

Local Government Commission Submission on West Coast Governance Arrangements

Submission from:

Allan John Birchfield



Please find my submission:

For a population of 32,600 people, we have too many representatives. At my last count, it was around 47 – approximately one Councillor for every 700 people.

This creates a problem at election time to find enough people to fill the positions. Often, some Wards have no election as they are not contested. And in others, it's a choice of dumb or dumber.

We are a thin coastal strip with our roading system largely financed and administered by Central Government, with the Councils left to administer secondary roads and only able to rate for 8% of the area.

My submission is that one Council can handle this total area. The alternative is to have two Councils with the Regional Council handling all regulatory functions and a single District Council divided into three Wards – North, Central and South – with service centres in the populated areas to carry out the basic services.

I wish to be heard to support my submission.