

Who will speak for you?



We're reviewing our representation arrangements in time for the 2019 Council elections. We have an initial proposal and we'd like to hear your views.

This booklet explains the review process and the Council's initial proposal.



What is a Representation Review?

The purpose of the Representation Review is to establish whether our current arrangements for fair and effective representation meet our communities' needs and expectations.

Under the Local Electoral Act ('Act'), all councils have to do this at least once every six years and the decisions we make in 2018 will apply for the 2019 election.

THE REPRESENTATION REVIEW CONSIDERS:

- the number of voting areas (called 'wards'), if any, that is best for our city
- whether we want to elect all, or some, of our councillors across the whole city or from two or more wards
- how many councillors there should be
- how many councillors there should be in each ward
- whether we want to have community boards, and if so, how many members should they have, and which areas should they cover.

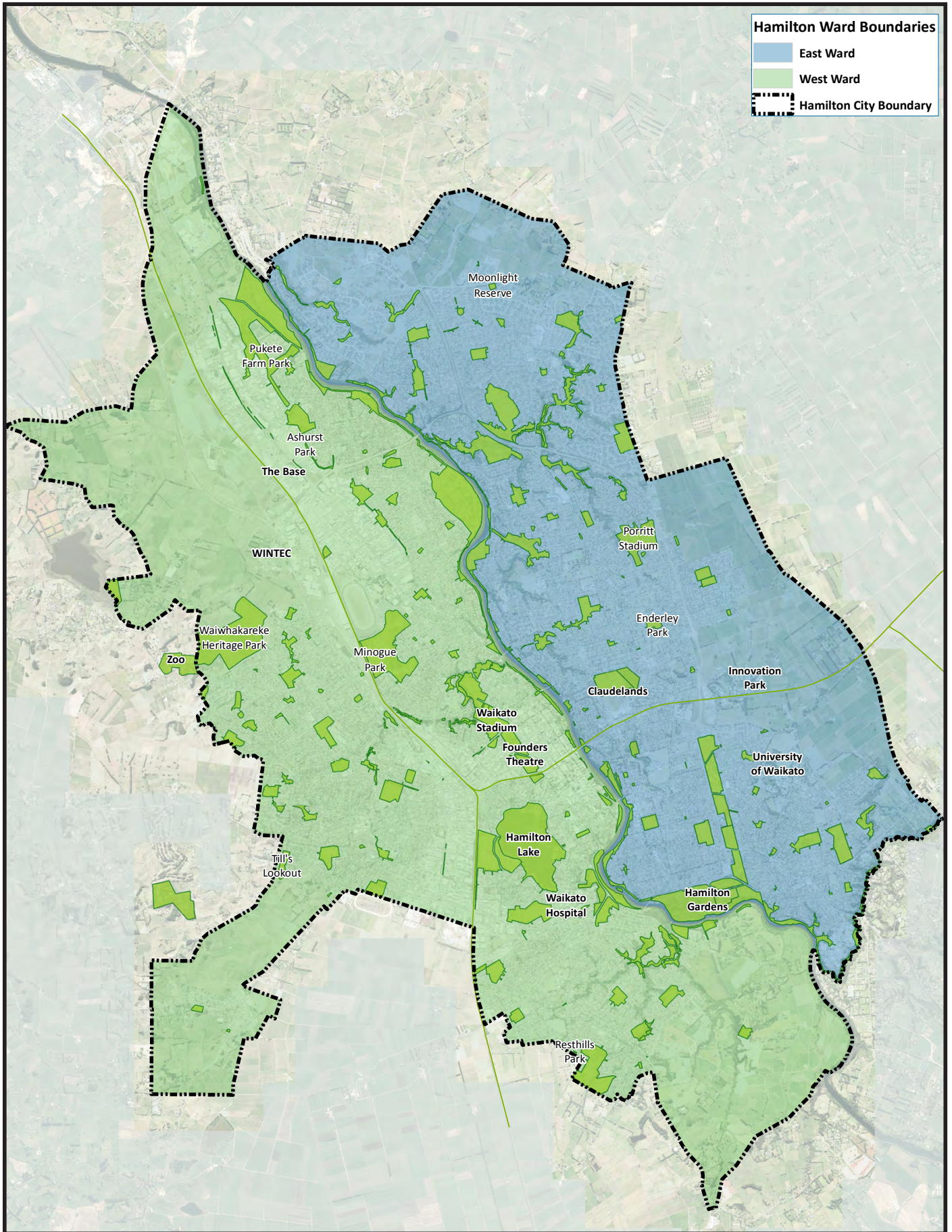
This review does not include the choice of electoral system. A public poll in 2013 determined that First Past the Post would apply for the 2016 and 2019 elections.

The Council decided in October 2017 not to establish Maaori wards.

OUR CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

- Hamilton is currently divided by the Waikato River into two wards. The map below shows the boundaries of these wards.
- There are currently 12 councillors in total. Of these:
 - six are elected from the east side of the river (the East Ward)
 - six are elected from the west side of the river (the West Ward)
- Each voter votes for up six candidates standing for election in the voting area in which they are registered to vote.
- Each voter also chooses one candidate for mayor, who is elected across the whole of the city.
- Hamilton does not currently have community boards, nor has it at any stage in the past.

HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL WARD MAP



WHAT WE'VE DONE

We've undertaken robust research over the past 15 months using data from Census 2013 and Statistics New Zealand as well as looking at the arrangements of councils across the country. We've also gathered feedback from the public through online surveys, focus groups and a phone survey.

On 12 June 2018, six representation options were presented to the Elected Members for their consideration. You can find out more about these initial options [here](#).¹

WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US

We've heard from approximately 2500 people throughout the review process so far. They told us they want a system that is fair, provides high quality candidates, gives people better choice at election time and allows better access to councillors. Some have told us they think an 'at large' system (no wards) would help deliver this, while others preferred a ward system. The Council has carefully considered this feedback along with other important data and factors, such as access to councillors and barriers to participation, and has decided that the current two-ward system is the best option for the city in 2019.

You can find the full report which contains all the findings presented to the Council on 16 August 2018 [here](#).²

WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING

The Council believes the current two-ward system with 12 councillors (plus the mayor) and no community boards, continues to be the best fit for Hamilton in 2019.

Why?

- the Waikato River remains a defining characteristic of the city and people's sense of belonging.
- provides the public with reasonable access to councillors.
- enables councillors to fairly represent their electoral areas and attend public meetings.
- provides reasonable opportunity for a diverse range of candidates to stand for election.

The Council can review its representation arrangements again in three years' time, which will coincide with a review of the electoral system.

1. Available at hamilton.govt.nz/representationreview
2. Available at hamilton.govt.nz/representationreview

NEXT STEPS

2018



* You can appeal the final proposal (if you have previously lodged a submission) or object to the final proposal (if the initial proposal changes) until 5 December 2018.

If there is an appeal or objection, or the final proposal does not comply with the Act's requirements for fair representation, the proposal must be referred to the Local Government Commission. The Commission will then determine the representation arrangements for the 2019 Hamilton City Council elections. Its decision must be made by 10 April 2019.

HAVE YOUR SAY

To have your say about the proposal you can:

- Complete a submission online [here](#).³
- Pick up a hardcopy submission form from the main reception area at Hamilton City Council in Garden Place or your local library.
- If you complete a hardcopy submission form, you can then:
 - Drop it in to us at Hamilton City Council in Garden Place, or your local library; or
 - Send it to:

The Representation Review Team

Freepost 72189
Governance Unit
Hamilton City Council
Private Bag 3010
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

DROP-IN SESSIONS

For more information come along to one of our drop-in sessions:

MONDAY 27 AUGUST, 5:30 PM

Hamilton City Council (main reception area, entrance via Garden Place)

THURSDAY 30 AUGUST, 12:00 PM

Waimarie Hamilton East Community Centre, 53 Wellington Street, Hamilton East

TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 5:30 PM

Hamilton City Council (main reception area, entrance via Garden Place)

WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER, 12:00 PM

St Andrews Library,
Braid Road, St Andrews

You can also check out

www.hamilton.govt.nz/representationreview

You can also reach us at at

hcc.governance@hcc.govt.nz

3. Available at hamilton.govt.nz/representationreview