
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

MAKARA/OHARIU COMMUNITY BOARD

MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

Time: 7.30pm
Date: Thursday, 12 February 2015
Venue: Makara Hall
366 Makara Road
Makara
Wellington

Business

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**3.8 Submission to the Local Government Commission Draft
Proposal for Reorganisation of Local Government in Wellington**

1. Submission on the LGC's Draft Proposal for Reorganisation of Local Government in Wellington 2

MAKARA/OHARIU COMMUNITY BOARD

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The Makara/Ohariu Community Board comes under the Wellington City Council, along with the Tawa Community Board, and provides advice to the Wellington City Council on specific issues as they relate or affect the Makara and Ohariu communities.

As Chair of the Board, I wish to appear before the Commission at a public hearing.

The Board does not support the draft proposal in its present form. While we do accept the Government's wish to bring about greater efficiencies in the administration of Local Body Politics, our concern is that the present proposal does not give sufficient recognition to "Communities of Interest".

The reason why we do not support the current model is that we consider that the Makara and Ohariu areas as they currently are defined, constitute a particular Community of Interest. The people who live in these areas do feel an affinity with the area, and with each other. Indeed, it is our understanding that the original purpose of establishing the Makara and Ohariu Community Board was to give special recognition to this particular rural area and to allow the people to have a voice at the Wellington City Council.

Part of the uniqueness of this area is that we do not have the same services and facilities which are enjoyed by everyone else in all of the areas which it is proposed will form the Greater Wellington Council. We do not have reticulated water, or sewerage. Residents in Makara and Ohariu are reliant on rain water and other water sources, and sewerage is disposed of by septic tanks. Realistically, it is highly unlikely that this will ever change, and, in our view, this does add to the particular and special issues that relate to this "community of interest". These issues are also unlikely to be of any interest or concern to representatives on the Greater Wellington Council.

The area that the Board is responsible for covers 63% of the land area currently administered by the Wellington City Council. It is rural, mainly consisting of farming activities and lifestyle blocks, which also encompasses a substantial coastline, and provides the basis for many recreational activities not just enjoyed by the residents but also the wider Wellington urban dwellers. This creates pressures between the urban and rural community, because understandably the urban community seeks to have access to the rural environment, but this is confined to limited road access, much of which is very narrow and winding. Again these pressures are unlikely to be of any interest to the

proposed representatives on the Greater Wellington Council. Their interests are going to be directed to the large urban population that they will be tasked to represent, the small rural population which we currently represent will, we feel, be swallowed up, forgotten and ignored.

Over the years the Makara and Ohariu communities, through the Board, has been supported by the Wellington City Council. There are regular Board meetings throughout the year, which are attended by representatives of the Wellington City Council. Board members do attend meetings at the Council on issues that affect the area, and there has always been an open line of communication between the Board and Council.

Our difficulty is putting forward an alternative to the current model, because when one reads the 288 pages of the Draft Proposal, there is no mention of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board and the area it represents, which suggests to us that we have been completely ignored. Our aim in this submission is to ensure that there is some means of our interests being heard. It is inappropriate in our view to say that we stand any chance of being represented by the new Ohariu representatives as they will be concerned with the some 70,000 residents, with each Councillor being responsible for some 23,000 each. As the population of the current Makara and Ohariu is less than 2000, it is unlikely that we will be heard, particularly bearing in mind that our concerns are so different to those in the urban areas. The costs that we are aware of in addressing some of the concerns are unlikely to be absorbed within the remit of the proposed councillors, or Local Board members, so in our view there needs to be some dedicated and specific representation for such a large area of the Wellington region, notwithstanding its limited population.

We thank you for the opportunity which allows us to make these submissions, and trust that you will give them due and careful consideration.

Christine Grace
Chair
Makara/Ohariu Community Board.