

# Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

Domestic Services Coordinator  
**Marlborough District Council**

PO Box 443

**Blenheim 7240**

**Attention Mr Mike Porter**

**Email:mike.porter@marlborough.govt.nz**

*Ross Withell*

*President KCSRA*

*2725 Kenepuru Road*

*RD 2*

*Picton 7282*

*email: president@kcsra.org.nz*

*WWW: kcsra.org.nz*

27 July 2015

Dear Sir

## **Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association – Submission on Representation Review – Retention of Sounds Ward and Three Councillors**

### **Introduction**

1. The Association was established in 1991, and currently has approximately 200 household members whose residents live fulltime or part-time in the Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds. The Association's objects include, among others, to coordinate dealings with central and local government and promote the interests of residents of Kenepuru Sound and adjacent areas, and to promote and act in the best interests of residents, ratepayers, and persons associated with the Kenepuru and Central Sounds area.
2. As can be seen from our website (kcsra.org.nz), the Association is very busy representing the interests of members in a wide variety of matters. For example, advocating for better roads, provision of public toilets in places of high use, and environmental/conservation issues. This representation often includes discussion and liaison with both our local elected Councillors and Council officers. It is clear to us that without local representation, the needs of a relatively isolated ward as is the Sounds would be quickly overlooked.
3. Accordingly, the **Association submits** that the current ward structure and the allocation of three ward Councillors to the Sounds ward is appropriate and **should be retained**.

---

### **Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.**

President	Ross Withell
Vice President	Andrew Caddie
Secretary	Brenda Sutton
Treasurer	Stefan Schulz
Chairman Roothing Committee	Robin Bowron

president@kcsra.org.nz
vicepresident@kcsra.org.nz
secretary@kcsra.org.nz
treasurer@kcsra.org.nz
rooding@kcsra.org.nz

## Discussion

4. We have reviewed the material posted on the MDC website discussing the whys and wherefores of the Representation Review. We note the suggestion that the Sounds ward is a little under the plus or minus range to supposedly justify three Councillors. However, we believe this is factually incorrect as the estimated population is based on census figures and given the makeup of a significant proportion of the household population of the Sounds ward is a significant under-representation of the actual population. We note that the Council estimates there are some 1800 absentee property owners in the Sounds ward. In other words, the figure used does not take into account the fact that there are a large number of the likes of bach owners who reside outside of the district.
5. Such property owners pay their share of MDC rates and bearing in mind the concept of no taxes without representation, **we submit** that when these additional households are added to the figure, the ratio then falls within the appropriate limits.
6. Further, much of the Sounds ward fits within the definition of “isolated communities”. In other words, it is an isolated community with a small population spread over a large area with limited access. As we understand it, there is a statutory exemption for such isolated communities and if our submission in paragraph 5 above is for some reason to be set aside, then we believe the exemption is also applicable, thereby justifying the Sounds ward having three Councillors.
7. If MDC is to hold a formal hearing on this matter, the Association wishes to have the opportunity to attend the same and speak to its submission in favour of retaining the status quo.

Yours sincerely

  
Ross Withell

President  
Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association  
c/- 2725 Kenepuru Road  
RD 2, Picton 7282

Email [president@kcsra.org.nz](mailto:president@kcsra.org.nz)