

RURAL CITY LIVING



Response to information request from [REDACTED]

15 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email on 12 September about the Future for Local Government report, and whether the Gore District Council has acted on five recommendations.

You specifically asked if we have acted on any of the following:

1. Provided a 4-year electoral term
2. Adopted ranked voting (STV)
3. Lowering the thresholds for the establishment of Māori wards
4. Enabling Te Tiriti-based appointments to councils
5. Lowering the voting age for local elections to 16

With regard to questions 1 and 5, these are changes that would need to be initiated by central Government.

Question 2: The Council recently decided to retain the FPP (first past the post) voting system.

Question 3: The Council met with local iwi – the Hokonui Runanga – to talk about its preference regarding Māori wards. The Runanga expressed no desire for a Maori ward, consequently the Council has decided not to introduce one for the 2025 local body elections.

Question 4: The Council will be conducting a representation review in the near future. Te Tiriti-based appointments will be part of our discussion with the community.

If you are unsatisfied with the response, you are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsmen. You can find more information on its website

<http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonia Gerken".

Sonia Gerken
GM Communications & Customer Support