

REPORT 7
(1215/12/IM)

**RATIFICATION OF TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD
SUBMISSION TO GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL
COUNCIL 2006 REPRESENTATION REVIEW**

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Ratify the Tawa Community Board submission to the Greater Wellington Regional Council 2006 Representation Review.*

Attached is the Tawa Community Board Submission to the Greater Wellington Regional Council 2006 Review.

Tawa Community Board Submission on Greater Wellington Regional Council's Proposed Representation Arrangements

INTRODUCTION

Tawa Community Board recognises the need for the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to balance the interests and the needs of the various territorial authority areas in its region and the statutory constraints with which it is required to comply when undertaking a review of its representation arrangements.

We are concerned that the electors of Wellington City including Tawa will be under-represented on the GWRC if the notified proposal is finally adopted, however the Tawa Community Board does not wish to formally oppose the proposal.

The Board is concerned that with the expected population growth in Tawa the under-representation will increase to an unacceptable level within the near future.

The Board is concerned that should the GWRC choose not to carry out its next representation review for another six years (i.e. in 2012 in time for the 2013 local authority elections) as the law allows, the electors within Wellington including Tawa will be at a disadvantaged.

CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

The decision by GWRC to base its constituency boundaries on territorial authority areas or by unifying territorial authority areas, and the reasons for doing so, are noted.

It is accepted that the setting of constituency boundaries is constrained, in some part, by the legislation and that the use of territorial authority boundaries (as the constituency boundaries in the most part) have been appropriate in the past.

The Board notes that one of the earlier options investigated by the GWRC involved the possible joining of the current Kapiti and Porirua constituencies together with Linden, Tawa, Greenacres and Churton Park to form one constituency with three members. The Tawa Community Board is opposed to the transfer of these areas from Wellington into a combined Kapi-Mana constituency at the present time and the GWRC's decision to reject that option is therefore supported.

However, in view of issues such as the anticipation of population growth, which is now becoming more evident, serious consideration, may need to be given to determining constituency boundaries on a geographic or regional council functions basis in the future.

We acknowledge that it is very difficult to provide for fair and effective representation for the electors of the various territorial authorities in the region.

However, for the reasons outlined above relating to population change, and in order to ensure that the electors of Wellington City receive fair and effective representation on the regional council, it is recommended that the GWRC give serious consideration to carrying out its next representation review in 2009 (in time for the 2010 local authority elections) despite the fact that it is not legally required to carry out another review until 2012.

Thank you for consideration of our submission.

Chair and Members – Tawa Community Board
Ngaire Best (Chair)
Penny Devine
Tony Parker
Graeme Sutton
Robert Tredger
Malcolm Sparrow