



April 2024

Representation Review

This year, South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) will undertake a representation review to ensure there is fair and effective representation for individuals and communities across our district. Representation is about understanding our community and how individuals and groups get their voice heard at Council.

Under current legislation all councils are required to do a representation review every six years. The last representation review for South Wairarapa District Council was in 2018.

The review will address the total number of councillors there should be for the district and the way they are elected. For SWDC this involves deciding whether councillors are elected from wards (e.g. Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough) or 'at large' across the whole district, or by a mix of both wards and 'at large'. In 2025 SWDC will also have one Māori ward 'at large'. The review will also look at the boundary lines of our wards and their names.

Finally, the review addresses whether there should be community boards and, if so, the number of boards; their names and

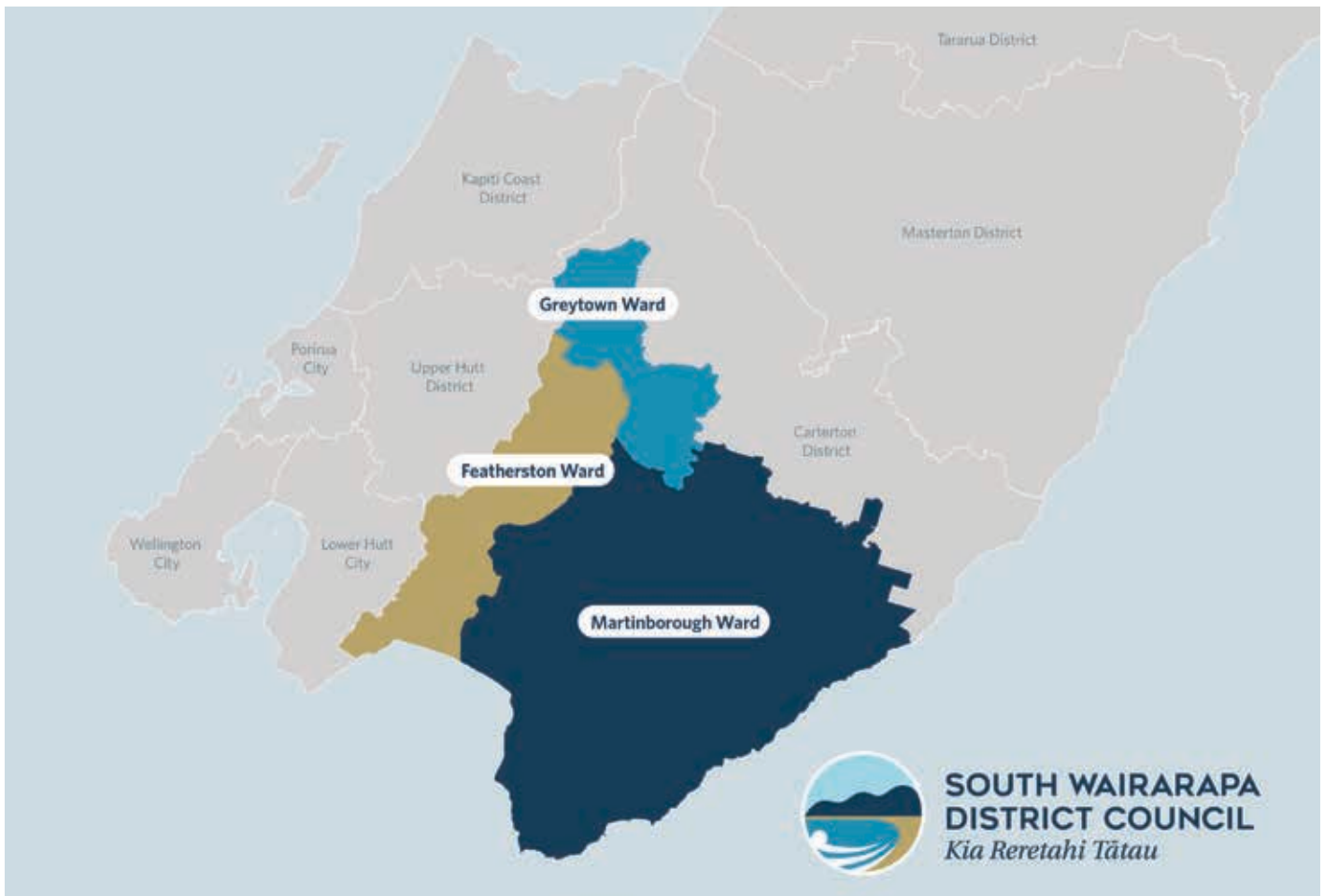
boundaries; the number of members for each board, including any appointed members.

Over the coming months, your elected members will be presented with options of representation for the 2025 election. A determination will be required by Council for their preferred option by 31 July 2024.

Once council decide on their preferred option a full consultation process will be undertaken including hearings, where elected members will get to hear the views of the community and then review their preferred option by end of September 2024.

A second consultation will commence later in the year with submissions going to the Local Government Commission (LGC) for the Commissioner to make the final decision.

Keep an eye out for more information on this soon and in the meantime, if you have any feedback on the current representation, send an email to us via haveyoursay@swdc.govt.nz.



Enhanced Annual Plan consultation



What is important to you? We're currently consulting on the 2024-25 Enhanced Annual Plan which will set the budget for the upcoming financial year, and part of this process includes setting rates.

The consultation period is the opportunity for South Wairarapa communities and individuals to understand the proposals in the document and what impacts they might have on them, and to provide valuable feedback which will help Council make their final decisions.

To help Council determine what the next year looks like, we need feedback on three specific consultation topics;

- How much should we spend on operating and maintaining our water services?
- How should we charge for water use?
- How should we pay for the replacement of our assets?

We want to hear from you before 5 May about which proposals you support, and welcome comments on the other areas we're focusing on. Throughout the consultation period there will be different ways for you to provide your feedback, and we encourage you to do this in the way that suits you best.

Visit swdc.govt.nz/enhanced-annual-plan to find out more.

Updated Rating Valuations

South Wairarapa District Council's valuation service provider, Quotable Value (QV), are due to have released their 3-yearly rating valuation assessment in April 2024. Property owners should receive their notice, by post or email, in late April or early May.



The new rating valuations will be used to set rates for the 2024/25 rating year. We recommend you check details such as the land use category, and nature of improvements, to make sure these are accurate.

There is a scheduled objection process, details of which will be included in your notice, including the deadline for objecting to the revaluation assessment. Please contact QV directly for any queries regarding the revaluation – phone 0800 787 284 or email objectionssupport@qv.co.nz once you have received your notice.

Would you like your invoices and communications by email?

Did you know you can receive your rates invoice and this newsletter by email to reduce printing and postage costs? By requesting email invoices and helping save money, that means there's more for good things our community needs, and it reduces our carbon footprint.

When providing your email address for rates invoicing, please let us know if you would also like to receive other Council communications by email. We find email to be a good way of sharing important news and sending out reminders. Sign up by emailing rates@swdc.govt.nz.



Hinekura Road

In March, Hinekura Road reopened following Brownell Earthmoving Limited, guided by Ruamahanga Roads completing the remediation of the road.

With a budget of \$785,363, the works to reinstate the road included realignment, environmental measures, tree felling and bulk earthworks. Drainage, fencing, and boundary marking are still to be completed however the new road which supports heavy traffic is open and connecting the Hinekura community with Martinborough.

We want to thank the Hinekura community for their patience

Community reminders:

Dog owners

Now is a good time to check your gates and fences are secure, we've seen an increased number of wandering dogs in the districts neighbourhoods. This is the most effective way to avoid this occurring to keep your furry friends safe at home.

Fly tipping

We're seeing escalated levels of fly tipping across the district which results in poor outcomes for the environment, and additional costs to ratepayers for collection and disposal of the waste.

You can find information about where you can safely and conveniently dispose of your own **waste at swdc.govt.nz/waste**



Underhill Road cycle trail

Work on the 2.2km Underhill Road South trail, funded by central government, is underway which will link up the unsealed section of the road with the Tauwharenikau bridge. The Greytown Trails Trust have been busy coordinating with contractors and are on track to complete the work by the end of May.

The trail will have a compacted gravel surface and will separate cyclists off the road from cars and trucks and will be formed entirely in the South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) road reserve. It's another exciting part of the Five Towns Trail network of cycling and walking trails, with this section helping to connect Greytown with Featherston.

Have a burning issue?

All three of our district community boards – Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough – and the Māori Standing Committee hold regular Community Forums to widen communication with the community and guide the development of their community plans.

Find out how to engage with your local representatives at swdc.govt.nz/your-council/council-profile

Stay up to date with SWDC

South Wairarapa District Council has a new way to keep our community informed. Antenna is a location-based mobile application that sends council-related notifications about the places you care about, including major water outages, roadworks, severe weather updates, Council events, rates and registration reminders, consultations and more. It can also be used to directly report issues or provide suggestions and ideas.

You choose the places you want to be alerted about. This might include your neighbourhood, workplace or where your kids go to school. It's up to you! You can also opt out of topics that don't interest you. It's free, easy, and secure – there's no need to share personal information. Just download the app, enter locations you're interested in monitoring, and keep an eye out for our posts.



Rebates 2023-24

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$750.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2023.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$30,000 - \$42,000.
2. You must provide details of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest and dividends. If requested by the Department of Internal Affairs you must provide proof of this income. Application forms will be sent to those who have previously received a rebate in 2022-23. Copies of the form can be obtained from the Council office in Martinborough, Greytown and Featherston libraries, or online www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms and can be obtained by calling 06 306 9611.

Get your rates invoice by email

If you wish to receive your rates notice by email contact rates@swdc.govt.nz

We encourage you to take up this option to allow Council to use the postage savings on projects that benefit the district.

Having trouble paying your rates?

Please contact us as soon as possible so we can work with you on a payment plan. Council will make every effort to work with you on this process. As a last resort, Council policy is to approach banks and legal representatives to recover arrears.

For any queries regarding your rates, please contact our rates team at the following email address: rates@swdc.govt.nz

Payment by direct debit

Council encourages ratepayers to pay rates via direct debit as this ensures the correct amount is paid and you avoid paying penalties for late payment.

We offer **weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly direct debit options** to pay rates. Direct debit is the easiest way to pay your rates as we withdraw the funds directly from your bank account at the very last minute. That way you will get the benefit of your funds for the longest time and avoid penalties. If you would like to pay using

this method, forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown libraries, as well as the Council office in Martinborough and on our website www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms. All you need to do is complete the form and send it to SWDC, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741, or scan and email it to rates@swdc.govt.nz or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at the Featherston or Greytown libraries.

Rates 2023-24 Instalment Four

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Enclosed with this newsletter is the rates invoice covering the period 1 April - 30 June 2024.

The last day for payment is 20 May 2024.
Please pay by this date to avoid the 10% penalty.

Please help us to process payments by ensuring you include the property valuation number for all properties you are paying for. If paying online please make a separate payment for each property.

**GET IT
SORTED**

Something needs fixing?
Let us know...

To South Wairarapa District Council,
P.O. Box 6, Martinborough 5741

From:

First name

Surname

What's the problem?

Where exactly?

Street or Road name and number

Your phone number (Should we need to contact you to clarify the details)