

Monday 29 May 2006

Representation Review 2006
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Wellington City Council
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WELLINGTON.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD SUBMISSION TO THE 2006 REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Tawa Community Board is the appropriate body to provide fair and effective representation for the Tawa community and can contribute effectively to the promotion of good local government. It should continue to operate as it currently does.

The main attributes of the Board which confirm its ability to effectively represent the community and provide essential and informed advice to Council can be expressed as follows:

- Locally elected representation
- Local knowledge at grass roots level
- Represents Tawa as a distinct community of interest
- Responds to the needs of the Tawa community.
- Quickly and effectively provides Council with the collective views of the Tawa community.

The Board has been asked by Council to respond in its submission with answers to a number of specific questions posed in the report to the Board dated 11 May 2006. These are dealt with as follows:

Q. Should the Board continue to operate?

A. Yes - for the reasons already stated earlier in this submission. In addition we believe that more Community Boards should be established in Wellington to improve community representation.

Q. If so should it continue to operate as it currently is or should it be united with another (adjacent) community?

A. It should continue to operate as it currently is. Tawa is the northernmost “village” area in the Wellington District and is an almost geographically separate community with a strong community focus.

Q. Are any boundary adjustments required (i.e. does the area over which the Board has jurisdiction need to be re – defined)?

A. No – the present boundaries effectively encompass a population within a defined community of interest.

Q. Does the Tawa community or any new proposed Community Board, need to be subdivided for electoral purposes?

A. No – the present Council electoral boundaries should remain. However other Community Boards may have to be subdivided for electoral purposes to ensure that communities of interest are fairly represented.

Q. How many members should be elected to the Board?

A. The Board has always operated effectively with 6 elected members and this has proved to be an appropriate community representation for our population base.

Q. Should any members be appointed to the Board and if so how many?

A. We believe that there is a potential, if not real, conflict of interest in Councilors holding voting rights on a Community Board and therefore question Councilor appointments to the Board. We do however believe that it is imperative that Ward Councilors attend **all Board** meetings with full speaking rights as it is when Board members attend Council committees on matters relating to our area.