



Evidence for Counter-Objection in Relation to Proposed Electorate Boundaries (N37-001)

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Summary of Counter-Objection to Objection N37-001

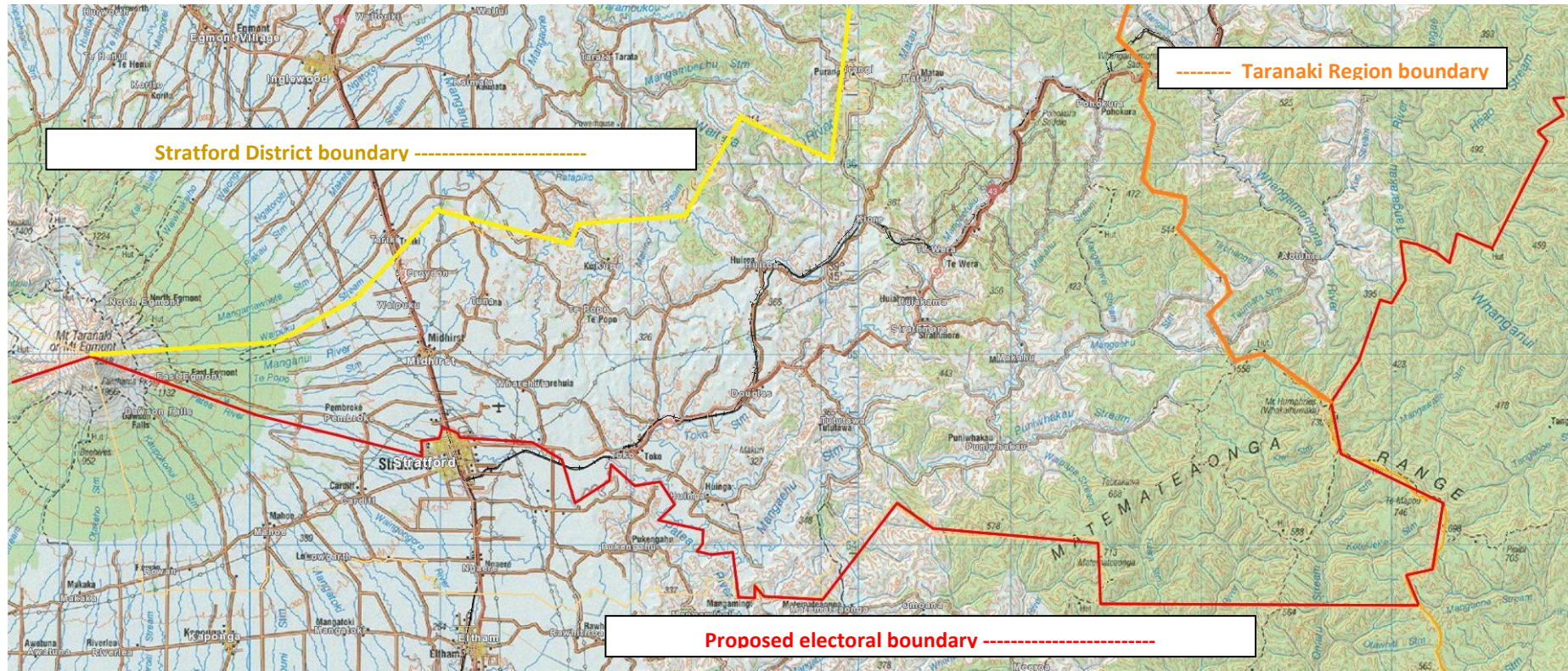
S Taylor has objected to the inclusion of Stratford in the Whanganui electorate. **I think that not only is it a good thing to include Stratford with Whanganui, but that rural Stratford North and East is done a disservice by being left behind.**

The proposed boundaries sever rural Stratford from urban Stratford, and leave residents isolated from the bulk of their electoral community by the isolated 2 hour Forgotten World Highway.

Including Stratford with Whanganui provides residents with much better access to a closer and more compact electorate, but this should also be extended to the rural inhabitants of Stratford East.

Three alternatives to the proposed boundary are detailed, and compared to the proposed boundary, below.

Proposed Whanganui- TKC Boundaries





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The proposed changes to the electoral boundary between Taranaki-King Country and Whanganui will sever the rural parts of northern and eastern Stratford District from the Stratford township and the hinterland to the south. Stratford township moves into the Whanganui electorate, while Stratford North and East remain in the Taranaki-King Country electorate.

For some inhabitants of Stratford East, though they are an hour from Stratford, it is still their closest town. For all inhabitants of Stratford North and East, the proposed changes will mean their closest town of any size comparable to Stratford will be Te Kuiti, more than 2 hours away for all inhabitants, and as far as 3 hours for some.

Alternatives must be considered to ensure these New Zealanders have a practical ability to participate as citizens of a democracy.

Alternative Whanganui- TKC Boundaries

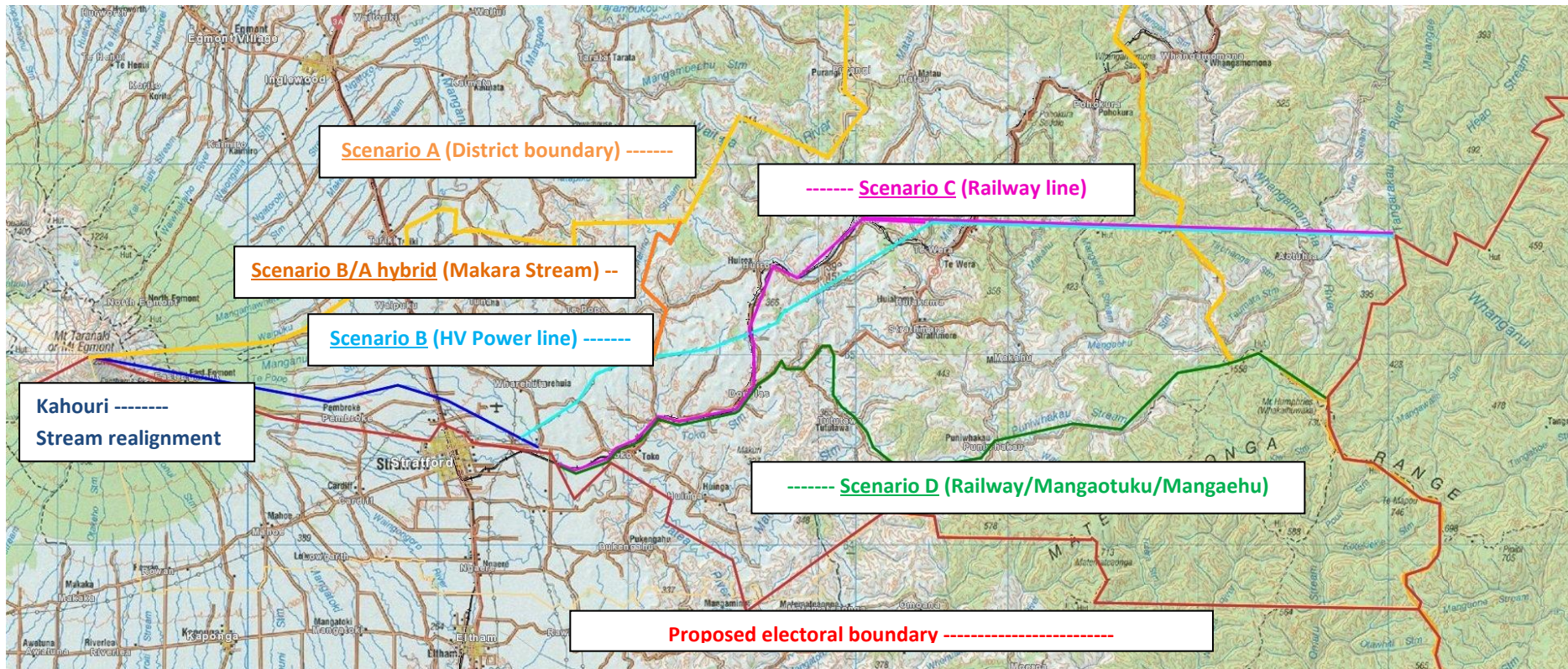
Ideally all of the Stratford District which lies in the Taranaki Region belongs together in the same electorate. All of the communities in this area look to Stratford as their rural service centre town. Inhabitants of the eastern hill country in particular are separated from the north by the Waitara River which forms a natural boundary, and by the Whangamomona saddle which is the link between the Patea and Whanganui river catchments.

However, mindful that such a move may be impossible due to the electorate quota system, I have developed 3 further alternatives to the proposed Taranaki-King Country-Whanganui electorate boundary which would greatly improve the access of rural Stratford citizens to democratic participation. The proposed alternatives prioritise those furthest from the nearest town in their electorate (2 – 3 hours from Te Kuiti), and most dependent on their proximity to Stratford. These alternatives are shown on the map below, and discussed on the next page.

As discussed above, the preference is to include all of the Stratford District which lies in the Taranaki Region in the Whanganui electorate (Scenario A). Failing this, Scenario B is the most preferred, in maximising access for the most residents, then Scenario C, then Scenario D. The appropriate alternative would be the most preferred scenario that does not result on the electorate exceeding 5% variation from quota.

Such an alternative must be adopted if the rights of these New Zealanders citizens are to be taken seriously.

Proposed Alternatives: Scenarios A, B, C & D





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Scenario A (District boundary) would follow the northern Stratford District Council boundary until it intersects the Taranaki Regional Council boundary, then follow the regional council boundary south back to the existing Whanganui-Taranaki-King Country boundary.

Kahouri Stream realignment

Scenarios B, C & D all include the realignment of the northern boundary to go from the Peak of Mt Taranaki to and along the Kahouri Stream (north of Stratford) until it meets the Patea River. However, if none of the three scenarios described below could come within quota, then ignoring this realignment could be an option, as those dwelling in this area are closer to other urban centres than those dwelling in Stratford East, and are therefore less of a priority.

Scenario B (High Voltage Transmission Line) would follow the Kahouri Stream as described above until it intersects with the high voltage transmission running to the north-east, then follow the high voltage transmission line to its intersection with the railway line near Te Wera, then in a straight line due east to the Whanganui River, or to the confluence of the Tangarakau and the Whanganui. This option would take in the communities of Toko, Huinga, Douglas, Strathmore, Huiakama and Te Wera, and Tututawa, Puniwhakau, Makahu and Aotuhia, the latter of which are otherwise a long way from anywhere.

***A hybrid of Scenarios B & A** could see the boundary follow the high voltage transmission line until it intersects Waiwiri Road, then follow Waiwiri Road to its intersection with Makuri Road and the Makino Stream, and then follow the Makino Stream to the district boundary and east along the District boundary to the region boundary and back to the existing Whanganui-Taranaki-King Country boundary as discussed in Scenario A.

Scenario C (Railway line): Instead of following the high voltage transmission line, in Scenario B the boundary would continue from the Kahouri Stream to follow the Patea River until its intersection with the Stratford–Okahukura Railway Line. It would then follow the railway line to its intersection with State Highway 43 at Te Wera (north of Huiakama), then run a straight line due east to the Whanganui River, or to the confluence of the Tangarakau and the Whanganui. This scenario would also take in the communities described above, but it would exclude half of Toko and Douglas.

Scenario D (Railway/Mangaotuku/Mangaehu) would follow the Kahouri Stream, Patea River and Stratford–Okahukura Railway Line as described in Scenario B, but from Douglas would follow State Highway 43 to the first bridge over Mangaotuku Stream, then downstream along the Mangaotuku, and then upstream along the Upper Mangaehu and Puniwhakau Streams to the Taranaki Regional Council boundary, and south along this boundary to the existing electoral boundary. This scenario would take in the southern parts of Toko and Douglas, as well as the communities of Huinga, Tututawa and Puniwhakau.

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