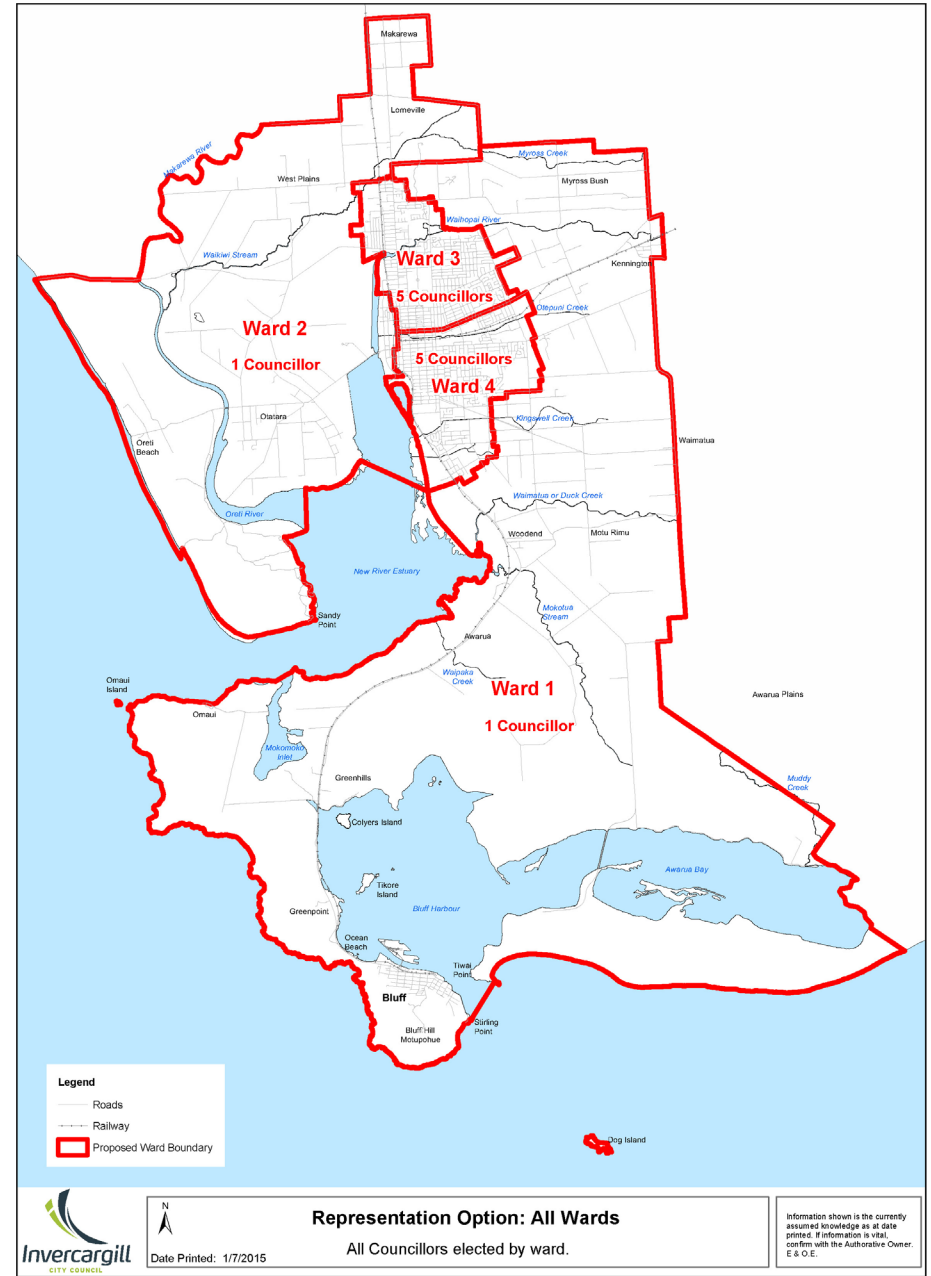
Send us your feedback via email at repreview@icc.govt.nz

Feedback on this stage of the process ends 30 April 2021- we look forward to your views!

Current Electoral System – Representation at large



All Wards



All Wards

