

Māori Wards 2020

Whangarei District Council

Briefing

1pm, 13 October 2020

Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer

Māori Wards 2020

- can be established anytime but specific opportunity every three-years
- establishment optional
- sit alongside general wards
- any elector can stand in a Māori ward
- only electors on the Māori electoral roll can vote in a Māori ward

Māori Wards 2020

- legal obligation
 - LGA sec 4: 'Treaty of Waitangi to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes...'
 - LGA sec 14(d): 'a local authority should provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making.'
- LEA secs 19Z-19ZH provides opportunity and mechanisms

Māori Wards 2020

- establishment of Māori Wards socialized with Te Huinga and through Te Kārearea (recommended)
- establishment of standing committee to support Māori participation in decision making considered by Council on 24 September
- the two mechanisms complement each other:
 - the first is about *representation* through the Local Electoral Act 2001
 - the second about *participation* through the Local Government Act 2002
- other mechanisms include:
 - appoint members to committees
 - working parties
- other Councils with partnership models
 - Rotorua Lakes Council/Te Arawa Partnership
 - Gisborne District Council Joint Agreement

Māori Wards 2020

- every three-years Council can consider:
 - whether or not to establish Māori wards
 - whether or not to hold a poll on the matter
- resolution (optional) by 23 November 2020
- if establishing Māori wards, public notice by 30 November 2020
- notice provides opportunity for public to demand a poll
- resolution takes effect for minimum two triennial elections (2022, 2025)

Māori Wards 2020

- Council can resolve to hold a poll any time:
 - if no date given, poll as soon as practicable
 - if by 21 February 2021
 - poll held by 21 May 2021
 - result binding for 2022 & 2025 elections
 - if after 21 February 2021
 - poll held after 21 May 2021 e.g. poll held with 2022 elections
 - result binding for 2025 & 2028 elections

Māori Wards 2020

- electors can demand a poll any time:
 - if received by 21 February 2021
 - poll held by 21 May 2021
 - result binding for 2022 & 2025 elections
 - if received after 21 February 2021
 - poll held after 21 May 2021 e.g. poll held with 2022 elections
 - result binding for 2025 & 2028 elections
- minimum 5% electors (3,080) can demand poll
- estimated cost of poll \$100-\$110k + GST

Māori Wards 2020

- recent poll results
 - 2018 Western Bay of Plenty DC (22% for, 78% against)
 - 2018 Palmerston North CC (31% for, 69% against)
 - 2018 Whakatane DC (45% for, 55% against)
 - 2016 Wairoa DC (54% for, 46% against)
 - 2015 Far North DC (32% for, 68% against)
 - 2015 New Plymouth DC (17% for, 83% against)
 - 2013 Hauraki DC (19% for, 81% against)
 - 2012 Waikato DC (20% for, 80% against)
 - 2012 Wairoa DC (48% for, 52% against)

Māori Wards 2020

- formula in LEA
 - $nmm = \frac{mepd}{mepd + gepd} \times nm$
 - nmm = number Māori members
 - mepd = Māori electoral population of district
 - gepd = general electoral population of district
 - nm = total number members
- 17,397 Māori Electoral Population (19.13%)
- 73,563 General Electoral Population (80.87%)
- if 13 councillors retained:
 - 2 Māori councillors (2.49 rounded down to 2)
 - 11 general councillors
- for 3 Māori councillors, would need 14 councillors

Māori Wards 2020

- currently three local authorities have Māori representation
 - Bay of Plenty Regional Council (2001)
 - Waikato Regional Council (2013)
 - Wairoa District Council (2019)
- if established
 - must apply for at least two triennial elections
 - must undertake a representation review
- SOLGM submitted to Justice Committee that legislation for Māori wards be aligned with creation of other wards
- matter of interest to Minister of Local Government
- watch this space

Māori Wards 2020

- next steps
 - resolve by 23 November 2020 to establish Māori wards for 2022 & 2025 elections; or
 - resolve by 21 February 2021 to hold a poll on Māori wards for outcome for 2022 & 2025 elections; or
 - resolve after 21 February 2021 to hold a poll on Māori wards with 2022 election for outcome for 2025 & 2028 elections; or
 - seek feedback from iwi/hapu for Māori wards or other forms of Māori participation in decision-making; or
 - consider again in 2023

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