

Submission on the Representation review for the 2019 and 2022 Wellington City Council elections

To the Wellington City Council

May 2018

We would like to appear in person to support our written submission

Contact Person

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Chair

On behalf of the Wellington City Youth Council

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Introduction

1. The Wellington City Youth Council welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Representation review for the 2019 and 2022 Wellington City Council elections. We recognise the important nature of this consultation for the representation of our city, and the need to provide fair representation across the city.

Overview of Submission

2. The submission by the Wellington City Youth Council on the Representation Review will address the following topics:
 - a. Proposed Boundary Changes
 - b. Bilingual Ward Names

Proposed Boundary Changes

3. Ensuring a balanced population between the wards is essential to provide fair representation to all residents of Wellington City.
4. Youth Council feels these proposed boundary changes are relatively minor, and all are common sense. These changes align ward boundaries more closely with geographic and suburb boundaries. In doing so, they ensure communities or interest are protected.
5. We note that some ward boundaries do mean that representation is marginally outside the desired +/- 10% variance, but agree with Council that it is more important for communities of interest to not be arbitrarily split, in favour of strict compliance with the Act.
6. We feel these ward boundaries closely match what young people in Wellington City would broadly consider to be their 'local community'.

Bilingual Ward Names

7. The Youth Council would like to congratulate the Wellington City Council for proposing te reo Ward names, and endorse their adoption by Council for the 2019, and 2022 elections.
8. We feel this is an important first step in realising the new Te Reo Maori policy, and a significant move towards Wellington City becoming a bilingual city.
9. We feel Council should adopt the wide spread usage of these names as soon as possible, to encourage their usage in time for the 2019 election. Increasing the recognition of not only the new te reo Ward names, but also the background of these names, will be important in increasing their adoption.

Summary

10. The Wellington City Youth Council supports the proposed boundary changes to align boundaries more closely with communities of interest. The proposed changes strike a fair balance between ensuring fair representation ratios, and protecting communities of interest from being split.
11. The Youth Council fully support the adoption of te reo Ward names, alongside the current English names. Educational information about the names and their backgrounds should be published to increase adoption.