

2024 Representation Review

Early Feedback

Clutha District Council is reviewing how it can best represent our communities in the makeup of Council. Your feedback will help councillors shape our wards and community boards.

What is the Representation Review?

Every six years councils review how well people and communities are represented.

A representation review addresses the total number of elected members at the Council table and on community boards, and the way they are elected in the local elections every three years, to ensure councils retain effective and fair representation for the community.

The Clutha District Council last undertook a representation review in 2018 in preparation for the 2019 elections.

You can learn more about representation reviews on the Local Government Commission website.

What do we have now?

Currently, we have **15 Elected Members**, being:

- A mayor (elected at large)
- 14 councillors from 8 wards across the Clutha District including:

District including:

- * Balclutha Ward – 4 councillors
- * Bruce Ward – 3 councillors
- * Catlins Ward – 1 councillor
- * Clinton Ward – 1 councillor
- * Clutha Valley Ward – 1 councillor
- * Kaitangata-Matau Ward – 1 councillor
- * Lawrence-Tuapeka Ward – 1 councillor
- * West Otago Ward – 2 councillors

We also have **2 Community Boards**, being:

- West Otago Community Board - 6 elected members
- Lawrence/Tuapeka Community Board - 6 elected members

Scan the QR code to visit our website and have your say in the Representation Review.



SCAN ME



Clutha District Council
www.cluthadc.govt.nz

2024 Representation Review

Early Feedback

Clutha District Council is reviewing how it can best represent our communities in the makeup of Council. Your feedback will help councillors shape our wards and community boards.

What does the representation review process involve?

Representation reviews are completed every 6 years to ensure fair and effective representation for individuals and communities.

The representation review cannot change the people who are currently elected, but it may increase or decrease the number of councillors elected in the next local elections.

Fair and effective representation

Fair representation means each elected member represents about the same number of people (within +/- 10 percent of the district's population divided by the total number of Councillors). This ensures an equal representation across the district.

Effective representation relates to the Councillors' ability to represent their constituency and ensure matters important to their electorate are heard.

What decisions have already been made?

For the past year we have been talking to our community about the electoral process, with elected members voting to:

- (1) retain the First Past the Post (FPP) voting system
- (2) not establish a Māori ward.

The representation review is the third and final step of the process required before the 2025 elections.

What do we need to decide?

We want to hear what you think about the following key decisions that need to be made:

The total number of councillors for the district and the way they are elected - at 'large' or by ward or a combination.

The boundaries of wards and their names.

Whether there should be community boards in the district and, if so, the number of boards; their names and boundaries; the number of members for each board including any appointed members; and whether the board area should be subdivided for electoral purposes.

REPRESENTATION REVIEW TIMELINE

Early Feedback

Until Sunday, 2 June

We are asking for your feedback to help shape potential options

Adopt the initial proposal

25 July 2024

Council meeting to adopt the initial proposal

Public submissions

1 August - 2 September 2024

Submission period on the initial proposal, where you can have your say on the options.

Hearings

September 2024

Hearing for submitters to speak to Council

Council adopts the final proposal

24 October 2024

Council meeting to adopt the final proposal.

Appeal/objection period

28 October – 28 November 2024

One month for the appeal/objection period

LGC determination (if required)

By 10 April 2025

If required, a determination by Local Government Commission.

2024 Representation Review

Frequently Asked Questions

Clutha District Council is reviewing how it can best represent our communities in the makeup of Council. Your feedback will help councillors shape our wards and community boards.

What are communities of interest?

When looking at boundaries for local representation, we are required to consider communities of interest. These consider:

- A sense of belonging to an area.
- An ability to meet the community requirements for services.
- An ability politically to represent the interests of the community.

What are wards?

Wards are ways of splitting up a council area into smaller areas for election purposes. They serve the same function as electorates for national elections. In the Clutha District there are currently eight wards - Balclutha, Bruce, Catlins, Clinton, Clutha Valley, Kaitangata-Matau, Lawrence-Tuapeka, and West Otago.

What is an election 'at-large'?

An election that is 'at-large' means that members are elected from the whole district and not on a ward basis. The Mayor is elected 'at-large'.

What do you mean by having a combination of wards and 'at large'?

With the status quo of one mayor and fourteen councillors this could potentially look different. As an example, some councillors could be elected from wards and some councillors could be elected 'at-large'.

What is a community board?

Community boards typically represent a smaller geographic area or 'community of interest' within their council, to ensure smaller communities' voices aren't lost in the big picture conversations.

Most members are elected during local body elections although council members can also be appointed to a community board. Note: this would entail an extra cost as currently each ward's ratepayers pay for their own community board.

Will it be cheaper if we have less councillors?

No, the pool of remuneration (cost) stays the same regardless of the number of councillors. The Remuneration Authority sets this budget for the district.

When and where can I give my feedback for this round of early engagement?

Our preliminary engagement will start on 9 May, and finish on 2 June 2024. We have several ways to provide feedback.

You can find out more and share your feedback at www.cluthadc.govt.nz. Hard copy survey forms will also be available at our Council Rosebank front desk, community libraries and the Clutha isite.

Following feedback from this preliminary engagement, Council will propose how the district is best represented. You will have several opportunities to have your say through this process including another consultation period and submission hearing.



2024 Representation Review

Submit your feedback

How to return this form via Free ReplyPaid Post

1 Complete your feedback

2 Fold here

3 Fold here

4 Fold here

5 Seal tab with tape. **Do not use staples.**

6 Drop into your nearest NZ post box or any CDC office.



Thank you!

Please submit your feedback by Sunday, 2 June 2024

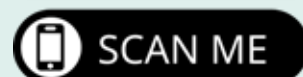
Your ideas and suggestions will be collated with all the other feedback we receive and provided to elected members.

Have your say online!

You can also submit your feedback online via our website.

Scan the QR Code, or visit our website to complete the online form.

www.cluthadc.govt.nz/representation-review



FEEDBACK FORM

Have your say in the representation review. Feedback closes Sunday 2 June 2024.

Representation Review 2024 – Early feedback

You can answer as many or few questions as you like. Go to www.cluthadc.govt.nz/representation-review to take part online or fill out this form and post it for free (see previous page). You can also drop it off at any of our community libraries.

Submissions will be provided to Council staff for administration purposes, and to Councillors for decision making purposes.

Submission information will be publicly available online after the consultation period ends.

SUBMITTER TYPE (REQUIRED)

- Individual
- Organisation
- Business
- Other (please specify below):

Do you think that councillors should be elected from wards, 'at large', or a combination of both?

- Wards
- At large
- A combination of both

WHICH WARD DO YOU LIVE IN? (REQUIRED)

- Balclutha Ward
- Bruce Ward
- Catlins Ward
- Clinton Ward
- Clutha Valley Ward
- Kaitangata-Matau Ward
- Lawrence-Tuapeka Ward
- West Otago Ward
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Why?

There are currently two community boards - Lawrence/Tuapeka and West Otago. Do you think we should establish more, less, or keep it the same?

- More
- Less
- Keep the same

If you selected more or less, what is your reasoning?

If you selected more, where do you think we should establish more community boards?

Is there anything else that we should consider when reviewing changes to the way you are represented?

Current wards are based on communities of interest, reflecting geographical areas and population figures.

Do you think they are currently working well?

- Yes
- No

Do you think 14 (status quo) is the right number of councillors to represent the interests of the different communities in our district?

- Yes
- No

If not, do you think we should have more or less?

- More
- Less

Why?



We want to hear from you

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We'd love your feedback

Fill out the attached form, or visit our website www.cluthadc.govt.nz and submit your feedback online.

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ReplyPaid Authority Number 253534



Clutha District Council
P O Box 25
Balclutha 9240

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