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Report to the Constituency Review Subcommittee
from Michael Gibson, Chairperson

Determination of 2001 Regional Constituencies

1. Purpose

To determine the number of regional constituencies that will apply for the 2001 Local Authority Elections, their boundaries, names and the number of members to be elected by each constituency.

2. Background

Earlier this year the Policy and Finance Committee resolved to create the Constituency Review Subcommittee for the purpose of carrying out a review of the regional constituencies, their boundaries and membership in terms of Section 101H of the Local Government Act 1974.

The Subcommittee first met on 2 March 2000 to discuss a paper setting out the process the review must follow and identifying a number of options. The Subcommittee on 11 April 2000 came to a preliminary decision, which was the subject of discussion with local Mayors and other stakeholders.

3. Consultation

As directed by the Subcommittee I have contacted the Mayors of territorial authorities of the Region to discuss the preliminary views of the Triennial Regional Constituency Review.

Wairarapa

I briefly discussed the Subcommittee's proposal with Mayor John Reid of South Wairarapa District Council on 20 June while at the Regional Land Transport Committee meeting in Porirua. Mayor Reid expressed his support for the status quo and said that any change in the Wairarapa would disturb the present situation and the excellent representation the area presently receives.

Kapiti Coast District

I met Mayor Iride McCloy on 6 June at the WRC offices together with Cr Turver. Mayor McCloy stated her view that Kapiti should have a second regional councillor and recognised that growth of the district made this inevitable in the future, even if it is not possible at present.

Hutt City

Councillor Allen and I met Mayor John Terris at Lower Hutt. Mayor Terris is comfortable with the present situation, ie. 3 councillors for his city, and would not want to see that changed. He recognised that a good case could be made for combining Upper and Lower Hutt into a single constituency but that this would be opposed in Upper Hutt.

Porirua City

Councillors Shields, Shaw and I met Mayor Jenny Brash and Councillor Woodhouse at the WRC offices on 7 June. Mayor Brash expressed an opinion that Tawa and Porirua naturally formed a regional constituency. She appeared to favour a possible name change so that an enlarged constituency would be named "Mana" as proposed by our Subcommittee.

Upper Hutt City

While I was unable to arrange a time to see Mayor Rex Kirton, I was able to raise the constituency review with Cr Barnard who suggested that Upper Hutt City Council would support the status quo.

Wellington City

Mayor Mark Blumsky did not seek a meeting.

Tawa

The Constituency Review has also been discussed at meetings of the Tawa Community Board, which I attended, and the Annual General Meeting of the Tawa Residents and Ratepayers Assn which Councillor McQueen and I attended. The local community was opposed to any change that might lead to change in territorial authority boundaries and a closer association with Porirua City.

Ara Tahi

Mr Bezett has also reported to Ara Tahi and explained the wider issues surrounding legislative change and possible Maori constituencies.

Formal Public Consultation

The Subcommittee was aware that historically a lot of interest has been shown in the level of representation that each constituency receives. A series of informal meetings with most Mayors of the Region have been undertaken to determine the acceptability of the approach adopted.

If the Council approves the recommendations of the Subcommittee, the decision will be publicly notified and a period of public consultation (at least one month) will be undertaken. The Council will then consider any submissions made at its meeting on 19 September before confirming the final form of the review.

A Discussion Document covering all the issues considered by the Subcommittee will be released as part of the consultation process.

4. Conclusions of Review

As a result of the Subcommittee's consultative process a number of conclusions have been drawn from the report. These are:

- That there are six communities of interest within the Wellington Region corresponding to the boundaries of constituent territorial authorities in the western part of the Region, and the Wairarapa.
- That for the 2001 Local Body Elections the Council should remain at 14 elected members due to the legislative requirements to clearly separate the operation and regulatory functions of the Council
- That "fair representation", having regard to the factors specified in the Local Government Act 1974, is best achieved by adopting the following weightings - 80 per cent (population), 10 per cent (equalised capital value) and 10 per cent (land area).
- That the constituency comprising Porirua City be renamed the "Mana Constituency".

5. Supervising Returning Officer

It has been the Council's practice also to appoint the Supervising Returning Officer for the conduct of the next elections at this time. By law that officer must be the principal

administrative officer of the Council (ie: Mr Stone) or the returning officer of one of the Region's territorial authorities. The appointment is one that must be made by the Council. At the last election the Council resolved to appoint Mr Stone as the Supervising Returning Officer or, in his absence, Mr Maguire.

However, as the Minister of Local Government has indicated that there will be amendments to the Local Elections and Polls Act prior to the next local body elections that may remove this requirement, it is recommended that the appointment of the Supervising Returning Officer not take place at this time.

6. Recommendation

(1) *That the Subcommittee recommend to Council:*

(a) *That this report be adopted.*

(b) *That the Council adopt the following six constituencies for **the 2001** Local Authority Elections:*

Kapiti Constituency - comprising Kapiti Coast District.

Mana Constituency - comprising Porirua City.

Wellington Constituency - comprising Wellington City.

Lower Hutt Constituency - comprising Lower Hutt City.

Upper Hutt Constituency - comprising Upper Hutt City.

Wairarapa Constituency - comprising South Wairarapa District, Masterton District, Carterton District and part of Tararua District.

(d) *That, in order to achieve "fair representation", the Council adopt the following weightings as a means of determining the level of representation each constituency will receive:*

<i>Population</i>	<i>80 per cent</i>
<i>Net Equalised Capital Value</i>	<i>10 per cent</i>
<i>Land Area</i>	<i>10 per cent</i>

(e) *That the Council comprise 14 elected members and the number of representatives elected by each constituency be as follows:*

<i>Kapiti Constituency</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Mana Constituency</i>	<i>2</i>

<i>Wellington Constituency</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Lower Hutt Constituency</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Upper Hutt Constituency</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Wairarapa Constituency</i>	<i>2</i>

- (f) *That the decision of Council be publicly notified as required by statute and members of the public informed of their right to make submissions in writing to the Council.*
- (2) *That the appointment of the Supervising Returning Officer be held over for the time being.*

MICHAEL GIBSON
Chairperson