



Initial proposal Information document Te Arotake Pōti-ā-Rohe

Overview

In 2021, Invercargill City Council has undertaken a Representation Review. This occurs every 6 years and is required by the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act).

What is a Representation Review?

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

It looks at:

- Number of Councillors (we currently have 12, plus the Mayor, and can have as few as 6, and as many as 30).
- Should we elect the Councillors at large (status quo), or introduce a ward system, or have a mix?
- Do we retain the Bluff Community Board? If so, how many members, and/or do we have more Community Boards?

One of the principles of the Act is to implement 'fair and effective representation for individuals and communities'. Our last review was held in 2015 meaning we are now due to look at these arrangements.

In February 2021 we recruited a community panel to engage with our community and gather feedback on what the community would like to see in these arrangements. Copies are online or we can post one to you.

This document does not address the voting system that Council uses. That discussion is the use of a First Past the Post system that we are using, and the Single Transferable Vote system that many councils now use. This will next be up for discussion in 2023.

Our Initial Proposal

This is a formal requirement of the Act. At the Council meeting on 22 July 2021 a review took place of its representation arrangements for the October 2022 Elections. It resolved the following proposal:

- Council will comprise of 12 Councillors and the Mayor
- All 12 Councillors will be elected 'at large' across the city
- The Bluff Community Board shall be retained, with 5 elected members, one appointed Councillor and retain the existing boundaries.

Please see below for more information on each of these topics plus information on the option of a Community Board at Otatara.

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, and the proposal is to retain this.

The Act sets that the minimum number of Councillors is 6 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 workload and that the business of Council is efficient, too few Councillors can mean burn out and very limited effective representation, too many Councillors can mean a number of Councillors not involved and not being seen as contributing.

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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 less and a pay decrease if there were more Councillors (at its most basic). The Mayoral salary is not included in these figures, this is separate again.

The Community Panel has recommended the retention of 12 Councillors at this time to help provide for the greater opportunity of diversity on Council, ensuring that Council is representative of our community.

Elections by Wards or At Large?

Elections to Invercargill City Council are currently done on an "at large" basis and this is proposed to remain the system we use.

This means that all 12 Councillors are elected from all over and they do not represent any one area. This means that all 12 can be approached about any issue in any area.

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, for example, (based on current Councillor numbers) you could have 6 elected by ward and 6 at large.

There are a number of rules that we must follow, this includes that each ward needs to have plus or minus 10 percent of the population in other wards, and this includes a requirement for the ratio of persons per member in each ward to be within plus or minus 10 percent of the ratio for the city as a whole.

The proposal is to remain at large. The maps included in Addendum 1 show potential wards and a mix of wards and at large based on the 12 Councillors it is proposed to retain.

What do you think?

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 and it is proposed that the Bluff Community Board be retained. Bluff is a community of interest within the Invercargill city district. It has its own unique character, commercial, economic, social, historical and geographical factors that help create this community. A Community Board is a way that Councils allow for communities of interest, like Bluff, to have a voice and be represented at a governance level. Bluff was also a standalone Borough until the Council reorganisations of 1989. Addendum 2 is a map showing the Bluff Community Board boundary.

In the past we had two other Community Boards – Otatara and Bush.

These two Boards were created in 1989 following the Council reorganisation. However, over the following years both were disestablished in 2004.

Over the past two years there has been a change in the Otatara community and there have been some calls for a Community Board to be re-established there. This proposal is not recommending this as there has been a lack of support indicated to the Community Panel and our Council.

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However, we are asking you this question – Otatara, would you like to see a Community Board re-established in Otatara? If so, please submit and tell us.

Here is some information about the possible Otatara Community Board that might help you:

Name

The Otatara Community Board

Boundaries

There are two options for this that can be explored.

Option 1 – is to use the Otatara zone boundary of the Invercargill City District Plan. This is shown in the red boundary in the Map in Addendum 3.

Option 2 – is to use what was the 1989 Otatara Ward boundary which covers a much greater area and is much of Western Invercargill from the Airport to Oreti Beach (shown in green in the map in Addendum 3).

Number of Members

There would be 5 elected members (including a Chair) and one Councillor nominated by the Council, this accords with what is proposed for Bluff.

Costs

The costs of a Community Board are met by those who live within the boundary of the Board. This is charged by way of a targeted rate. As an example, the Bluff Community Board has direct costs of \$95,450.00. This is collected by a targeted rate.

This would be divided amongst all household/rating units within whichever Board boundary is chosen. This will increase rates in Otatara. The table below for the 2021/2022 years shows how it is divided up for Bluff. Note all figures include GST.

Bluff Community Board Residential	\$0.00027860	Per \$ capital value	1	\$67,074
Bluff Community Board Rate Lifestyle	\$0.00027024	Per \$ capital value	0.97	\$8,057
Bluff Community Board Rate Farming	\$0.00015044	Per \$ capital value	0.54	\$4,020
Bluff Community Board Rate Commercial	\$0.00027860	Per \$ capital value	1	\$5,975
Bluff Community Board Rate Industrial	\$0.00027860	Per \$ capital value	1	\$10,324

It is likely that a similar measure would be put in place for Otatara. The figures do not currently include indirect costs such as administration and staff support. These additional costs will need to be considered by Council on top of this direct cost.

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Time frames – what is next?

The following table sets out the timetable for the rest of the Representation Review from here:

TASK DESCRIPTION	DATE
Council Committee meeting to revise options and recommend Initial Proposal	13 July
Council meeting to formally resolve Initial Proposal	27 July
Public Notice of the Initial Proposal and Submissions open!	10 August
Close of submissions	17 September
Within 6 weeks of close of submissions*:	
Hearings	4-6 October
Deliberations and recommendation to Council	TBC
Council meeting to determine Final Proposal	26 October
Advertisement – Public Notice* (6 weeks)	29 October
Appeals and objections – at least 1 month	3 December
Forward appeals and objections to Local Government Commission	By 15 January 2022

This timetable can change, if there are no submissions on the Initial Proposal then it will become the Final Proposal and Public Notice of this is given, which then is open to appeals.

Depending on how many submissions are received there is room to hold deliberations closer to the Hearing. We will advertise any changes to this timetable.

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So – how can we represent you?

How we represent you on Council is a question that affects everyone who lives in our city.

What do you think?

Are you happy with what we have proposed here? Then let us know.

If you do not like this Proposal then we need to know, tell us and tell us why you do not like it and what you would prefer to see.

Would you like to see a Community Board in Otatara?

Then tell us, now is the chance. The next review will take place in 2027!

We are also interested in your views on our voting system – First Past the Post or Single Transferable Vote. Tell us what you would like to use and why?

Council's "Initial Proposal" is open for submissions until 5.00pm on Friday, 17 September 2021.

Submissions must:

1. Clearly show the submitters name, address and contact phone number.
2. Be addressed to Rep Review, and be clearly labelled 'SUBMISSION – REPRESENTATION REVIEW'.
3. Indicate whether you wish to be heard by Council in support of his / her/ their submission

Submissions can be:

Completed online: Complete an online submission in our Survey Monkey <https://icc.govt.nz/RepReview>

Emailed to: Repreview@icc.govt.nz now.

Delivered to: Civic Administration Building
101 Esk Street Invercargill

Posted to: **Submission – Representation Review**
Invercargill City Council
Private Bag 90104
Invercargill 9840

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Representation Review 'Initial Proposal' Submission Form

SUBMITTER DETAILS

Please note in making a submission your name and address will be publicly available as part of your submission.

First name: _____ Surname: _____

Postal address: _____ Phone: _____

Postcode: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURNING YOUR SUBMISSION

Return by 5.00 pm, Friday 17 September

Submit online

<https://icc.govt.nz/RepReview>

Deliver to:

Civic Administration Building
101 Esk Street
INVERCARGILL 9810

Post to:

Submission Representation Review
Invercargill City Council
Private Bag 90104
INVERCARGILL 9840

Email to:

repreview@icc.govt.nz

PRESENTATION OF SUBMISSION

Please tick as appropriate. If neither of the boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard.

I wish to speak to the Mayor and Councillors about my submission.

I do NOT wish to speak to the Mayor and Councillors about my submission.

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1. Do you agree that Invercargill District should elect its Councillors at large (no use of Wards)?

Yes

No

2. Do you agree with 12 Councillors for the Invercargill District?

Yes

No

3. Do you agree with retaining the Bluff Community Board (five elected board members and one appointed Council Representative, with no change to Board Boundaries)?

Yes

No

4. Should there be any other Community Boards?

Yes

No

5. Any other comments

PTO

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Addendum 1 - At Large vs Wards vs A Mix



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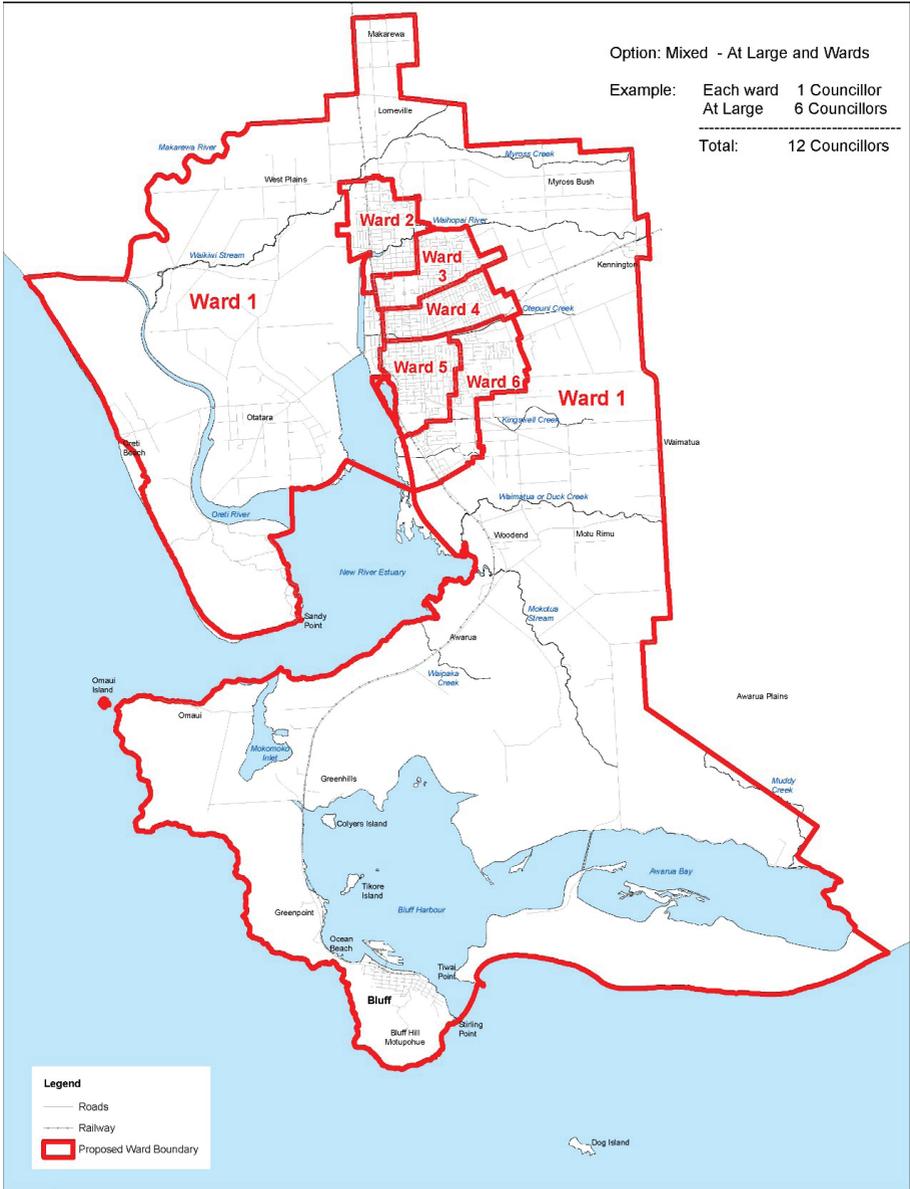
Representation Option - All Wards



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Representation Option - Mixed System



Representation Option: Mixed System
Date Printed: 25/3/2009

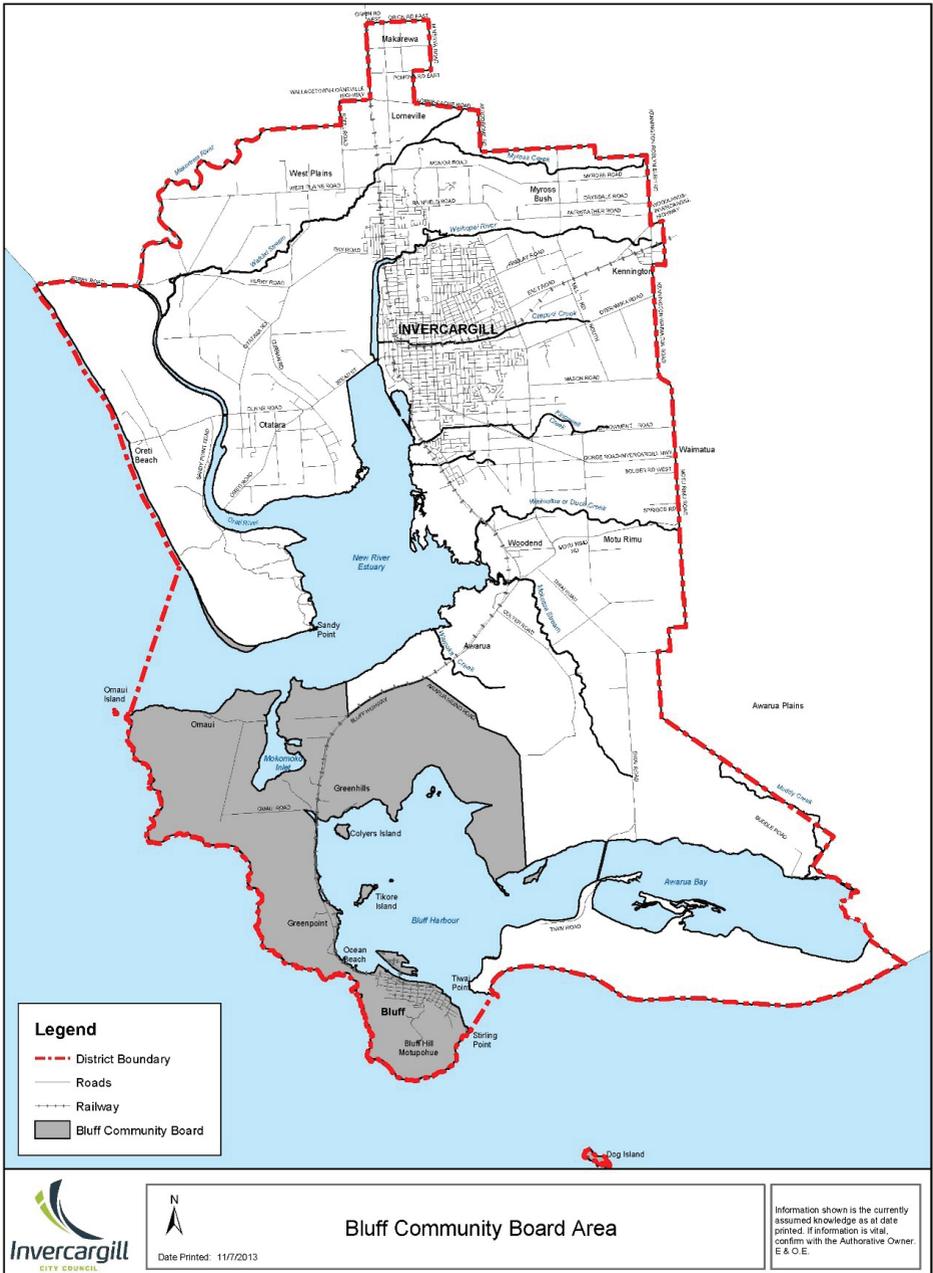
Representation Option: Mixed System
Some Councillors elected by ward and some at large.

Information shown is the currently assumed knowledge as at date printed. If information is vital, confirm with the Authorative Owner. E & O.E.

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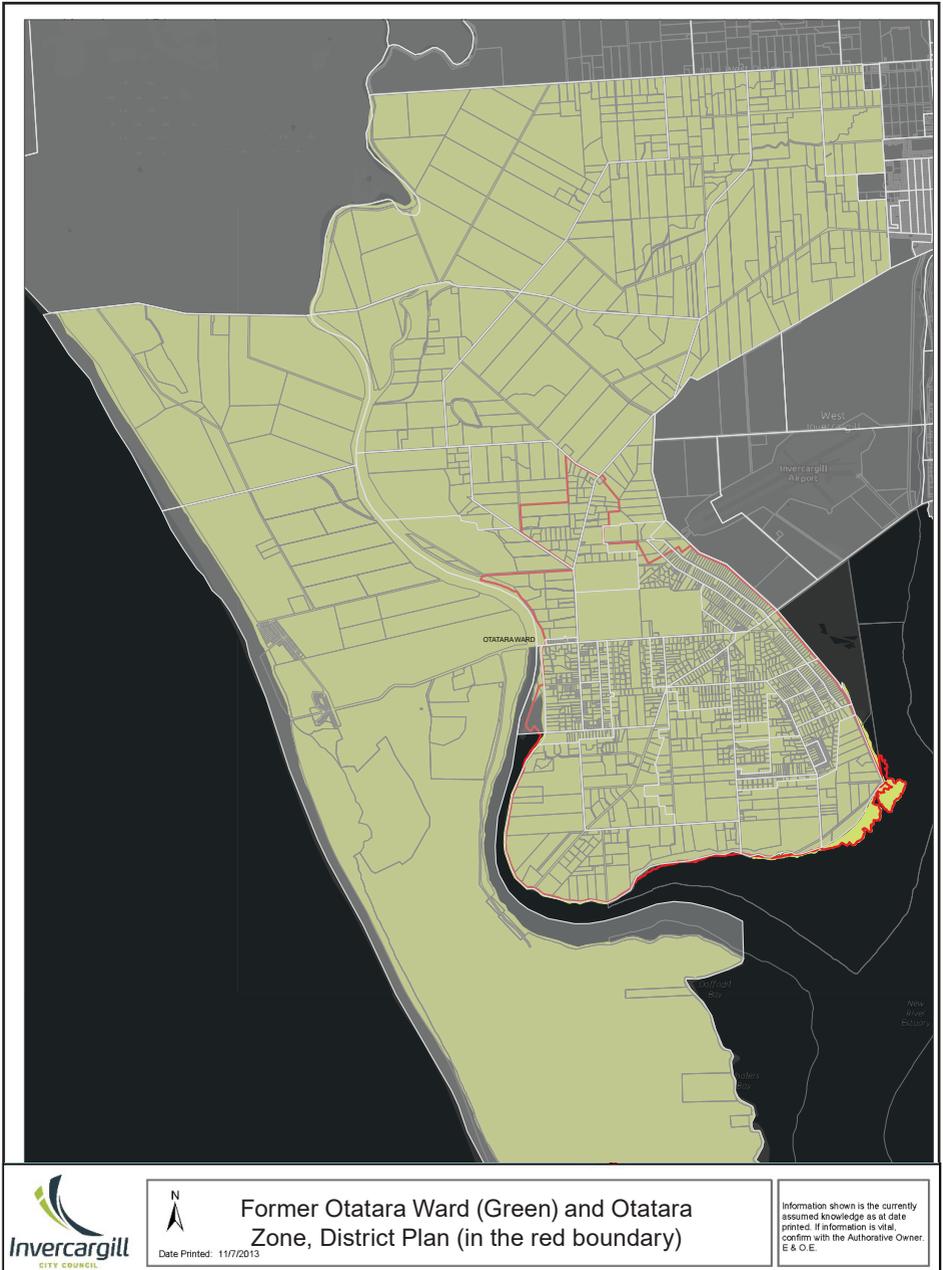
Addendum 2 - Bluff Community Board Boundary



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Addendum 3 - Otatara Boundary options



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Initial proposal
Information document

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