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Representation Review: Workshop 2

Otago Regional Council
21 March 2024

Representation Review - recap

- Representation Review is a statutory requirement for all councils under Local Electoral Act 2001
 - Reviews current representation arrangements
 - Must be undertaken at least every six years
 - Otago Regional Council's arrangements were last reviewed in 2018/19
 - New arrangements will apply for local elections in 2025 and 2028
- Representation arrangements to be determined
 - Number of electoral subdivisions (constituencies)
 - Boundaries and names of constituencies
 - Number of elected members
- Two-step process
 - Initial Proposal: one proposal for representation arrangements, followed by public consultation
 - Final Proposal: following hearings

Representation Review – statutory timeline

From 20 December 2023	Earliest date to resolve Initial Proposal
By 31 July 2024	Last date to resolve Initial Proposal
By 8 August	Notification of Initial Proposal – open consultation (14 days from resolution)
By 8 September	Public submissions on Initial Proposal close (not less than one month after notification)
By 3 November	Last date for notification of Final Proposal (8 weeks after end of submission period)
By 3 December	Last date for public appeals/objections on Final Proposal
By 10 April 2025	If appeals/objections – last date for Local Government Commission determination

Proposed Otago Regional Council timeline at slide 34

Representation Review – Otago's steps to date

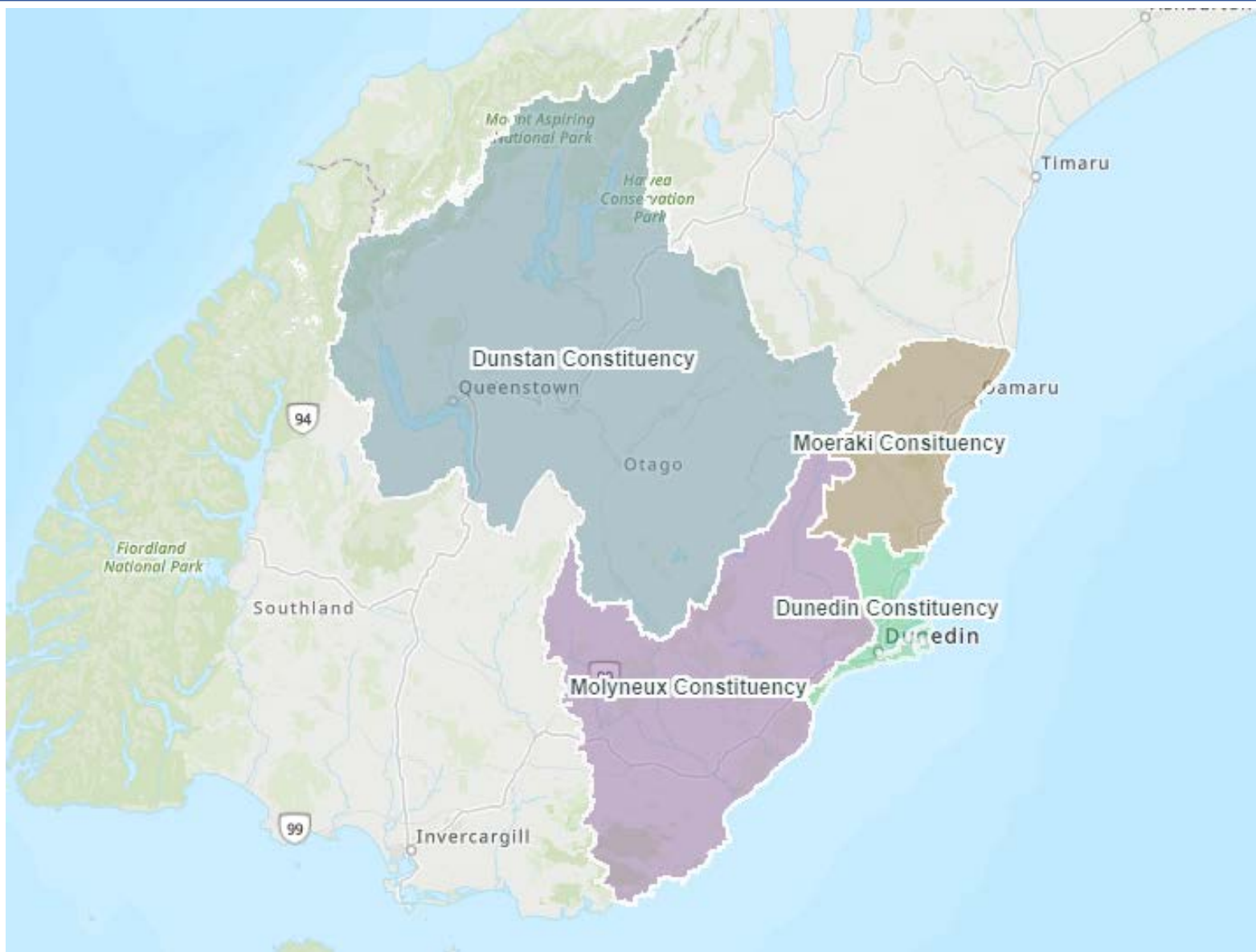
- Voting system
 - Single Transferable vote (STV)
 - No demand for a poll received. Applies for 2025 and 2028 elections
- Māori representation
 - Engagement with iwi through Mana to Mana
 - No decision taken to establish a ward

What do we want from today?

- Note: Today is not a decision-making meeting.
- It is a workshop, and no decisions are being sought.
 - *informal forum for staff to bring items to inform Elected Members*
 - *allow Elected Members to give guidance to staff on further work*
- Seeking guidance and an initial indication of Council's views
- Identify options and issues to explore further, eg
 - options for number and make-up of constituencies
- Today's discussion will help guide staff in developing options
- Informs decision-making around Initial Proposal
- Key questions are **highlighted**

Current representation arrangements

- Otago Regional Council comprises 12 councillors
- 12 councillors elected from four constituencies:
 - Dunstan 3
 - Moeraki 1
 - Molyneux 2
 - Dunedin 6
- Representation model unchanged from previous reviews (2012, 2018)



What's changed since 2018?

- Population growth
 - Overall, 30,400 growth in population across the region (11.9% increase)
 - Most growth in the Dunstan Ward (27.2% increase)

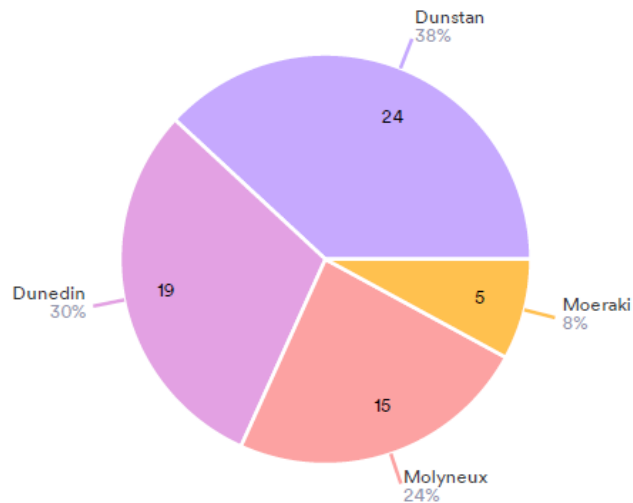
Constituency	2018	2023	% change
Dunedin	110800	115200	3.8
Dunstan	57400	78800	27.2
Moeraki	20400	22300	8.5
Molyneux	35600	38300	7.0
Total	224,200	254600	11.9

- Any other relevant changes?
 - Development – significant development within Queenstown/Wānaka/Cromwell areas, Fresh Water Management Units established by ORC in 2019
 - Demographics – post-COVID changes?
 - Transport linkages - trials for regional transport to commence under new Long-term Plan, existing PT network in Dunedin and Queenstown, development of cycle way connections has taken place

Early engagement feedback

Early engagement included:

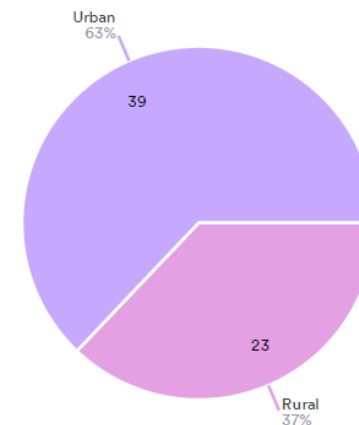
- Letter to TAs seeking views on our current state
- Letter to rūnaka chairs from Otago/Southland and discussion at Mana to Mana seeking views on our current state
- An Otago wide short-survey from 9 Feb – 9 March
 - 64 responses spread across the constituencies below



● Dunstan ● Dunedin ● Molyneux ● Moeraki

Do you live in an urban or rural area?

62 Responses- 2 Empty



● Urban ● Rural

Key points for discussion

- Representation arrangements to be determined
 - Number of electoral constituencies
 - Boundaries and names of constituencies
 - Number of elected members
- These will be formally determined in the Initial Proposal (by July 2024)
- Today's discussion is to get an initial view on these points and consider some options

Principles to guide discussion

Three key concepts:

- Communities of interest
 - Identify what communities of interest exist across the district
 - Perceptual, functional, political dimensions
 - Relevant to determining the **number and boundaries of constituencies**
- Effective representation of communities of interest
 - What's the best structure to maintain access and representation that recognises these communities of interest?
 - Relevant to determining **number of members**
- Fair representation of electors
 - +/- 10% requirement: Population of each constituency, divided by number elected members, must be within +/- 10% of the population of the district, divided by total number of elected members
 - Ensure that all votes are of approximately equal value, unless there are good grounds for exception (these are set out in legislation, LEA s.19V(3))
 - Relevant for ensuring equality of representation per member

Communities of Interest

No fixed definition, but consider these dimensions:

- Perceptual – a sense of belonging and identity with an area
- Functional – how people relate to the practical everyday living aspects of a place: services, facilities, recreation, transport
- Political – does it make sense in terms of political representation

Characteristics to consider:

- for regional councils – district/TA boundaries are a key factor (Section 19U(c))
- sense of community identity and belonging
- distinctive physical and topographical features (eg mountains, hills, rivers)
- similarities in economic or social activities carried out in the area
- similarities in the demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics of the residents of a community
- distinct local history of the area
- the rohe or takiwā of local iwi and hapū

Dependence on shared facilities and services in an area, including:

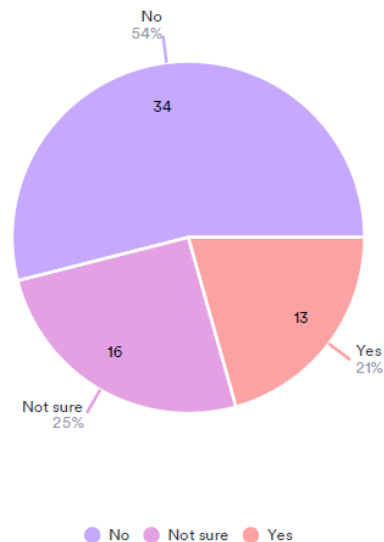
- schools, recreational and cultural facilities
- retail and service outlets
- transport and communication links

Communities of interest

- ◆ Constituencies should reflect communities of interest
- ◆ Section 19U(c) requires constituency boundaries, so far as is practicable, to coincide with territorial authority boundaries or with territorial authority ward boundaries.
- ◆ Most RCs align to TA boundaries but with exceptions based on other factors that relate to defining communities of interest. In some cases these include environmental management and catchments.
- ◆ FMU/catchment boundaries have been considered in the options in today's presentation
- ◆ Do ORC's current constituencies reflect communities of interest?

Communities of interest – early engagement feedback

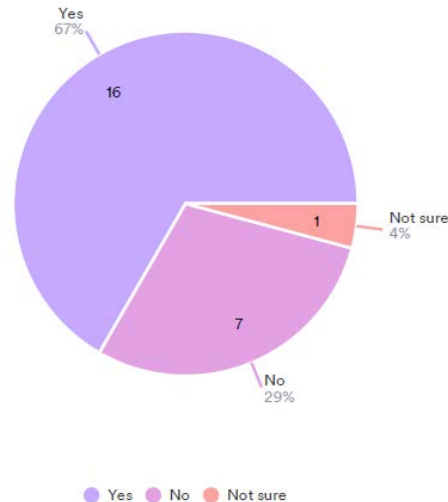
- The public said:
 - Do you feel that the current constituencies are working well? (current constituencies are based on geographical areas and population data.)



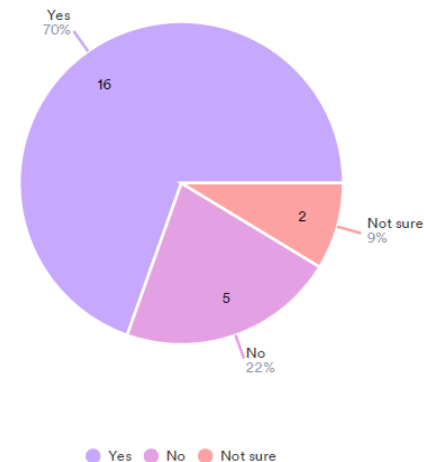
Themes of comments

- ◆ Our population in the Whakatipu / Wānaka areas has grown rapidly in recent years and we have a lot of very challenging issues to contend with. We need more regional councillors to focus on these issues or a separate constituency (11 responses)
- ◆ So many of the issues and concerns are rurally based and yet the urban population/representation dominates (7 responses)
- ◆ Wingatui and Mosgiel are part of Dunedin (2 responses)

Would an increase in elected members for the Dunstan constituency enable you to have better access to your elected representatives?



Would the creation of an Upper Lakes Ward enable you to have better access to your elected representatives?



Effective representation

- **Number of Councillors**

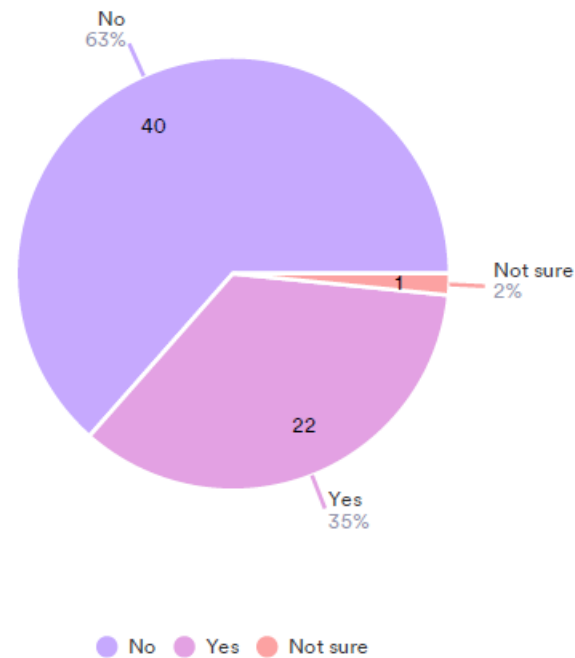
- Is the overall number of Councillors about right?
 - Legislation allows for between 6 -14 Regional Councillors
- Does this number enable effective representation of communities?
- Should we consider having more/less?

- How does Otago currently compare to other Regional Councils?

REGION	GEP POPULATION	NO. GEN CONSTITUENCIES	NO. MEMBERS	POPN PER MEMBER
Northland	146,900	7	7	20,986
Taranaki	110,080	4	10	11,008
Waikato	442,300	6	12	36,858
BOP	243,400	4	11	22,127
Hawkes Bay	146,600	5	9	16,289
Horizons Man-Wan	218,330	6	12	18,194
Greater Wellington	513,900	6	13	39,531
Env Canterbury	612,280	7	14	43,734
West Coast	32,670	3	7	4,667
Otago	224,200	4	12	18,683
Southland	98,320	6	12	8,193

Effective representation – early engagement feedback

ORC currently has 12 councillors. Do you support an increase in the number of overall councillors based on the population growth described



Fair representation: +/-10% requirement

Current

<i>Constituency</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Councillors</i>	<i>Ratio</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Moeraki</i>	<i>20,400</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>20,400</i>	<i>+9.19%</i>
<i>Dunstan</i>	<i>57,400</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>19,133</i>	<i>+2.41%</i>
<i>Molyneux</i>	<i>35,600</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>17,800</i>	<i>-4.73%</i>
<i>Dunedin</i>	<i>110,800</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>18,467</i>	<i>-1.16%</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>224,200</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>18,683</i>	

2023 Representation estimates (StatsNZ/LGC) Note: these figures to be used for Representation Review

CONSTITUENCY	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Dunstan Constituency	78,800	3	26,267	5,050	23.80
Moeraki Constituency	22,300	1	22,300	1,083	5.11
Molyneux Constituency	38,300	2	19,150	-2,067	-9.74
Dunedin Constituency	115,200	6	19,200	-2,017	-9.51
Total	254,600	12	21,217		

Fair representation – non-compliance

- ◆ Section 19V(3)(a) provides four grounds for not complying with section 19V(2) (the 10% rule). These are:
 - ◆ To provide for effective representation of communities of interest within
 - Island communities
 - Isolated communities
 - ◆ Where compliance would limit effective representation of communities of interest by:
 - Dividing a community of interest
 - Grouping together communities of interest with few commonalities of
- ◆ While Section 19V doesn't specifically identify grounds for regional councils not to comply with the 10% rule, the ground for non-compliance set out in section 19V(3)(a), could be used as possible reasons for non-compliance by a regional council.

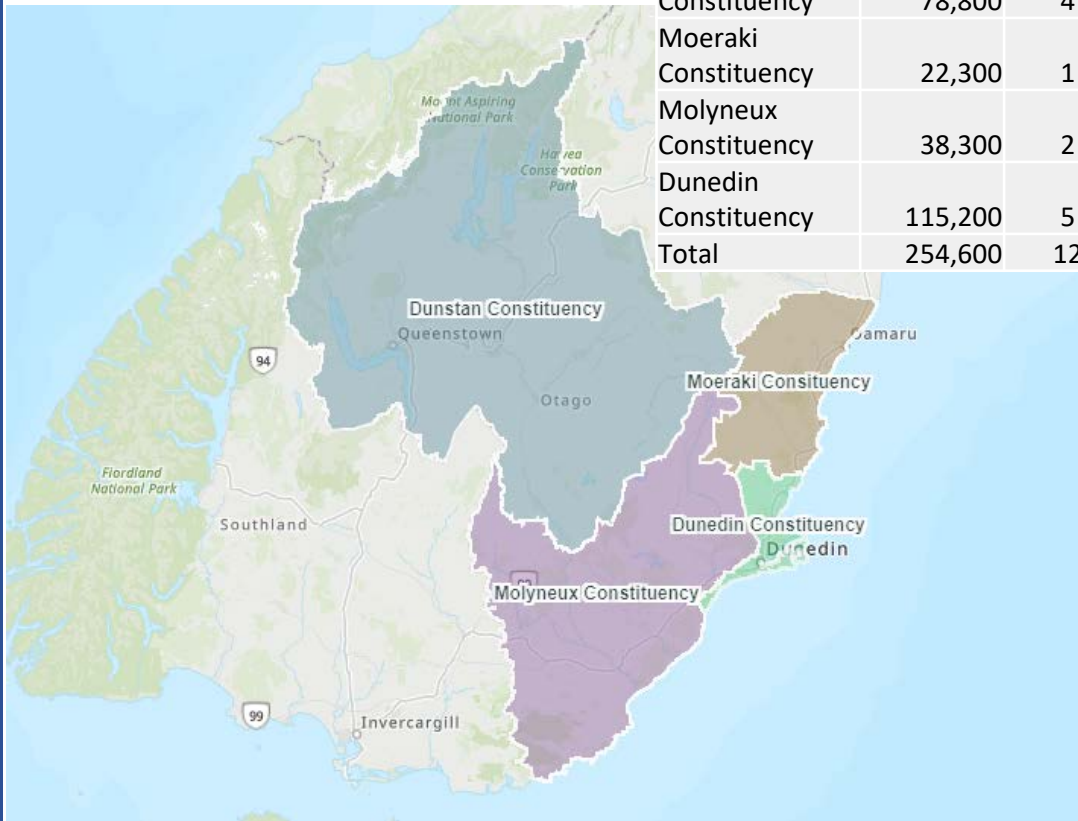
Possible representation options to consider

- How to address the +/-10% issue for Dunstan (with Dunedin and Molyneux being close to +/-10% too)
- Retain the status quo with adjustment in councillor allocation, or councillor numbers?
- Status quo with boundary adjustments?
- Create a new constituency/s?
- Some options to consider:

Option 1

- ◆ Status quo constituencies, boundaries and number of councillors
- ◆ Adjustment of councillor allocation

CONSTITUENCY	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Dunstan Constituency	78,800	4	19,700	-1,517	-7.1
Moeraki Constituency	22,300	1	22,300	1,083	5.1
Molyneux Constituency	38,300	2	19,150	-2,067	-9.7
Dunedin Constituency	115,200	5	23,040	1,823	8.5
Total	254,600	12	21,217		



Does this meet:

➤ Communities of interest ?

➤ Effective Representation ?

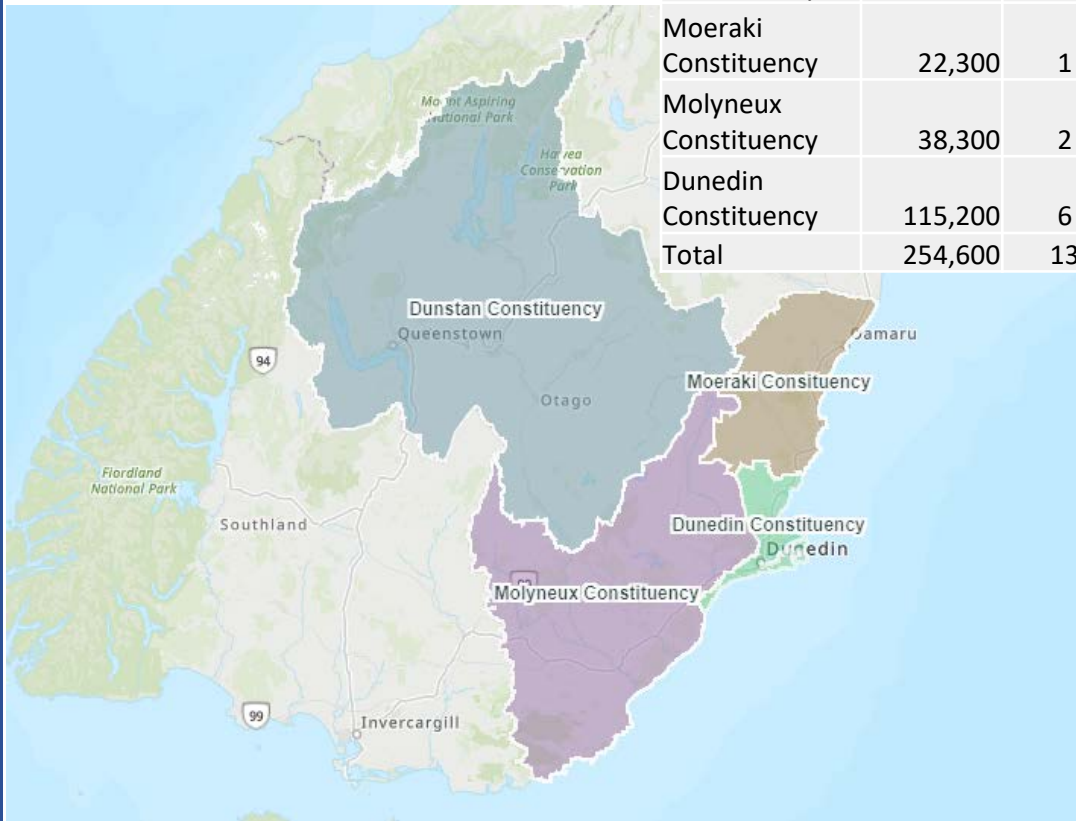
➤ Fair Representation (+/-10%)



Option 2

- ◆ Status quo constituencies and boundaries
- ◆ Adjustment of councillor allocation and increase to 13 councillors

CONSTITUENCY	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Dunstan Constituency	78,800	4	19,700	115	0.59
Moeraki Constituency	22,300	1	22,300	2,715	13.86
Molyneux Constituency	38,300	2	19,150	-435	-2.22
Dunedin Constituency	115,200	6	19,200	-385	-1.96
Total	254,600	13	19,585		



Does this meet:

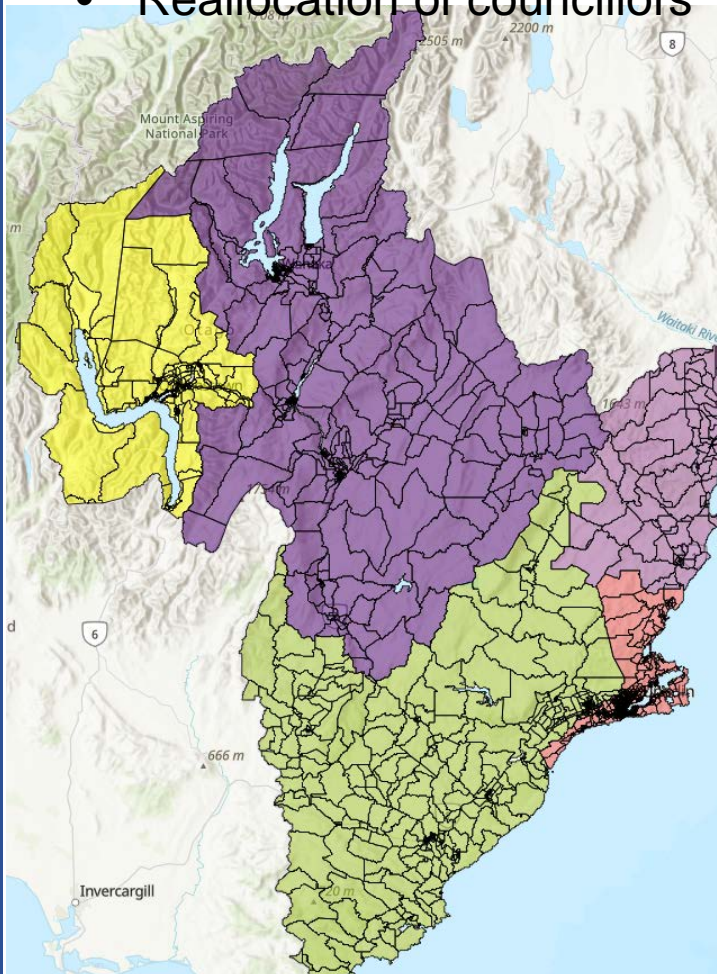
➤ Communities of interest ?

➤ Effective Representation ?

➤ Fair Representation (+/-10%) ?

Option 3 - New Whakatipu Ward (Queenstown/Arrowtown only) (12 Crs)

- New Whakatipu Constituency – Queenstown-Whakatipu and Arrowtown-Kawarau Wards
- Dunstan Constituency = Wanaka-Upper Clutha Ward and CODC
- Reallocation of councillors



CONSTITUENCY	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Dunstan Constituency	43,350	2	21,675	454	2.14
Moeraki Constituency	22,300	1	22,300	1,079	5.09
Molyneux Constituency	38,300	2	19,150	-2,071	-9.76
Dunedin Constituency	115,200	5	23,040	1,819	8.57
Whakatipu	35,500	2	17,750	-3,471	-16.36
Total	254,650	12	21,221		

Does this meet:

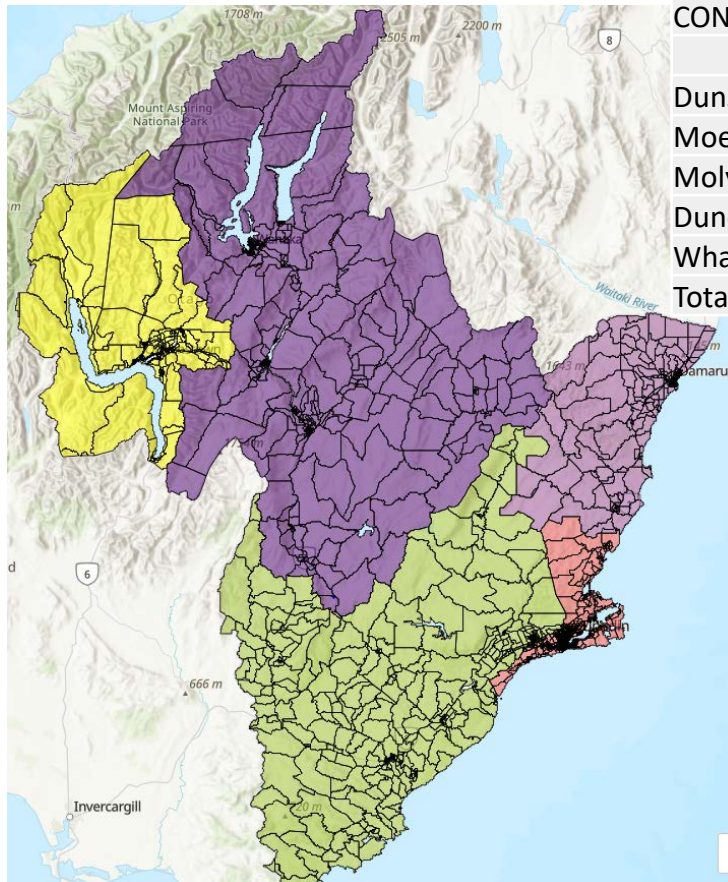
➤ Communities of interest ?

➤ Effective Representation ?

➤ Fair Representation (+/-10%) ?

Option 4 – New Whakatipu Ward (Queenstown/Arrowtown only) (13 Crs)

- New Whakatipu Constituency – Queenstown-Whakatipu and Arrowtown-Kawarau Wards
- Dunstan Constituency = Wanaka-Upper Clutha Ward and CODC
- Reallocation of councillors



CONSTITUENCY	Population	Members	Population -member ratio	Difference from quota %	Difference from quota
Dunstan/Wānaka	43,350	2	21,675	2,087	10.65
Moeraki Constituency	22,300	1	22,300	2,712	13.84
Molyneux Constituency	38,300	2	19,150	-438	-2.24
Dunedin Constituency	115,200	6	19,200	-388	-1.98
Whakatipu/Arrowtown	35,500	2	17,750	-1,838	-9.39
Total	254,650	13	19,588		

Does this meet:

➤ Communities of interest



➤ Effective Representation

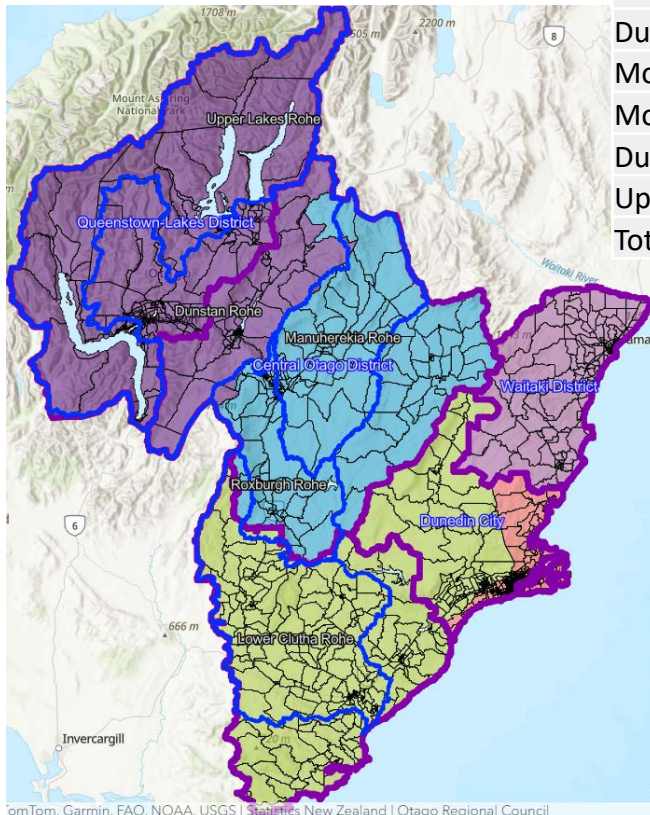


➤ Fair Representation (+/-10%)



Option 5 – New Upper Lakes Constituency (12 Crs)

- ◆ New Upper Lakes Constituency = QLDC and Cromwell Ward from CODC (similar to Upper Lakes and Dunstan rohes)
- ◆ Dunstan Constituency (potentially renamed) = CODC Vincent, Teviot Valley and Maniototo Wards (similar to Manuherehia and Roxburgh rohes)
- ◆ Reallocation of councillors



	New Upper Lakes Ward (3) - QLDC + Dunstan Rohe)				
Dunstan Constituency	15,460	1	15,460	-5,761	-27.15
Moeraki Constituency	22,300	1	22,300	1,079	5.09
Molyneux Constituency	38,300	2	19,150	-2,071	-9.76
Dunedin Constituency	115,200	5	23,040	1,819	8.57
Upper Lakes Constituency	63,390	3	21,130	-91	-0.43
Total	254,650	12	21,221		

Does this meet:

➤ Communities of interest



➤ Effective Representation

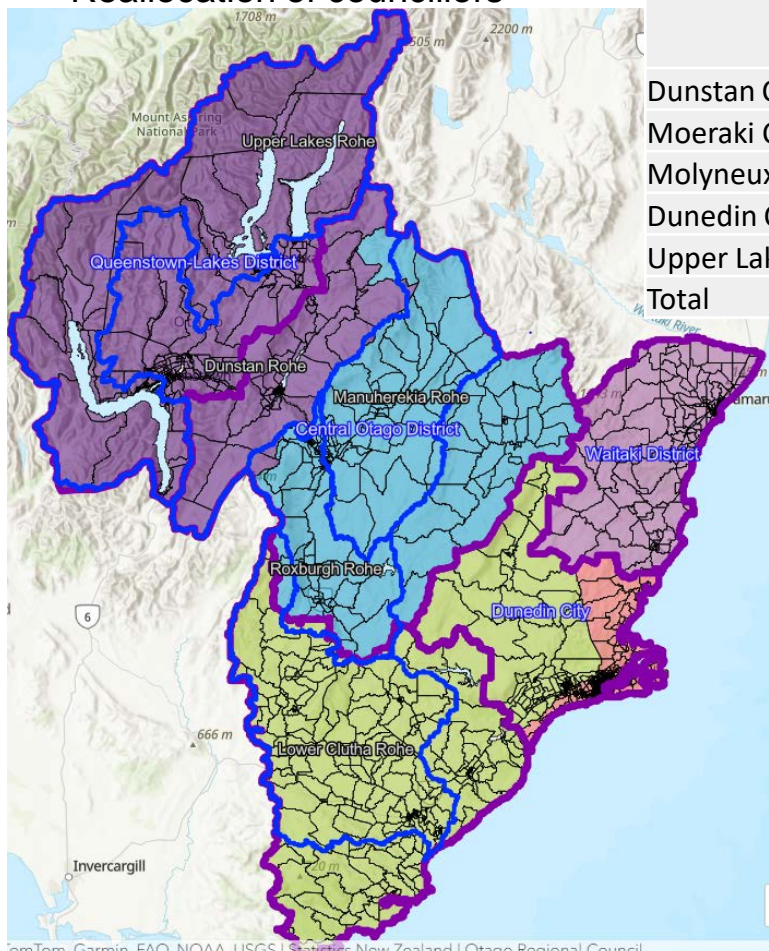


➤ Fair Representation (+/- 10%)



Option 6 – New Upper Lakes Constituency (13 Crs)

- New Upper Lakes Constituency = QLDC and Cromwell Ward from CODC (similar to Upper Lakes and Dunstan rohes)
- Dunstan Constituency (potentially renamed) = CODC Vincent, Teviot Valley and Maniototo Wards (similar to Manuherehia and Roxburgh rohes)
- Reallocation of councillors

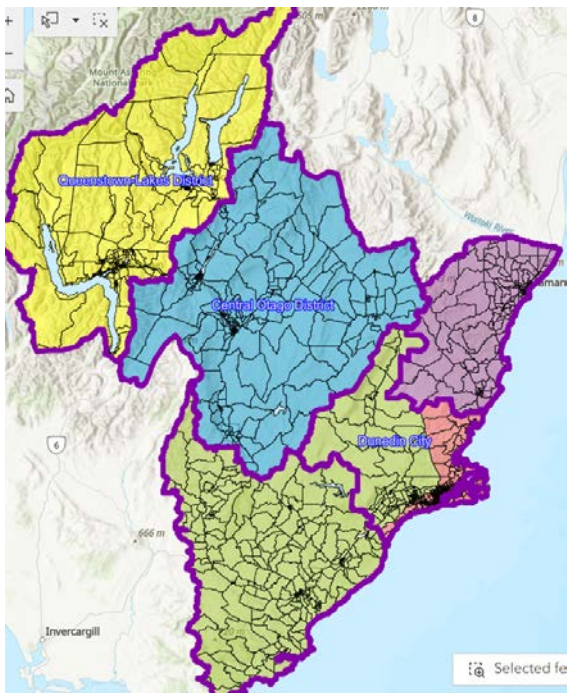


	New Upper Lakes Ward (3) - QLDC + Dunstan Rohe				
Dunstan Constituency	15,460	1	15,460	-4,128	-21.08
Moeraki Constituency	22,300	1	22,300	2,712	13.84
Molyneux Constituency	38,300	2	19,150	-438	-2.24
Dunedin Constituency	115,200	6	19,200	-388	-1.98
Upper Lakes Constituency	63,390	3	21,130	1,542	7.87
Total	254,650	13	19,588		

Does this meet:

- Communities of interest ?
- Effective Representation ?
- Fair Representation (+/- 10%) ?

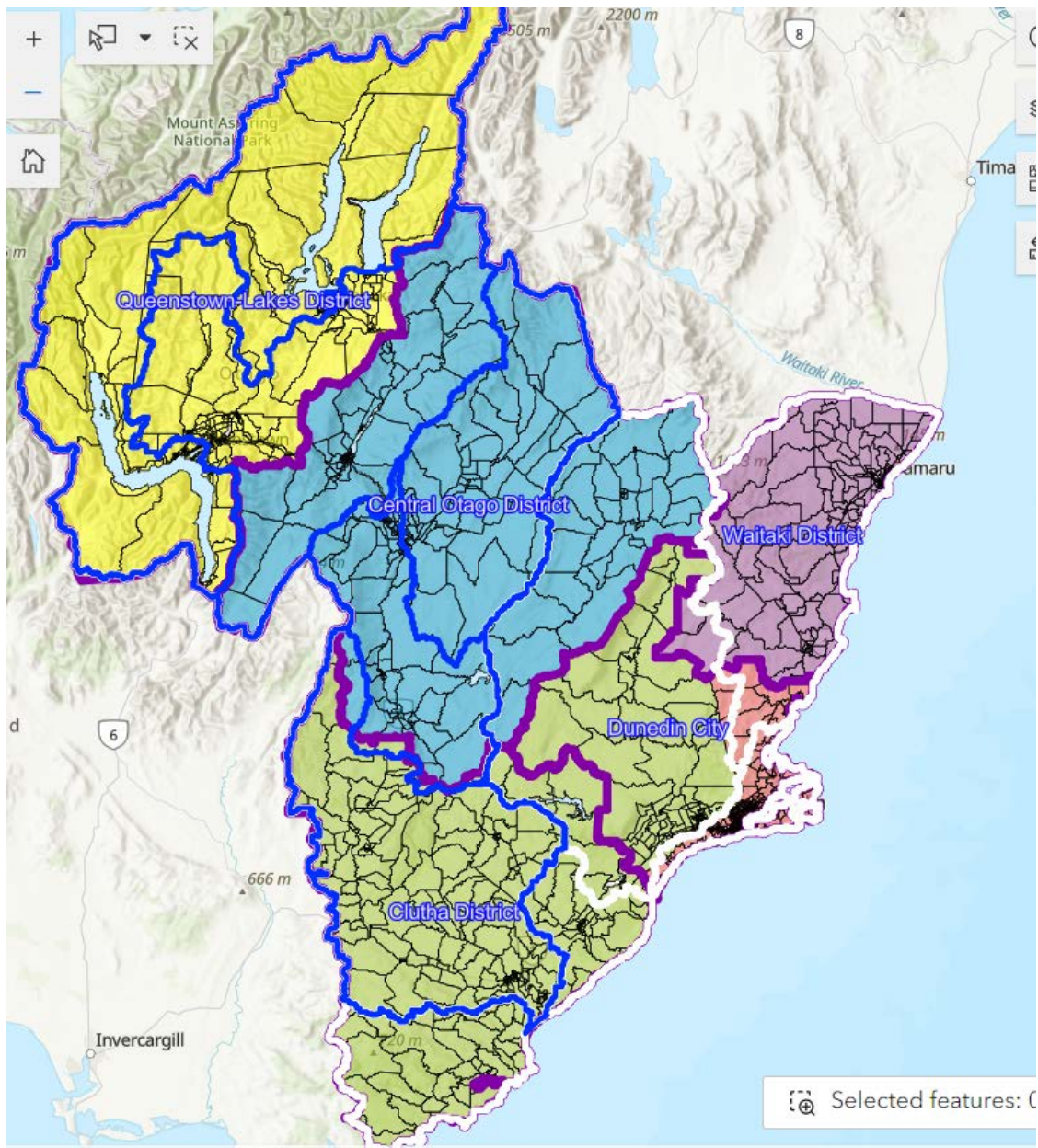
Excluded Option – New Whakatipu/Wānaka Constituency (12 or 13 Crs)



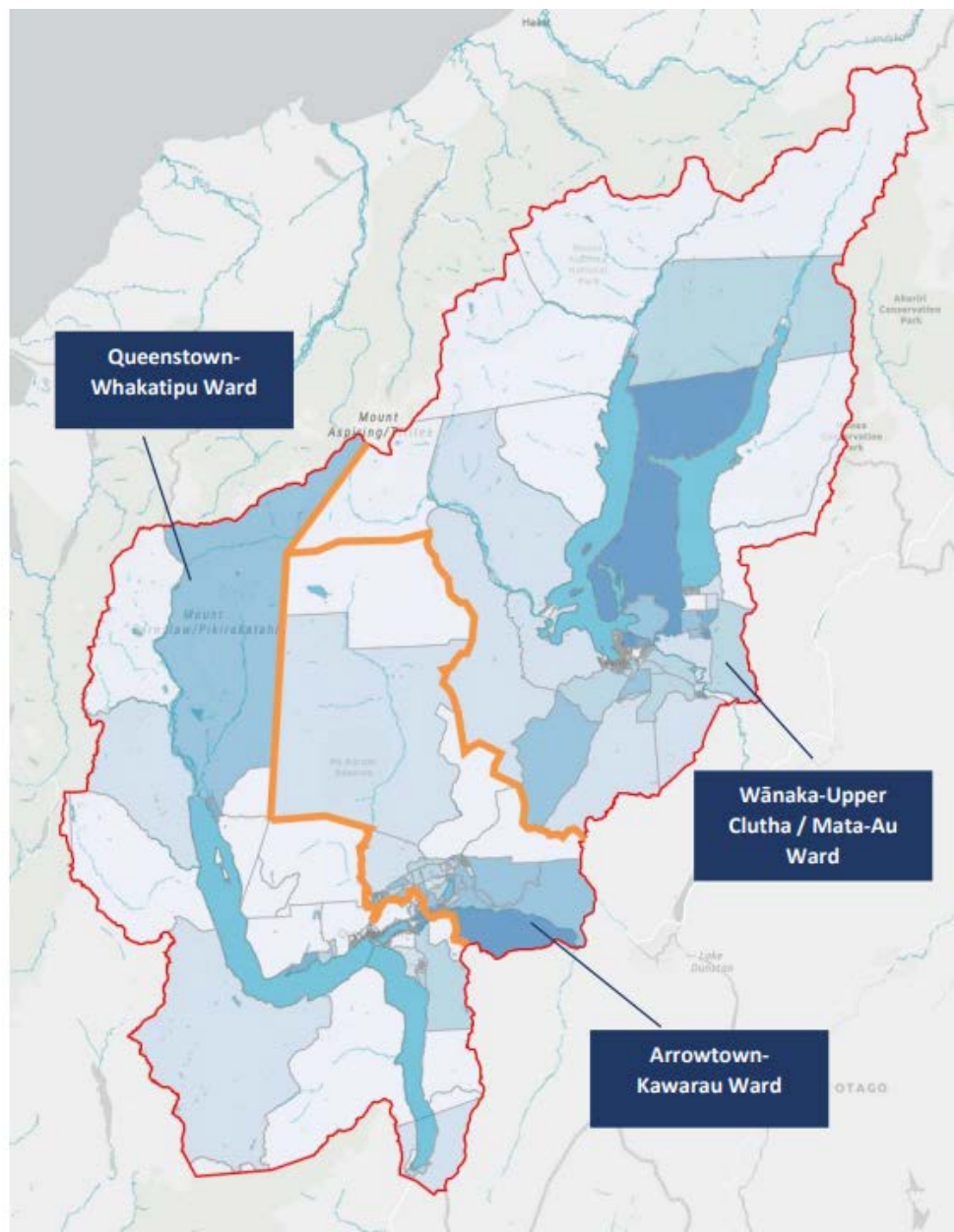
CONSTITUENCY	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Dunstan Constituency	26,050	2	13,025	-8,196	-38.62
Moeraki Constituency	22,300	1	22,300	1,079	5.09
Molyneux Constituency	38,300	2	19,150	-2,071	-9.76
Dunedin Constituency	115,200	5	23,040	1,819	8.57
Whakatipu Constituency	52,800	2	26,400	5,179	24.41
	254,650	12	21,221		

CONSTITUENCY	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Dunstan Constituency	26,050	2	13,025	-6,563	-33.51
Moeraki Constituency	22,300	1	22,300	2,712	13.84
Molyneux Constituency	38,300	2	19,150	-438	-2.24
Dunedin Constituency	115,200	6	19,200	-388	-1.98
Whakatipu Constituency	52,800	2	26,400	6,812	34.77
	254,650	13	19,588		

Current ward/Territorial Authority/FMU/Rohe boundaries (for info)



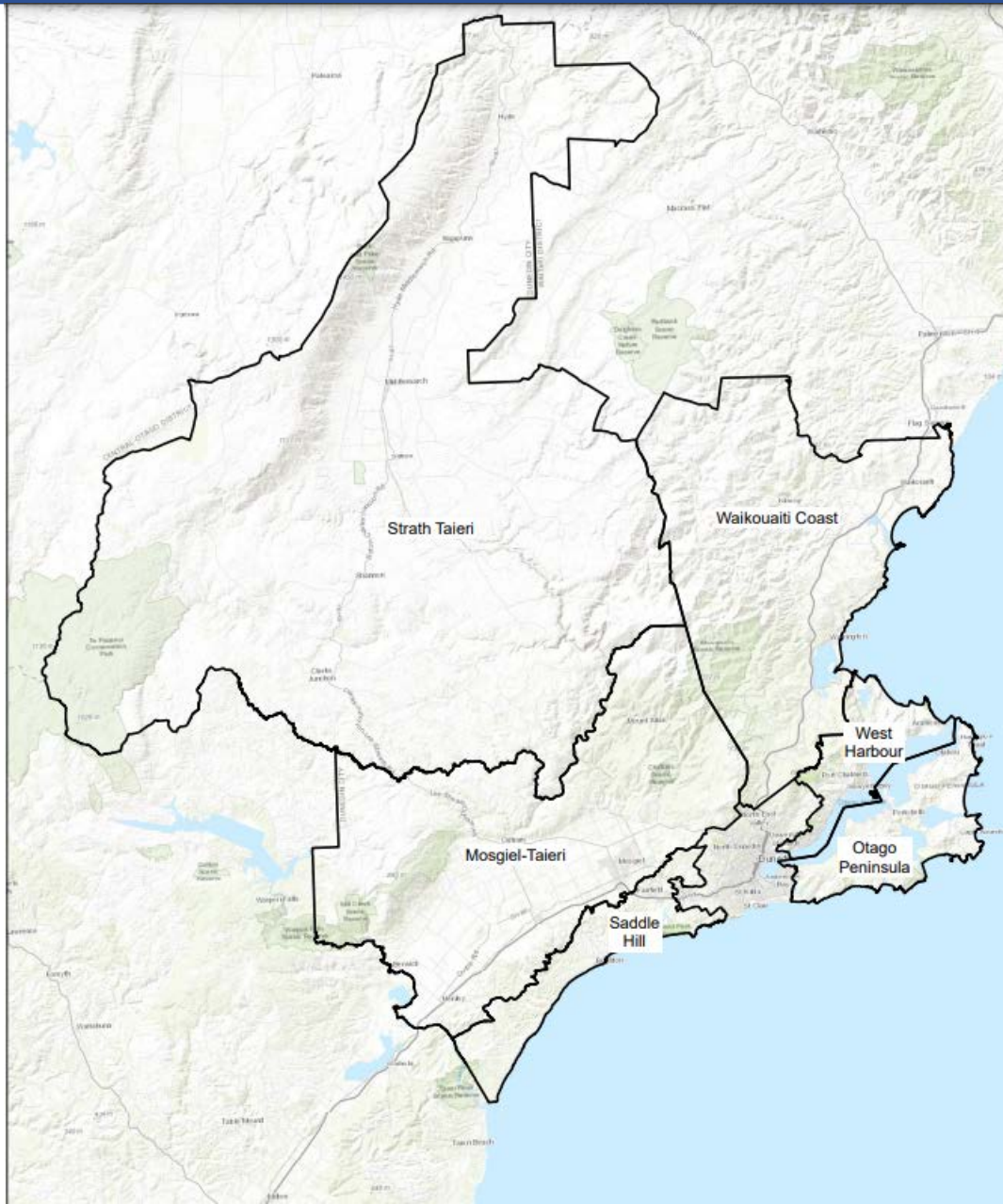
Queenstown Lakes District Council Wards



Central Otago District Council Wards



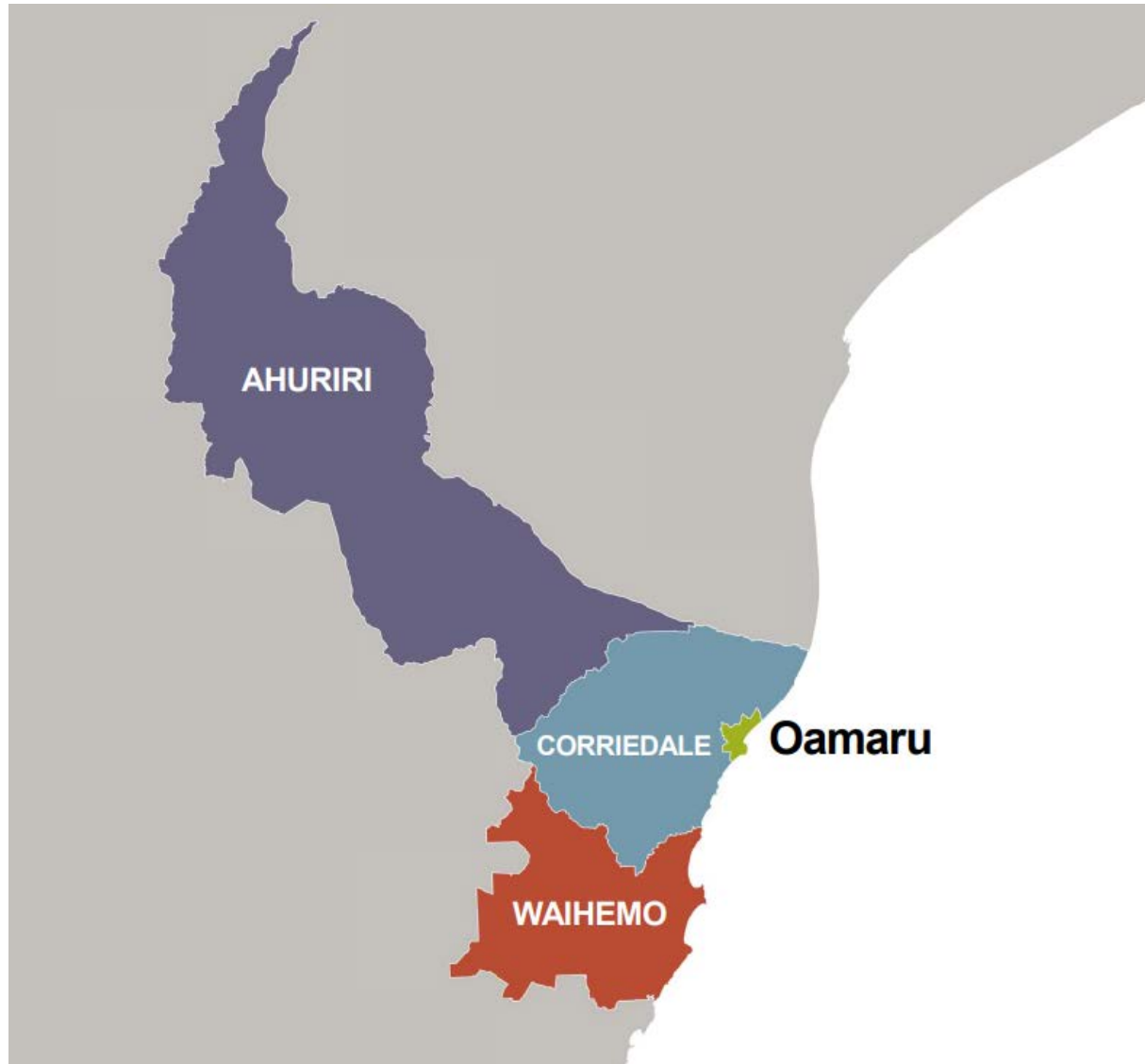
DCC Community Board Areas



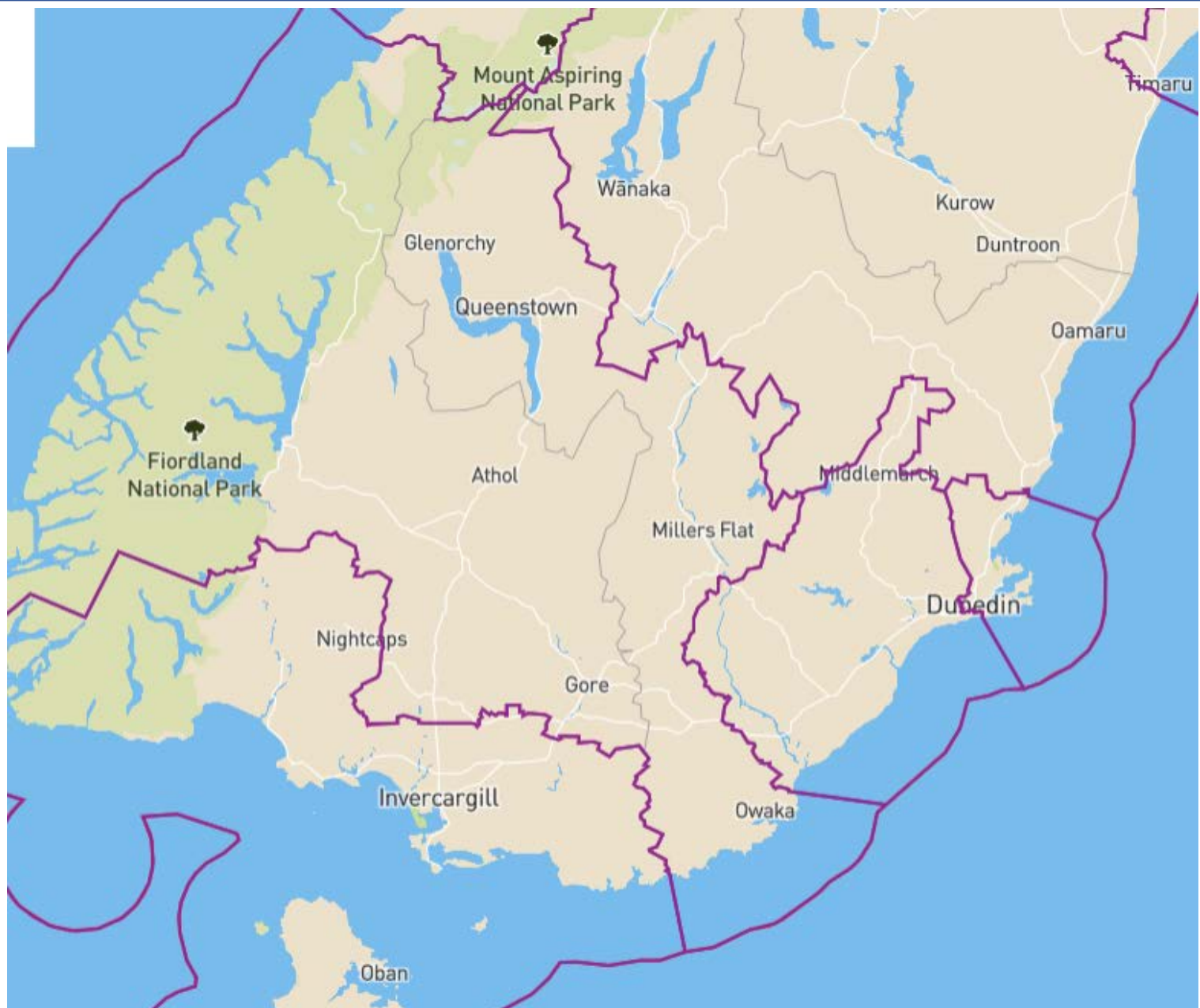
Clutha District Council Wards



Waitaki District Council Wards



General Electorate Boundaries



Process from here

What we've done:

- November 2023 – Council workshop on the rep review
- December 2023 – Council paper on the rep review
- Feb-March 2024 – early engagement
- 21 March 2024 (today) – Council workshop, looking at results of engagement, population data, potential options

Next steps:

- April – additional workshop if needed
- 20 May 2024 – Council paper seeking decision on an initial proposal
- *(note the deadline for initial proposals is end of July, so we would still have time post May to revisit the proposal, should Council want more information)*
- June/July 2024 – Consultation/Submissions/Hearings
- If we are outside of the +/-10% rule we will also need to refer the final proposal to the Local Government Commission for review

Future

- *Given significant population growth in parts of Otago, we may also recommend that staff do an interim review in three years time to ensure the representation arrangements remain fit for purpose.*

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Thank You
Questions?