

Masterton Community Meeting 16 February 2016

Summary of discussions

What is the best way to consult with the community?

- Keeping people informed
- Online
- Traditional media
- Young not well represented
- Need to address all sectors (eg; farming community)
- 7pm meeting not ideal time for some (eg families)
- Info on the train for commuters
- Caution over use of social media
- Why aren't all groups engaging?
- Why the rush? Need adequate information
- What is the driving force for change?
- This is the biggest thing the Wairarapa has done
- Produce copies of all poster (options) and post them in all the libraries in Wairarapa and in all secondary schools and tertiary training institutions in Wairarapa and in any other "central/visible" places in Wairarapa (eg: marae).

What is important to you?

- Cost savings
- Spatial plan for the region
- Consistency across Wairarapa businesses and residents
- Efficiency
- Best bang for the ratepayer buck
- How are rates set?
- Where does Wairarapa want to be in 20 years – endurance
- Huge opportunity for community to look forward

- Think 100 plus years
- Combined valley wide growth strategy – jobs
- Elected reps representative of people who live here (eg; women, more diverse)
- More inclusion especially disability
- Take good things out of previous process
- Overseas experience – what suits young people?
- Look after natural environment
- Transport links - road and rail and air
- Infrastructure vital for economic growth
- What the Commission thinks
- Sustainability
- How we will continue to fund big projects in the future
- Accountability
- Infrastructure needs to be in place or planned to be in place (eg; solar subsidies inconsistency)
- Provide planning ahead of development
- Digital technology, access to broadband
- Common leadership – not fragmented.
- Overarching regional authority
- Someone in your town you can go to – ownership
- Water resource
- Climate change
- What is the character we desire in the Wairarapa?
- Role of councils to achieve that outcome.
- Keep it simple “you’ve got them on the board”
- Sustainability for the future
- All environmental, economic, social and cultural
- What representation model?
- Accurate cost benefit analysis
- One strong voice for Wairarapa
- Strong thriving region
- Opportunities for our children
- Maintain institutional knowledge
- Vision statement to measure against

Summary of initial feedback on potential options from people who attended the Masterton public meeting

Option A – status quo

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would require a better rating system 		

Option B - Wairarapa District Council

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves the specialist Regional Council organisation • Makes use of strong balance sheet and expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wairarapa representation needs to be addressed • Regional Council for water supplies/sewerage as well as current services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tararua inclusion

Option C - Wairarapa District Council and joint Wairarapa Unitary Plan Committee

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple and straightforward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just give Wairarapa more representation on GWRC • Role/responsibility and funding needs teasing out to make sure that this form follows functions • Regional Council – views land management with city eyes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would this option require more money to run ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be on website • Copies for people to take away • Include Tararua District / Woodville South • Too much indiscriminate subdivision. Need to classify some land as not for subdivision – solely for food production, arable and livestock

Option D – Wairarapa District Council and two committees with the regional council

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wairarapa voice good in Regional Council decisions • No doubt best option D – Cost of other options too high • GW does a fantastic job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too complicated • Complicated – Option B preferred • Rural committee needed – advisory • Voice of small areas very important • Rates – need an overall review, not enough money • Residents will have to pay for others eg; sewerage schemes • Wairarapa can't lose GW – too expensive 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate efficiencies important • Don't know what Mayoral forum think • Hand-outs next time • K.I.S.S. • Need more information on costs for all options • Eketahuna should be included • Use R.A.S.C.I. next time to make clearer

Option E – Wairarapa District Council takes on most regional council functions

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Regional Council is not broke don't fix it • Would be sad to lose the Regional Council • Wairarapa representation on Regional Council is a concern • Only 23,500 ratepayers – can't sustain any more higher rates if we go for this option. We need a different system of raising funding. What is affordable is a key question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is a District Council going to do a better job than a specialist Regional Council? • Will GWRC funding spent in Wairarapa be transferred for us to use? • How does the Wairarapa participate in influencing Regional Councils' decision making? • What are the funding commitments? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate costings of options

Option F – Wairarapa Unitary Council

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wairarapa people making decisions on flood protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of institutional knowledge Less population = less funding – possible lower levels of services Don't like it – we are not big enough – need Wellington We will miss out on GWRC funding Ability of Wairarapa unitary council to govern train transport link with regional and national transport networks Why get rid of Regional Council? How is a unitary council going to do the RC job better? Wairarapa has only 23,500 ratepayers approximately. So how is this number going to support the work presently carried out by the Regional Council and we are an aging population and many on fixed incomes or benefit – looking at the rating system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What option benefits iwi? Is there an option for a separate transport entity? eg Auckland transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Eketahuna back from Tararua We need more information about funding on the options ie; ratepayers vs Regional Council All options need accurate cost/benefit analysis Boundary move to Woodville. Lack of funding from GWRC a concern Other LG funding – not just rating basis

Carterton Community Meeting 17 February 2016

Summary of discussions

Best way to consult?

- Representation
- Consider history
- Accountability of re-elected representatives
- Bring issues of constituents to the council
- Like the way LGC and council working together
 - Consistency
 - Competence
 - Fairness
- What is the problem we want to solve? Shared understanding of problem
- Commission and Council did not handle amalgamation well last time
- If we have a super city or unitary will there be a rail subsidy?
- Don't try and sell their idea
- This is not the way to do it – not interactive
- Need an interactive process
- World café workshop
- Facebook page especially for younger people
- Face on face good for older people
- We don't know what the problem is yet
- Is it central government's opinion that local government in New Zealand is broken?
- Not about presenting a solution to us
- Community needs to identify if there is a problem
- Don't force solutions on the community
- Pre-supposition that amalgamation will save money
- Using language to influence behaviours unethical
- Some ideas have to be put out there – on the right track
- How many times will we hear this?
- If this is the answer – what is the question?
- What is the output from the consultation with councils?
- Be fully transparent
- What is the problem statement?

- Were the CEOs/Councillors presented with the options or start from zero?
- What consultation isn't LGA restrictive definition?
- IAPZ framework for consultation
 - Information
 - Involve
 - Collaborate
 - Empower
- LGA 2012 removed role of Councils in socio economic development
- Genuine engagement
- People in their 20s need to have more of a say
- Don't have time to read heaps – drop off feedback in box
- Language important
- Is this decision best for the greatest good?

Issues?

- Will jobs disappear?
- How much is savings? How much does it cost?
- Tendering – needs to go to the best price – local prices are not always the best price
- Unitary council doing RC functions could be very expensive
- Problems with rivers, old bridges, road washouts
- Don't want a solution that loads cost on the community
- Councils working together eg; tourism
- Low rating population base
- Rate increases are unsustainable
- Carterton too small to exist on its own account - cost per ratepayer second highest in region
- Amalgamation could save Carterton ratepayers \$130 per year
- Some cost saving in bulk buying
- Best service for the price – quality not quantity
- Money being spent – in competition?
- Scared of criticism – silencing the critics (SW)
- Need a mechanism to force consultation
- It is not the structure of the councils that's the problem – it's the councillors who are standing and who votes for them

- Price of rates compared to Wellington – should be higher in Wellington to repair infrastructure at same rate
- Consultation is one of our issues
- Who turns up to meetings? Who is voting?
- People on Council are not necessarily reflective of the community

Are there other options can you think of?

- Carterton and South Wairarapa together?
- Does Wairarapa have more in common with Tararua? Palmerston North?
- One solution is “Balloons” but I don’t know what the problem it will solve
- Last year LG stated unitary authority is off the list and only super city works. Now not only unitary authority is good but there are 3 more options. How many times is LGC going to flip in the next year provided circumstances haven’t changed?
- Turn Wairarapa into its own “super city” but have local wards for community representation

What do you think are the issues?

- Local Councils – no rates – funding by central Government
- Appalling representation on rail frequency
- Get central Government to stop lowering their roading subsidies, forcing councils, whose major cost is roading, to have to keep raising their rates
- Best structure for dealing with climate change
- I’d like to see a matrix of problems and issues against the options showing – pros/cons of each
- Consultation with people under 30 – or even 50
- Where is the relationship with Māori?
- Transparency of progress
- Preserving local democracy ; treating future risks; maintain quality of life; delivering value for money
- Keep status quo and only if and where a problem arises set up a “flying” committee which will look into options to fix the specific issue. This model has worked in the past, so we better use best practice examples
- Greater efficiency, consistency; protection of our environment; improving train service and public transport; fostering economic development and creativity

Summary of initial feedback on potential options from people who attended the Carterton public meeting

Option A – status quo

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic and functioning – show me a merged larger local body that has reduced rates/costs • Status quo inefficient and expensive for our small rating base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural people do most of the work with Regional Council so they must have good representation • Options to improve on this option – 3 District Councils not needed • No ! Wasteful, inefficient, confusing and not seamless 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates should on be CV across the district

Option B – Wairarapa District Council

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like Option B but because rural people do a lot with Regional Council they must be represented • Best of all evils • The best option by far • Rural wards remain • Simplest and least expensive option • This is probably the best option • Community accessing for consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No – need more input into regional Council functions • Should have a dual advisory committee in region – as Nelson/Tasman proposed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a hold on major works until decisions made. Don't need to share unnecessary debt • What about council spending up large in the meantime, incurring debt. This debt on wish lists, not amenities.

Option C – Wairarapa District Council and joint Wairarapa Unitary Plan Committee

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theoretically, overall representation between the groups – GWRC, WDC and Maori – would be a good balance for nutting things out This plan would work well for communication between WDC and GWRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No – Need more Wairarapa input into current Regional Council functions than just RMA matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the funding model for this option? 	

Option D – Wairarapa District Council and two committees with the regional council

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seems a good idea Please try to get the GWRC out of our district. They are the most environmentally destructive organisation I know of Very best option by far but will need very careful design to keep costs down and to make it work efficiently and with fair representation of rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too many committees – more costs – slower actions Transport resource planning regional but needs more local input River management across region important Protecting our environment is the most important function 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more time to think – email options

Option E – Wairarapa District Council takes on most regional council functions

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra capability needed for district councillors to make quality decision on these new topics • We can't afford to fund this. • Capability – need a certain standard – staff and councillors • Need to understand subject matter • Range of understanding required of councillors • Current councillors/staff do not have capability • Concern about affordability given size of Wairarapa • Affordability • Totally opposed • Impractical • Expensive professionals • No – level of competency adherence to plans not happening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development under GWRC control jurisdiction – How much input/say would the Wairarapa District Council have in this forum? Would the majority of funds end up in Wellington? • How do you ensure that there is full and fair consultation between the Regional Council and the District Council – and that the District Council is listened to? • How many Wairarapa Regional Council representatives? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at different ways of funding eg; central government • Need the figures before can commit • Urban rural split in functions • Look at different model for representation (not population based)

Option F – Wairarapa Unitary Council

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like this option – other councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception : last suggestion of 		

<p>do this why can't we ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good: one layer of governance. Currently Carterton too small and regional council too remote • Better is not cheaper but can be more effective 	<p>amalgamation by Wairarapa Council was made under duress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masterton culture of politics negative – healthier in Carterton and want to retain that • Too small rating base –too costly re low income • No – must have regional planning and co-ordination of resource management, transport, port, etc. • Oppose – we need the insurance of out of district coverage • We will drown in debt – rating base too small • Unlikely to be feasible for a small population to fund all the work for both regional and district council functions • Totally against this – cost/incompetence • Re-localisation is a global trend and this is contrary to that (a good trend) • Too large an area geographically to service practically eg; if pipe burst etc • Not enough representation and access • Totally opposed • Democracy costs – small is 		
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	<p>beautiful and prepared to pay the cost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't need amalgamation for cost savings and social benefit – can be achieved by collaboration• Not feasible – need subsidies from GWRC• Don't want to take on earlier debt of other councils (Masterton)• Don't want to pay for earlier stupid decisions of other councils• Even less sustainable than Option E		
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South Wairarapa Community Meeting 23 February 2016

Summary of discussions

What is important – issues and opportunities?

- Streamlined planning processes between regional council and district council to promote economic growth
- Small number of ratepayers – large area
- Roading and transport
- Fair way of representation
- Government controlled Commission missed opportunity – need to collect who came and contact details
- Is it a core driver for central government to reduce the number of parties they have to negotiate with?
- Preserve local voice
- We need to know what is broken
- Currently we have access to speak to the CEO directly. We wouldn't want to lose this access.
- No appetite for super city
- Concern regional council trying to bring spending in line with rates
- Collective discussion
- Need infrastructure to ensure environment does not suffer from growth
- More contact with local government representatives in the community
- Signup sheet very corporate – should ask for address and phone number – people want to be treated as individuals
- Vision for the Wairarapa – what will it look like in five to 30 years
- Transparency, accountability in way ratepayer dollars spent
- Each town has its own spirit – need a structure that allows towns to communicate ideas eg; community boards
- Don't give too much weight to sectors people claim to represent
- Environment – river polluted – regional council needs to respond
- Growth and infrastructure together
- Transparency
- Same rules for all areas across Wairarapa for building consents
- Capability in the office – better resourced eg; writing, policy skills
- Seek the best systems from the three councils eg; Carterton fast growing
- Select things that work – investigate the gold standard internationally
- Trains – regionally funded, younger people use
- *Transport*

- Frequency
- Reliability
- Encouraging tourism “over the hill” from Wellington
- Domination by Masterton
- Bring in a single transferable voting system for council
- Whatever is put together needs to be
 - Transparent
 - Accountable and auditable (accountability seen to be done)
 - Clear process – follow that process
 - Consultative
- There needs to be a depth of skill which will provide confidence that processes are followed. Standing orders must be met and honoured. Perceived conflict of interest must be treated as if perception is real, with processes to minimise that effect.
- Notification – public engagement of those who consider themselves affected – must happen, to maintain inclusion or confidence in local council /unitary council/whatever.
- International experience – what works
- Need to know costs
- Community boards underfunded and underappreciated
- Good process
- Use of consistent language
- Elected vs appointed members
- Public transport essential at regional council
- Will there be a referendum?

Best way to consult?

- Workshops during day and evening in all three South Wairarapa towns
- A lot of people work in Wellington – 7pm earliest for evening meetings
- Consultation in Wellington eg; lunch time at university
- Online
- Pros and cons of Facebook were debated
- 62% of South Wairarapa residents have access to internet
- Letters/newspapers for retired community
- Young parent groups, local schools
- Marae, Plunket, early childhood
- Home meetings

- Keep communication going after workshops – flow of information
- Give us the material in advance so we can do pre-thinking before consultation starts
- Think how to get younger people involved

Are there any other options?

- Two local councils and regional
- Reinstate second Wairarapa representative on the GWRC
- Have Wairarapa shares in Port

Summary of initial feedback on potential options from people who attended the South Wairarapa public meeting

Option A – status quo

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workable if capability of each council is raised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doesn't work now. Insanity = doing what you always did and expecting different results • Don't even think about it 		

Option B - Wairarapa District Council

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of staff etc in the community e.g. building inspectors – don't want them all in one office • People don't want to see a change in service e.g. see a planner without an appointment • Any mechanism for greater district input into transport decisions? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How big would this new council be? One council with roughly same number of councillors? • Consider where the district office would be located • Consider rating base • What is the problem? Start with clear problem definition. Root of dissatisfaction with current arrangement may not actually be local government structure • Could there be an increase in representation on GWRC with this option? • Suggest a single transferable voting system for the new council

Option C - Wairarapa District Council and joint Wairarapa Unitary Plan Committee

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't need any more committees or bean counters. More beans • Representation – I don't feel that having two elected reps from over the hill on the Wairarapa Unitary Plan Committee will have the passion and sense of belonging that is required for active and empowered representation that the responsibility requires. Local people = local decision making (that is effective). • One rep each for the iwi. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who pays for the new committee and what advantages does it give? • Teeth? Local numbers? Local science input from GWRC? 	

Option D – Wairarapa District Council and two committees with the regional council

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great to have more Wairarapa input but we need a combined regional plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representation on committee important • Dilution of power/responsibility – accountable? One group so we can eyeball those in charge. • Costs of running committees • We do not need the extra committees – dilutes accountability. "Not my fault" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much influence might these Wairarapa committees have? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please use RASCI model to clarify decision making etc roles and make it easier to compare options

	<p>systemic failure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do these committees have authority to make the final decisions or will they have to be ratified by WDC? If so forget them. The council officers could do the work and make recommendations to Council. 		
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Option E – Wairarapa District Council takes on most regional council functions

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A modest increase in rates would be worth it – much better than being asked to fund a grandiose new Waihinga Centre More public transport and cheaper Paying our way for the science etc is a good thing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development should be with Wairarapa District Council More realistic power to community boards We are inextricably linked economically to Wellington Roading GW keep to truly regional functions Regional council must have a major role. Can't do without them. Bringing regional council RMA functions to Wairarapa TAs will bring significant additional costs to Wairarapa ratepayers. Science heavy natural resource planning = cost! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why split water between regional council and district council? Where does it sit? How could GWRC operate different models in different parts of the region? We need to keep regional council – can't afford and need connection with Wellington – rely on them for economic wellbeing Wairarapa is economically linked with Wellington, not just through GWRC We actually want regional council to look after transport etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halt on all expenditure until sorted. Too many options Too many options – should have weeded out some SWDC not supportive of commercial development. They like parks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need the regional council as per option E. Wairarapa could not sustain these tasks as per option F. • Environmental management, including pollution, should stay with regional council, not with Wairarapa. • Should be sustainable economic development 		
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Option F – Wairarapa Unitary Council

Benefits/pluses	Costs/risks/concerns/minuses	Questions	Other issues raised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like this option because I like to have control over what is happening. • I'd rather pay more rates for an option that gives more control over established things e.g. environmental management, sewerage, river control • RC and DC roles not clear to people. Under this model people won't be confused about who does what and accountability is clear • Works fine in somewhere like Blenheim where one water supply, wastewater system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigger is not necessarily better. Might lead to ratepayers voice being lost in a bigger bureaucracy. • This terrifies me because of the farming faction might outweigh the environmental issues like pests and rivers • Way too expensive. Leave current council structure to explode. Significant increase in rates. • Will require very skilled people to run and more resources • Challenge in resolving service and infrastructure delivery with effective regulatory functions of a single council with multiple assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would we have to pay for transport? • What would it mean for the future of the regional council? • Do we need to have the same level of standard the regional council currently has? If it was lower, this option would be cheaper. • How would transport/train operation work and be funded under this option? • What would this mean for the rest of the region's relationship with the regional council? • Is the train funding by rating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town plan is important for each town. Village plans.

		only? Or does government put in money too?	
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