Thank you for forwarding the copy of the preliminary report on the above.

I note the comments regarding my alternative structure of two wards, Hamilton proper as one, and the remaining rural area as the other.

A second option has been put forward in the VEC Review, in addition to the unsubdivided, consisting of a Hamilton-based ward with four councillors, and three single-councillor wards from the divisional constituency.

There is some merit in the four ward option, compared to my original suggestion of two, one metro, one rural. Diversity and flexibility are more to the fore, with four wards.

In difficulty, I have with plans and reviews of this shire, is the regular acceptance of a static or declining population here, sometimes projected over decades. I don't consider this a progressive approach, looking to the shire future. To be frank, the constant (negative) projection will influence community attitudes, and result in its likely coming time.

So, along with a change in approach to population growth, I consider an altered, wider ward structure could promote greater activity and progress, which I would support. Option B.

That is not to say Option A is a failure. Rather, that...
in a conservative, rural area, it can be useful at times to offer change, thereby producing opportunities, 
increasing thought, and encouraging growth initiatives.

Thank you for the chance to offer an opinion. However, I will not avail myself of the speaking opportunity at this stage.

15. 4. 19