

Wairarapa's Future

Local Government Reform



DOWN TO TWO OPTIONS

The future function and form of local government in Wairarapa has been a topic of investigation and discussion for 18 months. Two clear options for Wairarapa have now emerged, based on two separate reviews.

Late last year a Working Party of 3 mayors, 3 deputy mayors, 3 councillors and 3 chief executives representing Wairarapa's three district councils set aside the interests of their own organisations to work on local government reform for Wairarapa.

Based on detailed investigations and feedback received from Wairarapa people, the Working Party is recommending that the three councils should become one - a single Wairarapa Council. This council would be fully elected by Wairarapa people and fully represent Wairarapa people. It would be responsible for all district and regional council activities - a one-stop shop. The proposed representation structure and powers of a Wairarapa Council are outlined in Option 1 below.

Change is inevitable. The government has made it clear that it wants fewer councils. It has a Bill before Parliament that will remove the automatic right for the people of a region to vote on its reorganisation. Proposals by other parties could determine how Wairarapa people are represented and governed in the future.

Wairarapa's vision

A strong, friendly, thriving Wairarapa, valuing community and environment - the vision for Wairarapa adopted by Carterton, Masterton and South Wairarapa District Councils in consultation with 22 Wairarapa groups - April 2012

Over the past year more than 1400 Wairarapa people have had their say

Their feedback has been clear and consistent:

- They want strong representation and, if change is inevitable, strongly favour one Wairarapa Council
- The least favoured option is for Wairarapa to be part of a Wellington super-city style council
- Wairarapa is a different community of interest from Wellington
- Strategic links between regions are important & they should be in place in some form

What other proposals might affect Wairarapa?

- Last month an alternative proposal was made by the Wellington Review Panel, in a separate review process of the Wellington region. The panel was appointed by the Greater Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council. Under the Panel's proposal, Wairarapa would be governed by a super-city style Greater Wellington Council. There would be no regional council. As part of the structure, Wairarapa would have a 'local area council' with limited powers and functions.
- Wellington City Council is separately considering two councils - one for metropolitan Wellington (combining Wellington City, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Porirua and Kapiti councils) and one for Wairarapa (combining Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa councils). Again, there would be no regional council.
- There may be other proposals.

Where does this leave Wairarapa?

There are now really only two realistic options for Wairarapa:

- Option 1** A single Wairarapa Council responsible for all district and regional activities
- Option 2** Being part of a super-city style council or similar to that proposed by the Wellington Review Panel

Under both of these options a Wairarapa District Council with a separate regional council will not be possible. The new councils will be exactly that - new councils that will look and operate quite differently from the councils we have now.

The two proposed council structures and the responsibilities of the components under each are shown in the diagrams below.

Next steps

The Working Party is now drawing together the final information needed to form a draft proposal for change and discussing this with all councillors in Wairarapa. It is also looking at how Wairarapa might work together with neighbouring councils in areas such as transport and economic development.

The next steps are:

- A hui on 21 November of all Wellington and Wairarapa mayors and councillors that aims to find a common way forward
- The three Wairarapa councils decide on a preferred draft Wairarapa option for public consultation
- Wairarapa councils consult widely with Wairarapa residents on a draft proposal for change
- Submit an application for change to the Local Government Commission.

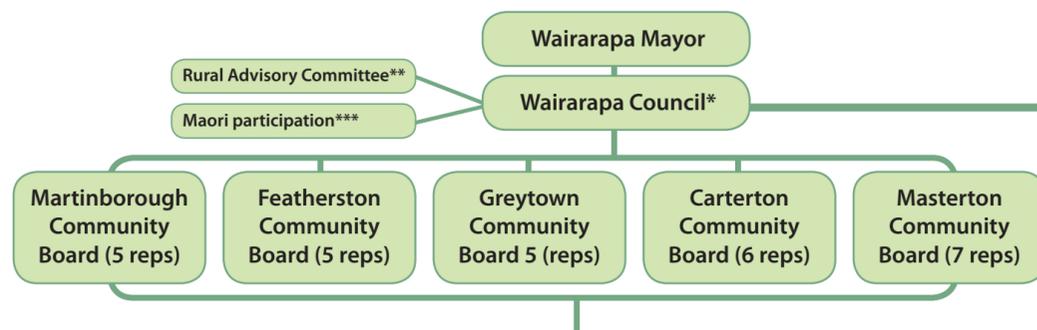
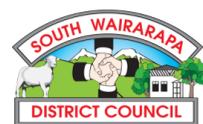
Have your say - contact us

Ultimately Wairarapa must decide whether it wants to retain its right to self-determination or become part of something much bigger - a single Wellington-based council. Future governance is the biggest issue Wairarapa has faced for a long time and it will affect everyone.

The Working Party continues to encourage your feedback and questions. While the Wairarapa councils have not yet started the formal consultation process, they will do so in the near future. In the meantime let us know what you think by:

- Emailing the Working Party at feedback@wairarapasfuture.govt.nz
- Visiting our Facebook Page 'Wairarapa's Future'
- Talking to your councillor/community board member
- Writing to your council
 - Carterton District Council, P O Box 9, Carterton 5743
 - Masterton District Council, P O Box 444, Masterton 5840
 - South Wairarapa District Council, P O Box 6, Martinborough 5711

Option 1: One Wairarapa Council



***Wairarapa Council**
12 Councillors from 7 wards Martinborough, Greytown, Featherston (1 each), Carterton (2) Masterton (5) 2 Wairarapa Rural Wards (1 each)

****Rural Advisory Committee**
- input into council on rural issues
*****Maori participation** - through a structure to be decided in consultation with iwi

Community Boards responsible for:

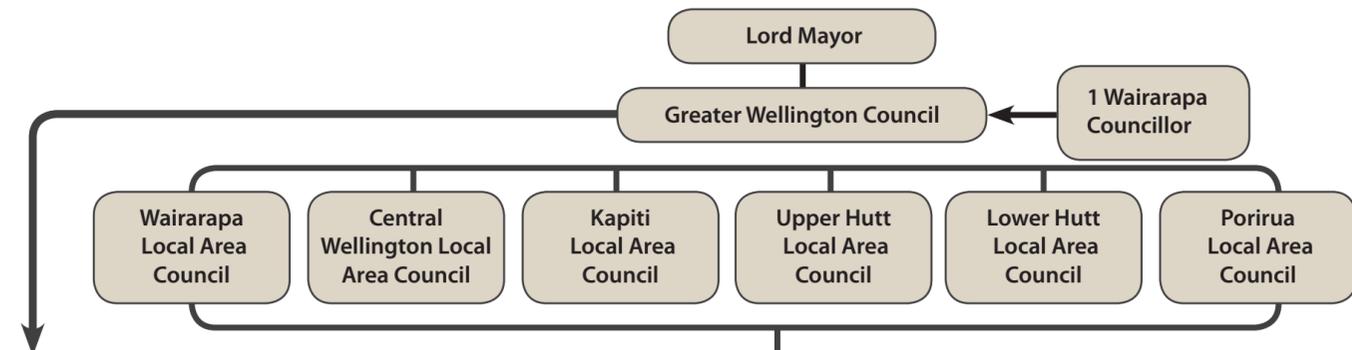
- Local area and neighbourhood plans
- Advocating for community interests
- Community engagement
- Preparing annual submission on expenditure in community
- Other delegated responsibilities

Local community elects members

Under both options, the main council would be responsible for:

- Deciding all major policy
- Spatial planning - coordinate with neighbouring regions
- Employing CEO & all staff
- All planning - Long-Term & Annual
- Asset ownership & management
- Set & levy all rates, Budget control
- Financial Management
- Compliance (RMA etc)
- Roading - including maintenance
- Drinking, storm & waste water
- Solid waste management
- Civil defence, emergency, rural fire
- Transport - road & rail
- Economic development
- Environmental planning & policy - air, water, coastal, hazards
- Social & cultural development
- Community engagement

Option 2: Wairarapa is part of a super-city style council



Sub-council responsible for:

- local area & neighbourhood plans
- community engagement
- making recommendations to Greater Wellington Council
- Dog control
- Gambling & gaming machine
- Liquor licensing
- Brothels
- District & town centre promotion

Figurehead local mayor (not elected)
Does not make budget or rating decisions
Provided with a manager by GWC
Does not employ staff

Visit our website to find out more and have your say www.wairarapasfuture.govt.nz