

MĀORI WARDS POLL



MĀORI WARDS FOR WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL?

Whakatāne District Council electors have the opportunity to have their say on whether one or more Māori wards are established (in addition to general wards). This follows a decision by Council elected members late last year to divide the district into one or more Māori wards for the next two local government elections in 2019 and 2022, as provided for in the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Members of Māori wards would be elected by people who are enrolled on the Māori Parliamentary Electoral Roll. Electors of Māori wards would not be able to vote for members of general wards. Similarly, people who are enrolled on the General Parliamentary Electoral Roll would vote for members of the general wards, but not for members of Māori wards. All electors would still vote for the Mayor and community board members.

POLL ON MĀORI WARDS

Following the successful public demand for a poll, the Whakatāne District Council is required to hold a binding poll to decide whether one or more Māori wards are to be established for the next triennial elections in 2019 and 2022. People eligible to vote in the poll are:

- All residential electors who are registered on the General and Māori Parliamentary Electoral Rolls and live in the Whakatāne District;
- All non-resident ratepayer electors who live outside of the Whakatāne District, but own property within the District and have enrolled on the Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

RESULTS OF THE POLL

The results of this poll will be binding on the Council for the next two triennial elections in 2019 and 2022. If a majority of voters oppose the establishment of one or more Māori wards, the matter cannot be considered again until 2023. If a majority of voters support the establishment of one or more Māori wards, the Council must reflect this when it reviews its representation arrangements later this year.

This review would involve a Council decision on:

- The number of general and Māori wards;
- The number of members to be elected from general and Māori wards;
- The ward boundaries and names.

The community's views on the representation proposal are then sought through a formal consultation process.

If the outcome of the poll supports the establishment of one or more Māori wards, the number of Māori ward members is determined by a legislative formula, based on the Māori and general electoral populations of the Whakatāne District. Based on the present number of elected ward members (10), applying the formula would mean that three members would be elected from one or more Māori wards; and seven members would be elected from one or more general wards.

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The following legislative references relating to Maori representation and participation in local government are provided for information.

- The principle of the Local Electoral Act 2001 that relates to representation is to implement '(a) fair and effective representation for individuals and communities' (Section 4(1)(a) Local Electoral Act 2001);
- One of the purposes of local government is: (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities (section 10(1)(a), Local Government Act 2002);
- It is a principle of the Local Government Act 2002 that a local authority should provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to its decision-making process (section 14(1)(d));
- 'A local authority must: (a) establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and (b) consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority' (section 81 (1) (a) and (b) Local Government Act 2002).

SOME RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

Considerations relevant to a decision on the establishment of one or more Māori wards include:

- Māori wards could provide more effective, direct representation for tangata whenua of the District in Council decision-making processes;
- All elected members are required to act in the best interests of the whole of the Whakatāne District, not just for their own ward;
- Māori ward representatives could better relate to the needs of Māori communities and provide the Council with a greater understanding of Māori issues and concerns;
- Māori wards may encourage more Māori to participate in local government, by standing for office and voting at local elections;
- Approximately one-third of the Whakatāne District's electoral population is Māori, but this is not reflected in the current representation on Council;
- Māori have an equal right to stand for Council and to vote at local elections and therefore may not need separate electoral representation;
- Council could improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making by other means, such as through Māori consultative groups, or appointments to committees.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The result of the Māori Wards Poll is important in determining how members will be elected to the Whakatāne District Council at the 2019 and 2022 local government elections. **The voting period for this poll is Friday 27 April 2018 to 12 noon, Saturday 19 May 2018.**

Please complete the enclosed voting document and return it by mail (in the prepaid envelope provided), or place it in a ballot box available at **Murupara Service Centre by 4:30pm, Friday 18 May or the Whakatāne Council office by 12 noon, Saturday 19 May 2018.**

For more information, please contact:

The Electoral Officer, Phone: 0800 922 822;

Email: info@electionservices.co.nz; or visit the

Whakatāne District Council website (whakatane.govt.nz)

HE PŌTI MŌ NGĀ ROHE PŌTI MĀORI

ME WHIWHI ROHE PŌTI MĀORI TE KAUNIHERA O WHAKATĀNE?

Kua whai wāhi ngā kaipōti o Te Kaunihera o Whakatāne ki te whakaputa i ō rātau whakaaro mō te whakatūnga o tētahi rohe pōti Māori kotahi, neke atu rānei (i tua atu i ngā rohe pōti whānui). E whai ana tēnei i te whakatau a ngā mema o te Kaunihera i te pito o tērā tau kia tauwehe te rohe i ngā rohe pōti Māori kotahi, neke atu rānei mō ngā pōtitanga kaunihera e rua ā te 2019 me te 2022, i raro i te Local Electoral Act 2001.

Ka pōtihia ngā mema o ngā rohe Māori e te hunga kei te rēhita ki te Rārangi Pōti Pāremata Māori. Kāore ngā kaipōti o ngā rohe Māori i te āhei ki te pōti mō ngā mema o ngā rohe pōti whānui. Waihoki, ko te hunga e rēhita ana ki te Rārangi Pōti Pāremata Whānui ka pōti mō ngā mema o ngā rohe pōti whānui, engari kua mō ngā mema o ngā rohe pōti Māori. Ka pōti tonu ngā kaipōti katoa mō te Koromatua me ngā mema poari hapori.

HE PŌTI MŌ NGĀ ROHE PŌTI MĀORI

Whai muri i te tono tūmatanui mō tētahi rohe pōti Māori, e herea ana te Kaunihera o Whakatāne ki te whakahaere i tētahi pōti paihere ki te whakatau mēnā kotahi, neke atu rānei ngā rohe pōti Māori ka whakatūhia mō ngā pōtitanga e whai ake ā te 2019 me te 2022. Ko te hunga e āhei ana ki te pōti ko:

Ngā kaipōti kainoho katoa e rēhita ana ki ngā Rārangi Pōti Whānui me te Rārangi Pōti Māori, ka mutu kei te Rohe o Whakatāne e noho ana;

Ngā kaiuturēti katoa ehara i te kainoho engari kei waho i te Rohe o Whakatāne e noho ana, engari he whenua motuhake ō rātau i roto i te Rohe, ā, kua rēhita ki te Rārangi Pōti Kaiuturēti;

NGĀ HUA O TE PŌTI

Ka paiherea te Kaunihera ki ngā hua o tēnei pōti mō ngā pōtitanga e rua e whai ake ā te tau 2019 me te 2022. Ki te whakahētia e te nuinga o ngā kaipōti te whakatūnga o tētahi rohe pōti Māori kotahi, neke atu rānei, kāore e whakaaroarohia anō te take hei te 2023 rā anō. Ki te tautokona e te nuinga o ngā kaipōti te whakatūnga o tētahi rohe pōti Māori kotahi, neke atu rānei, me whakaatu te Kaunihera i tēnei i te arotakenga o ngā whakaritenga whaikānohitanga i tēnei tau. Kei roto i tēnei arotake ko tētahi whakatau a te Kaunihera mō:

- Te maha o ngā rohe pōti whānui me te Māori;
- Te maha o ngā mema ka pōtihia mai i ngā rohe pōti whānui, Māori hoki;
- Ngā rohenga pōti me ngā ingoa.

Ka rapua ngā whakaaro o te hapori mō te whaikānohitanga e marohitia ana mā tētahi whakahaere whitiwhiti kōrero ōkawa.

Mēnā i te mutunga ka tautokona e te pōti te whakatūnga o tētahi rohe pōti Māori kotahi, neke atu rānei, ka whakaritea te maha o ngā mema rohe Māori e ngā tātai ā-ture, e ai ki ngā taupori rohe pōti Māori, whānui hoki o te Rohe o Whakatāne. E ai ki te maha o ngā mema rohe pōti ka pōtihia (10), ki te whakamahia te tātai ko te tikanga e toru ngā mema ka pōtihia mai i ngā rohe pōti Māori kotahi, neke atu rānei; ā, e whitu ngā mema ka pōtihia mai i tētahi rohe pōti kotahi, neke atu rānei.

HE WHAKAMĀRAMA Ā-TURE

He kōrero whakamārama ēnei whakapuakanga ā-ture.

- Ko tētahi mātāpono o te Local Electoral Act 2001 ko te whakatutuki '(a) i tētahi whaikānohitanga tika me te whaitake mō ngā tāngata me ngā hapori' (*Wāhanga 4(1)(a) Local Electoral Act 2001*);
- 'Ko tētahi kaupapa o te kāwanatanga ā-rohe: (a) he whakamana i te tuku whakatau manapori ā-rohe me ana mahi e ngā hapori, mō ngā hapori (wāhanga 10, Local Government Act 2002); He tikanga o te Local Government Act 2002 Kia whai wāhi ai te Māori ki te whakauru whakaaro ki te tukanga whakatau (wāhanga 14 (1)(d))
- 'Ko tā te kaunihera me mātua: (a) whakatū me te whakahaere i ngā tukanga e whai wāhi atu ai te Māori ki te whakauru whakaaro atu ki ngā tukanga whakatau a te kaunihera; me (b) whiriwhiri huarahi e taea ai te kaha o te Māori te whakawhanake kia uru atu ōna whakaaro ki ngā tukanga whakatau a te kaunihera (wāhanga 81 (1) (a) me (b) Local Government Act 2002).

ĒTAHI WHIRIWHIRINGA

Kei roto i ngā whiriwhiringa e tika ana mō te whakatū i tētahi rohe pōti Māori, neke atu rānei:

- Ka taea e ngā rohe pōti Māori te tuku whaikānohitanga whaitake ake, hāngai mō te tāngata whenua o te rohe i roto i ngā tukanga whakatau a te Kaunihera;
- E paiherea ana ngā mema katoa o pōtihia ki te mahi mō te painga o te rohe whānui o Whakatāne, kua mō ō rātau ake rohe anake;
- Ka mōhio ake ngā māngai o ngā rohe pōti Māori ki ngā hiahia o ngā hapori Māori, ka mutu ka nui ake te mōhio o te Kaunihera ki ngā take me ngā māharahara o te Māori;
- Mā ngā rohe pōti Māori pea e nui ake te whai wāhi mai a te Māori ki ngā whakahaere kāwanatanga ā-rohe, mā te tū hei kaitono me te pōti i ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe;
- Tata ki te kotahi hautoru o te taupori pōti o te Rohe o Whakatāne he Māori, engari kāore tēnei i te whakaatahia e ngā māngai onāiane i te Kaunihera;
- He ōrite te mana o te Māori ki te tū mō te Kaunihera me te pōti i ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe, nō reira kāore pea e hiahiatia ana he tūru motuhake;
- Ka taea anō pea e te Kaunihera te Māori te whakauru whakaaro mā ētahi atu huarahi, arā, pērā i ngā rōpū Māori whitiwhiti kōrero, me tohu rānei ki ngā komiti.

WHAKAPUTAHIA Ō WHAKAARO

He mea nui ngā hua o te Pōti Rohe Pōti Māori mō te whakarite e hia ngā mema ka pōtihia ki te Kaunihera o Whakatāne i ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe ā te 2019 me te 2022. **Ko te wā pōti mō tēnei pōti ka haere mai i te Paraire te 27 o Paenga-whāwhā 2018 ki te 12pm o te Rāhoroi te 19 o Haratua 2018.**

Me whakakī te pepa pōti kei roto ka whakahoki mā te mēra (kei roto te kōpaki kua utua kē), raua atu rānei ki tētahi pouaka pōti kei te **Murupara Service Centre i mua o te 4:30pm Rāmere te 18 o Haratua 2018, kei ngā tari Kaunihera rānei i mua o te 12pm, Rāhoroi te 19 o Haratua 2018.**

Mō ētahi atu kōrero, whakapā atu ki:

Te Āpiha Pōti: Waea. **0800 922 822;**

Īmēra: **info@electionservices.co.nz;**

haere rānei ki te paetukutuku a Te Kaunihera o Whakatāne (**whakatane.govt.nz**)