

Wairarapa stronger as one

We have a unique opportunity to strengthen our region. A single Wairarapa District Council has been proposed as the best option for the future.

Postal voting 20 Nov–12 Dec 2017

**Your vote.
Your voice.
Make it count.**

The proposed Wairarapa District Council

After consulting Wairarapa people over two years, the Local Government Commission has proposed that the South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton district councils combine to form a single Wairarapa District Council. Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) would continue to be the regional council for Wairarapa.

As a region, Wairarapa is already small on the national stage. Our three current district councils are even smaller. While big is not always better, a new Wairarapa District Council would only be medium-sized – similar to councils in Timaru, Marlborough, Whanganui and Upper Hutt (by population), and similar to Hastings, Taupo and Clutha (by land area).

A new Wairarapa District Council would have:

- /// Seven wards
- /// 1 Mayor, 12 Councillors
- /// 5 local community boards – Martinborough, Featherston, Greytown, Carterton, Masterton
- /// A committee representing Māori
- /// A committee representing the rural community
- /// A Wairarapa Committee for GWRC (recently established)

For more information, the full proposal, Q&A, timelines, consultation, research, technical reports see the **Wairarapa resources page** at www.lgc.govt.nz

Among those supporting one district council for a stronger Wairarapa:

- /// Destination Wairarapa
(Amalgamation of the 3 councils is in line with the way in which we market the region)
- /// Wairarapa Chamber of Commerce
- /// Wairarapa Registered Master Builders Association
- /// Adrienne Staples
- /// Bob Francis
- /// Brent Goodwin
- /// Chris Peterson
- /// Corrie James
- /// David Borman
- /// Denise MacKenzie
- /// Dougal MacKenzie
- /// Frank Cody
- /// Geoff Copps
- /// Greg Lang
- /// Kate Mead
- /// Lucy Griffiths
- /// Luther Toloa
- /// Mike Shaw
- /// Paul Snelgrove
- /// Ross Vickery
- /// Wendy Morrison

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One Council

10 reasons why

The only constant in life is change. In Wairarapa, we are faced with an important choice – to plan for and embrace change or stick to the past. We will be stronger by working together as a region through one district council instead of working through three separate district councils.

The formation of one Wairarapa District Council is the logical step as our region looks to the future to meet challenges and take opportunities.

“He waka eke noa – we’re all in this canoe together.”

1

Stronger Wairarapa voice –

A more effective, stronger and united voice for Wairarapa in regional and national conversations. Greater influence on regional council and Government agencies.

2

One strategy for economic growth –

Wairarapa is doing pretty well – for the moment at least. But what will the next 20-30 years bring? We need to work together as one to strengthen our competitive advantage nationally and globally.

3

Less red tape –

Easier to do business across the whole Wairarapa with one set of rules and policies for business, cultural, sporting and community groups.

4

Efficient planning and decision making –

Simplified council decision making. One set of planning processes and policies. Streamlined cooperation and collaboration, instead of multiple cross-council committees.

5

Wairarapa is governed here, not from Wellington –

We retain our local district council in Wairarapa and along with that, our self-determination and local identity. The regional council services for Wairarapa will remain.

6

Stronger representation

Five community boards will lead and empower local communities to decide local issues in the five urban wards. Each board will include the local district councillor. New Māori and rural committees will help represent the interests of these groups.

7

More effective delivery of infrastructure –

A single pool of asset management staff will have greater resources to plan and manage infrastructure. One council will manage Wairarapa roads as a single network.

8

Stronger staffing base –

Instead of 3 sets of staff spread over 3 sets of the same jobs, one larger team will work for the whole region. More specialist staff with more diverse experience can be employed, reducing the need for costly consultants.

9

Stronger financial base –

To cope with and respond more effectively to unexpected events and changes – floods, earthquakes and other disruption.

10

Cost savings –

Pooling resources means that one council costs less to run than three. Even after the one-off cost of forming the new council, it's estimated that \$1 million will be saved each year for the first 10 years.