

SUBMISSIONS – DON'T SUPPORT

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Conneely, John #3

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

People should gain public office based solely on merit - not race.

Holley, Alexandra #5

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

They have the same opportunities to participate already. This would mean double dipping and huge multi million dollar increases for ratepayers as evidenced by Auckland City Council

Hansen, Victoria #6

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Its totally unnecessary given the voice they already have. Its devicive and racist

Old, Kathleen #7

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Another step toward apartheid. We have Maori counsellors on the council who can have their say. The council should represent all NewZealanders. Including those we have brought into this country and are now citizens. We are New Zealanders.

Hancock, Andrew #8

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

People should be elected based on expertise, passion for the area etc not race. Maori seats should be not be established as it's treating one race differently to everyone else, thus is the definition of racist. Maori get elected into councils without these devicive, racist policies proving even more so that 'special' race based seats are not needed. We are suppose to all be New Zealanders not Maori and everyone else.

Barnett, Barnett #10

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

One people, not dividing into two groups.

Sweeney, Paul #16

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Race-based policies are inherently racist, anti-democratic, divisive and just wrong. We already have a voting system which ensures representation; there are many Maori already elected to serve and there is no need to artificially inflate their representation on the HBRC. What next? Will we have Indian or Chinese or British constituencies? No, because those ethnic groups are already represented under the existing system, the same as every other group of NZ residents, including Maori. All Public offices should be held by individuals elected on the basis of their competence for the role, NOT the colour of their skin.

Parker, Bruce #17

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Maori already have enough say as it is We are meant to be one country What about more say for other ethnic groups ?

Parker, Ruth #18

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We are all one that being new zealanders So why be racist in making things just for maori

Bicknell, Steve #19

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Māori are already guaranteed engagement and representation, why add another layer of cost to the ratepayer and confusion to the existing framework.

Black, Gus #21

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I object to any positions in local or national government being partitioned based on race (likewise for gender, age, sexual orientation, religion etc). I want my representatives to be democratically elected by us, the population, based on their ability to lead and govern the community. To do otherwise is discriminatory and divisive.

Hall, Kim #22

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

This is discrimination if only people on the Maori electoral role can vote for these people, yes have Maori representation on the council but let the general public elect them on their merits not race based seats

Gormley Dawes, Anne #24

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Cadwallader, Peter #26

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

It's just more pandering to the minority. Things are fine the way they are. They make up 15% of the population, and they're represented in the same percentage in councils. There's no reason to give them anything more because they feel oppressed/missed out/want something more for no reason.

Mawson, Sandy #27

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We already have two excellent Māori Councillors in the Hawke's Bay Regional Council elected for their merits. My fear is if the HBRC ends up with Māori seats, it may split the vote for them, lessening the chance for them to be re-elected. It may also mean those on the general role will also miss out on the opportunity to vote for them, or may choose not to vote for them if they remain on the general role because they are Māori, which would be an absolute shame. I do appreciate in some instances in some areas, Māori seats would be very appropriate, but here, not so much. In Napier alone, we have seven Hapū, some of whom I'm sure have differing views on things, let alone the whole of HB.

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Owens, Raewyn #30

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

All councilors & representatives of ratepayers are & should be elected on merit. There are already Maori representatives - race based seats are not necessary. This attempt to implement seats for Maori roll voters will cause more racism.

Riddell, Zane #33

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

No, because it creates segregation within our community. We are all New Zealanders

Williams, Megan #34

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I believe people should be voted in as a member of a council that makes decisions for the region. It is racist to base a ward on the colour of your skin and your ethnic background. In Hastings District Council Maori people stand for Council and are elected. That is how it should be. This policy is undemocratic .

Day, Brian #46

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

The proposal to have specific Maori seats is undemocratic. Maori seats are not needed to increase Maori representation because Maori are quite capable of getting elected in general seats. Such a proposal is patronising. Previously attempts by councils to introduce Maori seats have been overwhelmingly rejected by the general population

Francis, Lynda #69

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I do not think there should be separate constituencies for anyone. Everyone should put their names forward if they wish to stand and go through the voting procedure.

M, Nick #96

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

There is already consultation with local Iwi which is great, but I believe all positions should be on merit. This should not be about race, we are all New Zealanders. The current culture is about unity, but policies like this divide. At least one of the current Councillors is of Maori Heritage. They have earned their place there on merit. A dedicated seat would cheapen that achievement.

Repko, Daniel #97

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

- current arrangements with the Maori 'community of interest' are extensive already and need to be developed further to become more effective - adding one or more 'guaranteed seats' around the Council

table will reduce the incentive for the 'community of interest' to be actively and constructively involved. - currently the Council has two Maori representatives already; as in our national parliament it is to be expected that also on regional level Maori representation will increase considerably without having to guarantee Maori seats.

Rookes, jeremy #106

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We are all one people , to divide us on the basis of race is unacceptable. Anyone can stand and be elected on merit as it stands, that is democracy. To change that is harmful and will lead to a lack of unity as one race gets priority.

Abel, Glenn #130

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Why should they, they have voting rights like all Ratepayers. If they do not pay rates they should have no say.

Rye, Beverley #137

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We need to be working as New Zealanders, or Hawkes Baysians not creating silo's that serve no purpose. I understand under-representation of Māori people, I understand the importance of cultural input and consultation when it comes to the environment and what is best for Hawkes Bay however, matters need input from the best people for the job. There are many qualified Māori people to represent on council and those on the Māori role can vote those standing, why do this need to be separate? Is this an area of inequity or over representation of poor statistics for Māori, how long do we continue not to be not to be a dominant culture but a culture that is working for all?

Clark, George #140

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

The treaty was signed by two parties so would they same apply to the other party meaning we would have to establish English wards as well to ensure both parties get equal voting rights. All so if I like the Maori candidate and what him to represent me I can't vote for him because I'm white if Maori didn't have the choice of how they could vote for it would be called racist

Boesch, Markus #141

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Boesch, Monika #142

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Boesch, Nicolas #143

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Non Resident/Ratepayer

Ritchie, Robynne #145

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

In a healthy democracy everyone has an equal right and opportunity to express their view on any issue. Currently the Regional Council provides a clear democratic process that provides equal rights and opportunities for Maori and non-Maori residents to express their views. By adding Maori constituencies to the Regional Council it will create a racist imbalance that undermines the health and heart of its democratic processes.

Bassick, Angela #147

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Because this is racist

Rowlands, Eileen #152

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I Trust their environmental intention to preserve and look after their land Their culture supports Caring more for the environment and it's people than Making profits and encouraging Capitalism Their values are genuine and for the people

McNatty, Ben #157

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

The idea of Maori wards is to allow a Maori voice on council. Maori, like everyone else, have the right to vote and elect a person that best represents their ideas . We are all equally entitled to stand for council, promote a message , and get elected on merit. To not stand, or to stand and not be elected is not unfair, its not unjust. Its democracy . It representing the voices of ALL people. To promote the idea of Maori wards ensuring a voice, seems to overlook the council structure as it stands, and the number of ways that this is already achieved. The Maori committee consists of 12 unelected members (plus a few councilors). . "It operates on the basis of this Charter ensuring Māori input to various activities of the Council, including active participation in the decision-making process and the development of sustainable relationships with Māori". This participation includes input into all Long term, regional and annual plans, as well as resource consent procedures. Committee meetings may also be held on Marae involved larger groups of the community. The regional planning committee has 9 Maori , along with 9 councilors. "The Committee is responsible for preparing Proposed Regional Plans and Proposed Regional Policy Statements, or any Plan Changes or Plan Variations, and recommending to the Council the adoption of those documents for public notification." As well as the large representation on these committees there are also Maori represented on most other committees, again unelected, equipped with full voting rights. So taking these committees into account, and the level of input and consultation involved, I really struggle to understand how there is NOT a substantial and involved Maori voice on council. It seems remote that any council initiative that made it to the full council , did not have the blessing of Maori already. How could it not have? If we return to the reason for Maori wards, a voice for Maori, surely no one can honestly protest that its anything but comprehensive. I certainly do not have anywhere close to that level of "voice" , nor do most other ratepayers. If the Maori voice isn't heard already with that level of involvement , I struggle to see how a seat on the Council will change or improve that. There is adequate Maori representation at all levels , no other group has the same. Surely if a seat at the main table is the goal then that is attainable through the current system. That is what should be encouraged and promoted. I say no to Maori wards. We all have a voice, we all have opportunities to run for office. Creating something that is based on race, that separates people based only on race, is not acceptable. Thank you

Hughes, Graeme #160

Decision: **Don't Support**

Māori roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

It is RACIST to continually pander to a small minority eg 15% of the population. Maori have equal opportunity to be elected and be consulted on all issues. Having a strong Maori heritage I'm highly offended by the separative policy you are creating.

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

we are all one people ... we need people on our councils that are elected on, because theyre an asset to the ongoing management of our regions ... if a person is dedicated to this, then stand up and put yourself out there to be voted on

Edwards, Matt #167

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Absolutely opposed to this. Are we not all kiwis? This is undemocratic and racially divisive. On logic, if this gains traction then we need constituencies for Pasifica, Chinese, European and every other sizeable group. I beg to hold things together and treat all citizens equally. I feel like a second class citizen in this country and I was born here.

Verbal Submission

Holmes, Kevin #169

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

every person in Hawkes bay s the opportunity to stand be a councillor and be elected on the council no mater who you are, they should not be a councillor just because of you ethenicity.

Cleverton, Owen #170

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Racially based institutional divisions have no place in any democracy. It's taken hundreds of years of work to try and eliminate "lawful" racism, this is a step backwards. It is also very patronising towards the Maori population. This is an attempt to introduce real "institutional" racism.

Costello, Les #173

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Lamb, Eric #177

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

WE are one country and race does not stop one from standing for council

Sinclair, Roger #178

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I am a New Zealander. My whakapapa extends in several directions - Maori, Scottish, English and Welsh, but all of these several generations before me. I believe in equal rights - that as a New Zealander no group, class, ethnicity or sex deserves or warrants special treatment. We all have one vote and we vote for the person(s) who we consider will act for us best. I don't consider that having a councillor that I haven't had the opportunity to vote for is democratic.

Money, Edmund #179

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I am 75 years old, in all my time we have had an inclusive society, one which valued all of us at the same level. There is an immediate counter to that which says that some benefited more than others. This is true, but in my experience that is a function of education and income potential, not race. In my time I have worked with and for Maori New Zealanders and that was it New Zealanders. Yes we were different, but again the difference was background, not race. My Maori colleagues were proud of being Maori, as I was proud of my Australian mother, neither were better or of more worth than the other. We must admit that this society is dominated, at this stage by European/British background, that is a simple fact, but should include Maori in our belief in ourselves as New Zealanders. Apirana Ngata said that Maori should accept that they lived in a Pakeha world and to equip themselves to excel in that world, but also to never stop being Maori and being proud of it. Maori have had race based representation at national level and in my opinion have not benefited from that since the 1940's, to move that situation to local politics will not serve Maori or New Zealand well. To impose Special race based representation as is proposed by some local bodies, against the wishes of the majority, will create more problems that it solves. Maori can flex political influence in general electorates with much more short and long term effects that through an appointed entitled elite in "special" seats.

Dew, Bryan #182

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

The opportunities for Maori to seek election are the same as any other member of our community. No other section of our community has preferred rights for election so why should Maori have preference over other community members.

Butzbach, Keith #194

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

There is no need as their are Maori councilors already who seem to be doing a great job, in face the council would be a poorer place with them being replaced by "hierarchy selected candidates". It would be a shame if I were not able to vote for Hinewai Ormsby. If you go for Maori wards does that mean no Maori can stand on the electoral roll!? Also feel that the Maori constituencies will be controlled be a minority of vested interests. It seems like the council is already being controlled by small "groups". HBRC is dysfunctional as it is with 2 "groups", The Hastings group is so powerful now, they need to listen and not vote as a block. Maybe Hastings needs to look at is self, take a lead from Naper. It really comes down to who stands! This needs to stop NOW. Do what's right for the greater good. Splitting it this wat will just make the bad situation even worse with poorer representation for all.

Clinton, Graeme #199

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I consider that there is sufficient consideration given to all parties (including races) and I am confident that the system we have at present is fair to everyone.

Smith, Rachel #201

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Millar, Wendy #205

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Millar, Mark #206

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Butler, Mike #211

Hobson's Pledge

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Verbal Submission

Comments

A close look at the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's proposal to set up a Maori constituency shows that it is a combination of paternalism and virtue signalling that touches on the absurd. No one has considered the actual impact on Maori roll voters who may not want to vote for the candidates on offer and who would have to wait until the next census to move to the general roll to be able to vote. With nearly as many Maori voters on the general roll as on the Maori roll, such a move would cater for 13.8 percent of the Hawke's Bay electoral population but would mean a huge gain for those who want to divide the community on racial grounds. Those who say a Maori constituency is Treaty based are unable to point to any part of the Treaty for justification, and Article 3 of the Treaty affirms equality for all. The numbers of Maori councillors and Maori MPs show that Maori have no difficulty getting voted into office. The Local Government Act 2002 does not require separate Maori seats. Maori in New Zealand do not live as a separate group so why extend segregated governance? No evidence has been presented to show that Maori constituencies or wards increase voter turnout. We recommend against proceeding with a Maori constituency in the area of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, or at least put the matter to a vote as the council originally planned. A race-based voting arrangement is simply racist.

See also – page 23

Robinson, Julie #216

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Non Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I do not support this move because it is akin to apartheid, is undemocratic and unsuitable and inexperienced people could be elevated to positions of power over others just because of who their ancestors were.

Roden, Ralph #217

R & R Moss Ltd.

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

However, the Local Government Act 2002 does not require Maori wards, Maori representation on local government overall is already proportional to population percentage, and there is absolutely nothing in the Treaty about voting arrangements.

McCall, Walnetta #218

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Non Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I do not believe in segregated voting and find it distasteful that your Council and others throughout the country have either established such or are entertaining the thought. I believe it is an insult to Maori to suggest they need guaranteeing a seat in local government. I am a woman of colour and I would be insulted if I was guaranteed a seat because of my race and not need to stand for local body elections on my merits like everyone else! The Local Government Act 2002 does not require Maori wards nor does the Treaty promote voting arrangements. I find your justification for racially segregated voting to be spurious!

Fleete, Tony #219

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Non Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I am against the creation of Maori Wards. My concern (and I am sure of many others) is that this country is rapidly becoming a separatist society. The Maori Ward situation is just one example where this government is determined to give preferential treatment to one certain group in society. Maori wards imply that Maori are incapable of achieving city and district council representation without statutory favouritism. This is clearly not the case. Members of council throughout New Zealand are a multi-cultural lot. Maori representation in local government is already increasing without the need for positive discrimination.

Results from the 2018 Census, show Maori make up 16.5% of the population. A commentary by Paul Spoonley on Radio New Zealand in October last year reported " In terms of the current ethnic distribution of the population, the figures are interesting. Māori constitute 16.5 percent of the total population but look likely to make up 20 percent of MPs in the House (it was 23 percent in 2017)." So, to suggest that the only way Maori can achieve representation in the political sphere is by way of separate Maori Wards is patently false. Another matter of concern is that the Prime Minister intends embedding the objectives of the highly controversial UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into our legal and regulatory framework. If implemented into law, they would confer special rights and privileges that would elevate tribal groups above all other citizens, giving them effective control of law-making, land and resources. Advice from Crown Law was that four provisions in particular, were fundamentally incompatible with New Zealand's constitutional and legal arrangements. When Prime Minister John Key announced New Zealand had signed the Declaration, Labour MP Nanaia Mahuta used her address to reiterate why they had opposed the Declaration: "It was with regret that in 2007 the Labour Government was unable to sign the declaration. In particular, there were inconsistencies between the text and New Zealand's constitutional and legal framework that would be difficult to overturn while retaining the fabric of what our society is working towards." Now, Nanaia Mahuta, the Minister of Maori Development, wants to enact the Declaration, even though she knows it is incompatible with our laws. I regard myself as an anti-separatist. My reason for taking this stance is that The Treaty of Waitangi did not convey any rights on Maori other than to grant them the rights and privileges of British subjects - as set out in the Third Article. Further, for those who try to claim the a partnership exists under the Treaty, I would refer to Judge Anthony Willy's comments - "As to the notion of Partnership it was and is constitutionally impossible for the Crown to enter into a partnership with her subjects. She can as she did in 1840 make promises to them but by definition, the Crown is supreme, and the people are subject to her laws albeit under the then British system of parliamentary government."

Hibbs, Tom #221

Decision: **Don't Support**
General roll
Resident/Ratepayer

Morris, William #222

Decision: **Don't Support**
General roll
Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

This policy is divisive racial disharmony. If Maori wish to have greater representation on any elected body they should put up candidates and vote for them. Many non-Maori would also likely vote for them.

Porter, Gaile #223

Decision: **Don't Support**
General roll
Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

My reason is I do not believe in separatism of any kind, I cannot see any good coming out of separatism
!!

Blank, Graeme #224

Decision: **Don't Support**
General roll
Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We are all one.

King, Alister #225

Decision: **Don't Support**
General roll
Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I am writing to voice my opinion that I find this proposal to be completely non democratic. I have deep concerns of the precedent that this proposition may set and the unattended consequences that may be associated with it. voting rights should never be associated with skin colour and/or race.

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

In return for ceding sovereignty full, finally and forever, Maori were accorded the rights and privileges of British subjects - no more, no less - all equal under the Law. For Maori to be granted rights, unavailable to other citizens, on the basis of race, is a breach of the Treaty in itself. If it were not for the oft-repeated lie of the "Partnership Myth," this sordid push for Maori constituencies would never have seen the light of day. The Tribal Chiefs were PARTIES to the Treaty - not partners! - big difference! A Sovereign entity, such as the British Crown, would never have entered into an equal partnership of any sort with any of its subjects - this concept is a legal and constitutional nonsense. Once the Sovereignty issue was settled the Treaty was shelved, having served its purpose. This continual revisionist process of inserting colours of meaning into the Treaty takes it way beyond what it was ever meant to convey - the net result of which is causing harm and division within our Nation. For the reasons expressed above, and for many others pertaining to them, I respectfully request that the Council use all the legislative force they can muster to prevent this racist process from going forward. Not only is it based on a lie, as stated above, but it is an affront to the democratic process of our country, which our forefathers fought so hard to defend and preserve. I would also like to see our rights to vote in a referendum on matters such as this, returned to us by Act of Parliament. Thanking you, Scott Campbell.

Smith, Lee #227

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I don't believe in apartheid, and different rules / laws for different races.

Mathers, Karreen #228

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Establishing specific Maori constituencies is giving Maori land owners preference over normal land owners and could be classed as discrimination against other land owners

Yadav, Kamal #234

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Non Resident/Ratepayer

Katikati Indian Association Inc.

Porter, John #235

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

DEMOCRACY, the cornerstone of the western world. DEMOCRACY, government by the people, for the people, the rule of the majority. DEMOCRACY, government in which the power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation. DEMOCRACY, maintenance of an individuals' rights. Every day somewhere around the world democratic rights are being eroded. Witness the Labour government forcing through parliament changes to local body election laws by removing the right of the public to challenge a councils' proposal to create separate Maori wards. This is not a race issue it is undeniably a democracy issue. A local body council's focus & responsibility is to provide infrastructure & amenities that provide the necessities for a safe, secure & clean lifestyle for the populace. I fail to see how creating separate Maori wards for the regional council will improve these functions. Do we not already have – • 10 iwi representatives on the Regional Planning Committee • 12 Maori nominees on Social Services committee • 3 Maori partnership members • 1 Hapu advisory member • Plus elected Maori members Can the council not foresee that other ethnicities will require the council to create wards for them in the future? I urge the council to maintain the status quo, continue to require councillors to be elected on merit, do not bow to politically correct pressure. Please act in an entirely democratic fashion and do not establish Maori wards.

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We are all New Zealanders, why should there be Maori Constituencies? we dont have just White ones,

Bull, Peter #238

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Any Maori's who want to stand should be democratically elected like everyone else

Scott, Allen #239

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

There are already two Maori representing people on the Council. But if this goes ahead they should have to step aside and allow other races to represent the general public and represent Maori as is what is wanted.

Drury, Brian #254

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Because Maori not on the Maori Roll will be disadvantaged by this reverse racism.

Verbal Submission

Miles, Chris #255

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

This is racial segregation and therefore racist. If Maoris wish to have their say on any council they have the same opportunity as any other New Zealander to stand for Council and be voted on or not.

Hockly, John #256

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We need the best people for the job elected by the public whoever they are.

Green, M #264

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Māori representation on the HBRC is already ably fulfilled. Having separate constituencies is unnecessary and just adds another layer to the bureaucracy of the Regional Council already heavily laden and often inefficient. Māori are a very strong group in HB and do not need to be separated off from the wider HB community to assure them of representation at the governing table.

Buchanan, Murray #271

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Such constituencies are anti democratic and a form of apathied

Saathof, Alice #297

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Verbal Submission

Comments

To our elected Councilors Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Maori constituencies. The HBRC consultation process on canvassing the public on this issue has been disingenuous. We have received a glossy brochure in the mail for consultation on all manner of topics to consult on - except this one. This smacks of a deliberate deception of the voting public. Including this topic in the summary consultation document, or mailing one specific to this topic would have been more transparent and inclusive. The establishment of Maori constituencies is undemocratic. A democracy is where everyone - regardless of race, gender or other difference - can take part in decisions that effect the way their community is run. Promoting, or giving extra 'voice' to one group over another effectively silences the other and is apartheid in nature. The argument that Maori are under-represented in council decision making processes are invalid. Maori already hold non-democratically elected decision making positions within council committees. They already have a greater ability to influence decision making than the general public. Fundamental changes to governance structures in a democracy must be mandated by consent of the public. It is the democratic right of all New Zealanders to vote for their representatives. The sort of separatism proposed by Maori constituencies dissects our communities and hinders the progress of our district. Thank you for your time. Kind regards Alice Saathof

Williamson, Peter #299

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I do not agree an election for local government should be based on a race based constituency provision. A geo graphic basis for wards is acceptable; race is not a suitable basis or acceptable for division. Maori, standing on their merits as individuals, have easily demonstrated their ability to stand, be elected, and participate successfully in Local Government. That the Minister of Local Government rammed the latest change to such provisions through the House does not make it right.

Leonard, Jared #303

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Not for non elected representation on hbrc . Please stick to hbrc core roles rather than being so casual about spending Ratepayers hard earned income

Newand, John #305

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

This idea is raciest. Maori with initiative and some intelligence are quite capable of being elected under the current process and contributing effectively. There are examples on your own Council. Bayden Barber and Sally Crown are not the only examples in Hastings District and Napier City Councils.

Lewis, Bruce #308

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We cannot be drawn in representation on the basis of race Only Maoris voting for Maoris to represent them is racist and devious. One nation - New Zealand - that openly acknowledges ethnic origin of its residents is what we need. The government ministers illustrate that multiple ethnic origins can all achieve representative status, as MP's, and we seem to manage just fine without separatism. And yes I am part maori.

Decision: **Don't Support**

Rountree, Dave #351

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Decision: **Don't Support**

Vanderpols, Kaz #377

Māori roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

All candidates who stand for election have the opportunity to be elected. If a particular group wishes to have a certain view point expressed, they currently, under the existing make up of the council, have the opportunity to put forward a candidate, canvas support, and get them elected.

McGechan, Bruce #401

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

In New Zealand the population officially reached 5 million in March 2020. The breakdown of the population established that Maori are only 10% of the population. There are other nationalities, besides European, that are greater than Maori. So on that basis there should be other constituencies for the council. Surely if any person, of any nationality, should stand and be elected by everyone.

Ditchburn, Glenn #403

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

If as you say Hawkes Bay has a quarter of its population that are Maori then they are quite capable of voting Maori representatives on to the General Role. Please dont tell me that very few Maori vote because I believe that for a group in the population to get ahead It must take responsibility.

Hardman, Tracy #487

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I am Ngati Porou & previously was on Maori roll. There are advantaged and disadvantaged in every group - see the Maori leader of ACT and former national leader Simon Bridges. Likewise views differ within those groups - look at maoris Winston Peters and Paula Bennett. Maori are presently actually over represented in parliament. Its an unnecessary divisive separatist concept.

McNally, John #517

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I strongly object to the establishment of Māori constituencies for Hawke's Bay Regional Council. It marginalises non-Maori, creating a race-based two-tier system and treating non-Maori as second-class citizens. At the same time it demeans those of Maori heritage, treating them as pathetic children who are incapable of functioning in society without the artificial aid of race-based special privileges.

R, Natalia #552

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

McPherson, Paul #572

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I believe that there is too much of a 'them and us' attitude which simply increases separatism in our society, we should be working toward a more inclusive sense of community.

Smiley, Michael #577

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I am absolutely against any law that gives privilege to any race. In Hawkes Bay Maori have shown themselves more than capable of putting up worthy candidates that have been elected on their worth by the whole community.

Caves, Denys #579

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Every Elected Representative should stand / be elected on their merits regardless of their Ethnicity. You already have Maori advisory individuals & unless you reduce the no. of elected reps from the current 9 to created racially based positions you are just increasing costs to the ratepayer & becoming top heavy with bureaucracy....& keep in mind we are supposed to be a united community society ..one people.

Lyll, Shirley #582

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I believe the iwi are sufficiently consulted within the umbrella of HBRC already and if people wish to be put forward to be on the Council it is same procedure for everyone, not a division between Maori and Pakeha - we are all New Zealanders, no need to further divide...

Scott, Paul #585

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Byrne, Dave #591

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

They are not required.

Cannell, Bev #598

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

All candidates can come from any ethnic group. If they want a bigger say they should stand for a position on the Regional Council like any other ethnic group does. Surely we are New Zealanders commonly known as Kiwis. If we care about our community we can go along to all the public meetings that are notified in our local paper & also on Social Media.

Christiansen, Vaughn #628

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Do not agree with mandating the composition of HBRC. Opportunities for participation and input already exist.

Borrie, Eric #631

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

The notion of creating Maori constituencies is totally unnecessary, Maori people or any other nationality, are quite capable of being elected in exactly the same manner as any other person. There are many instances throughout NZ where exactly this has happened. We have it here in Hawkes Bay, already, they stand for election, do well in the polls, get re-elected and make a very significant contribution to our well being. By implication, the "stated" view of needing separate Maori representation makes a negative

comment about all councillors who have already been elected, as if they are not capable of and do not represent the wider community, whoever they might be.

Kells, Colin #638

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I believe all New Zealanders already have the right to partake in Local and Regional Councils and therefore there's no need to introduce separate access for Maori.

Hyde (JP), Dean #672

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to submit as part of this consultation process. My understanding is that the Council is seeking Hawkes Bay citizens input into the possibility of establishing electoral constituencies based on the Maori Electoral Roll (Maori Seats on Council). These seats would either be in addition to the current representative make up (Examples One and Two) or potentially to the detriment of the current number of General Seats (Examples Three and Four). I would respectfully submit the following in opposition to the establishment of Maori Constituencies. The Treaty of Waitangi and Te Tiriti o Waitangi: It is now widely accepted that there is a difference in interpretation between The Treaty of Waitangi (Crown version) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Maori version); one talks of 'all rights and powers of sovereignty' been transferred to the Crown, the other 'giving absolutely to the Crown the government over their land'. Now whilst debate focuses on what was actually intended and indeed with all Treaties what the actual words mean, what is historically acknowledged is that Maori willingly sought and achieved a Treaty with the British Crown, for reasons that are well documented elsewhere. What is generally appreciated is that the Treaty and Te Tiriti sought the partnership of two peoples, represented by the Crown and The Confederation of Chiefs. Does either version principally support the establishment of exclusive Maori Constituencies in a modern governance arrangement? How does partnership translate into a smattering of Seats based on population? After all, when the Treaty and Te Tiriti was signed, Maori significantly outnumber the new settlers, however in a display of significant generosity the Confederation of Chiefs sought only to be treated on the same level as the British Crown. Partnership furthermore comes in many different forms, I don't believe that the allocation of a seat or two provides for genuine partnership; I see this being practically achieved by existing methods utilised by the Hawkes Bay Regional Council. Outdated Paternalist Approach: I would suggest that the approach that is currently politically in vogue is rapidly becoming outdated, in that determining that Maori as a signal community of interest is somehow best politically represented through a 'special allocation of electoral positions (seats)' in order to progress Maori political engagement. In my view such a position is frankly an affront to incumbent Councillors Ormsby and Lambert (and those who elected them), who whilst identifying as Maori have apparently chosen to seek elective mandate by contesting as equals with other candidates.

Notwithstanding the above, I have seen no clear evidence that clearly illustrates that the establishment of Maori Constituencies have led to an increase (numerically) in Maori elector participation or Maori political activism. What I have seen however, is an increase in fellow Maori citizens exercising their political rights and expressing their opinions regardless; I would have thought that this dynamic shift is fundamentally more important for the long term wellbeing of our nation. Furthermore, it is incorrect to simply take the view that those citizens who are enrolled on the Maori Roll are a single and uniform community of interest. There are those of us in Hawkes Bay who identify as Maori but are neither on the Maori Roll nor are of Ngati Kahungunu affiliation, on that basis 'lumping us all together' is frankly misleading (Page Four). As a citizen of Aotearoa of Maori (Ngati Raukawa and Te Arawa), Scottish, Irish and English decent, I believe that my and my whanau's interests are best served by actively participating in the political process in contest with every other citizen. Whilst there is an historical basis for the establishment and the continuance of the Maori Electorates for Parliament, I don't believe that the same can be said for the establishment of Maori Constituencies within the modern Local Government governance environment. Democratic Principle: Council has referred to the principle of 'one person, one vote' and how this will not be compromised, it further has suggested that the establishment of Maori Constituencies will be population based (Maori Electoral Roll) as so with the General Constituencies. However the above is not what is of debate, the point is that Council is potentially proposing the establishment of Constituencies based on race of which those elected would then be accountable to their constituents who are determined

by race via enrolment on the Maori Roll. The point is the same for those Members elected in General Constituencies, in that whilst there is a 'collective responsibility' of Council as a whole the political reality is that the Members representing Hastings for example are ultimately accountable back to the electors of Hastings; to argue otherwise is a nonsense. The establishment of Maori Constituencies is admittedly a form of democracy, will it however deliver the desired outcomes we as a society wish to achieve? Namely, increased Maori political representation and increased Maori political engagement. I would suggest that this is yet unproven.

Pattison, Andrew #681

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

There is no need for separate Maori Constituencies as Maori are more than capable of being elected off the general constituencies as been demonstrated by the number that have been elected in past and present councils.

McGregor, Ewan #688

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

It is my belief that the establishment of Maori constituency's would, in the long term, have quite the opposite effect on that intended. It would tend to divide, or at least compartmentise, rather than unite. New Zealand has arguably the best race relation in the world. Of course it is not perfect, but then, what is? Throughout our history it has consistently improved as we have worked for it to be so. When I was a member of the Maori Committee over the last nine years of my Council membership, a debate was held as to whether the committee represented to the Council that Maori constituencies be established. It rejected such unanimously. What's changed? The call for separate representation is coming from Wellington, not Hawke's Bay. Once established they will be politely unlikely to ever be disestablished. One just needs to look at special Maori electorates in Parliament. They were established in the 19th Century with good cause, but have now long-since out-lived their usefulness, but remain entrenched. My view, then, is that they are seen to fix a problem that doesn't exist. The assumption is that our race relationship in this country is failing. I reject this absolutely. I am proud of our current-day respect for Maoridom and all it stands for. It can be improved, and we constantly seek to do so. The separation of Maori representation on local government is not the way to do it. Ewan McGregor

Evans, Richard #702

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Existing constituencies are adequate. If they require a voice then put up candidates themselves.

Mckie, Gordon #721

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

The last thing we need in HB is more separatist policy. Maori are already well represented in line with their percentage wise level within the community. A lot of the council functions dont have any cultural significance ,as HBRC are representing all of the ratepayers and we seem to be moving towards a system of having to have every decision and action dictated back towards Maori emphasis way beyond the reality of their level of participation. We have reached a point where organisations such as HBRC are too scared to make a decision or action something, without Maori consultation in case they are labelled racist.

Dalzell, Mike #725

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I write to oppose the establishment of Maori constituencies for the regional council. If the aim is to improve the quality of our natural environment and reduce the deficit in social outcomes for Maori I support

its intention. However the proposal may be counter-productive. I set out a number of reasons which lead to this conclusion. 1- Anti-Democratic -The proposal establishes a right for members of a specific cultural group to choose their own representatives. Whilst the consultation document notes the 'democratic principle of one vote one person is maintained', it would lead to special rights for some ratepayers based on culture. This is fundamentally undemocratic. In an attempt to redress one set of imbalances the proposal would establish in law a new set of inequities. The result is likely to weaken communities at a time when social cohesion is under extreme pressure. 2- Ineffective - The proposal, at best, will be ineffective. At worst it will be destructive. Maori are already well represented by very capable councillors, partnership group members and iwi reps among others. A shining example being Councillor Ormsby whose tenacious advocacy for the environment, wisdom and political courage come off the back of success in a general constituency. There is little assurance the proposed model would improve Maori representation or social outcomes. In Maori Parliamentary seats we have had a longstanding comparable model. The benefits, in terms of improving social and environmental disparities, remain contentious. A Royal Commission found the model had not helped Maori and recommended it be abolished. On that basis the case for introducing such a system at local body level is questionable at best. 3- Partnership is Weakened - Regardless of its intentions, the proposal erodes rather than promotes racial harmony, perpetuates division and weakens partnership. Creating special conditions for one cultural group by definition sub-ordinates others. This will foster resentment and drive people apart. Its ineffectiveness is also likely to lead to disappointment. As such it runs counter to the council's own vision of creating a resilient community. 4-Dangerous Constitutional Change - The proposal radically deviates from the existing even-handed approach to representation. In the future there may well be multiple arguments put forward to allow other cultural groups to guarantee their representation at council. A precedent set now could expedite the erosion of democratic protections for rate-payers in general. 5-Evidence of Community Support is Lacking - This issue has generated considerable debate in the community. Doubts about the wisdom of the proposal are widespread. The council's vision states ' we work with our community in everything we do '. Without a referendum, there can be no assurance this vision is being adhered to, that ratepayers support the proposal and that councillors are acting as representatives of the whole community. I reiterate my support for initiatives that will improve the environment, strengthen communities and improve social outcomes for Maori. In my view this proposal will have the opposite effect and should not be adopted. Mike Dalzell

Fairey, Graeme #732

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Gear, Elizabeth #743

Decision: **Don't Support**

Māori roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Verbal Submission

Comments

I am writing this submission against the creation of Maori Constituencies on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. This process of establishing constituencies is DIVISIVE. The people who are allowed to vote for candidates for Maori constituencies are based on a particular race, the Maori race. Those who are on the general roll cannot vote on an important issue and are legally treated as non-citizens. That is discrimination because of their race that is morally sickening to witness from elected officials supporting this piece of divisive law. When you serve on any council you have a duty to ensure you serve every person in the community, not a particular group but the whole community. Only Maori can vote for Maori and non-Maori can only vote for non-Maori!. Non Maori cannot vote for local representatives for the constituencies even though a person may live in that area they do not have Maori ties or connections, that is wrong. This government supports this piece of racist legislation as councillors in favour caved in to taking away the voting rights of those on the general roll in the next general election 2022 and 2025 ensuring those on the general roll do not get a say on who the Maori constituencies representatives will be on the council. Divisive politics. The Maori Committee Hawke's Bay Regional Council voted for the Napier City Council to take to government legislation that removes the 5% poll that public can initiate on issues that are binding. Why? Stop anybody who wants to question and demand answers from constituencies representatives as they want all government official voting rights, accountability for the monies provided by the ratepayers to the constituencies representatives, stop citizens on general roll freedom of choice to elect constituencies representatives, and making discrimination a positive step by stripping their rights as citizens to elect constituencies representatives who would oppose this law racists. The idea that Maori will not be elected

by the community because of their race if citizens on the general roll were given a vote is the most demeaning remark by those who support that ideology. Race politics should be abolished in today's climate. There is no need for special treatment regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or political and telling me we as Maori need more around the table is special treatment over other groups who have just as much right at that table. That is law not shared by me who wants elected officials chosen based on their character not colour.

Eves, Malcolm #757

GoodFun Bike Rides

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I oppose this because it is simply undemocratic. It is breaking the one vote for all basis of administering local body power since the creation of the state of New Zealand. It is a sop to Maori and further negatively isolates them as needing special attention and help. As evidenced in the neighbouring Hastings District Council, there is no need for this as in the one vote for all system Maori already hold a larger percentage of seats than reflective of the population. This could continue for the regional Council if encouraged. It isolates other ethnicities further because of special needs status granted Maori.

Dick, Fiona #788

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We are all New Zealanders, so why should one group have more input than other groups.

Steiner, Antony #799

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

It would be a divisive move, and the last thing we need is more division in government, national or local. Every resident, be they of European, Maori, Pacific Island or Asian descent should have an equal say on their representation.

Curtis, G #807

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

For the following reasons I do not think there is a need or necessity to have special separate Maori seats at this time:- There is nothing to prevent Maori from standing for election and it is entirely feasible that all of the 'elected' members could be Maori. Regardless of how many elected members are Maori, Maori have substantial influence on the proceedings and activities of the Council through the 12 representatives on the Maori Consultation Committee, and the 9 representatives on the Regional Planning Committee. With the two elected Maori councillors and 9 representatives Maori currently have a 61% voting majority on the Regional Planning Committee. With two elected councillors and the addition of two special separate Maori seats the voting majority would increase to 72%. As spelt out in the Consultation document, in addition to the above the Chair of the Māori Committee and a representative of the RPC participate in Regional Council meetings as non-voting members. Additionally, representatives from the RPC and Māori committees are appointed to Council committees as voting members (Hearings, Corporate & Strategic, Environment & Integrated Catchments).

Martin, Brian #810

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I am strongly opposed to the continuing undermining of the status of my fellow New Zealanders, who just happen to be Maori. I have a number of Maori friends who have left NZ to live in Australia where they can live with freedom and self respect as an accepted member of the community in which they reside. They feel that in NZ, their sense of pride and self respect in who they are and what they do and achieve, is continuously compromised by the misguided zealots who under the current wave of populism believe they

need special treatment. They point out to me that there are many other ethnicities in our community that are not called out and separated in this way. Maori have the education, knowledge and skills, access to resources and the important self belief to participate in the ratepayer democracy without making them a special needs category. Councils should stick to what they were created to do, ensuring the provision and maintenance of the infrastructure needed to function as community and not meddle in areas of social engineering which is not only beyond their knowledge and but also beyond their jurisdiction.

Looyenga, Conrad #831

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Treat all people the same. Not; Black lives matters, BUT all lives matter. We are all the same, no one must have an preferred treatment. Maori has at this stage to much preference treatment (Health etc etc)

Field, Janie #862

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

We are one people - this is a divisive poll - Maori are well able to be represented on the HB Regional Council as themselves not as a ethnic identity! Where is the Chinese or for that matter European constituencies. This is belittling to Maori

Omundsen, Dave #884

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

Maori are already well represented on our councils and in Parliament without any need for special reserved places

Franklin, Rachael #923

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Thompson, Paul #964

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

It is too divisive in an already divided country and it will just push a wedge further between Maori and Non Maori.

Breen, Ken #1004

Decision: **Don't Support**

General roll

Resident/Ratepayer

Comments

I believe we are one nation and should have equal representation to one body for all ratepayers



Race-based seats in HB would be racist

Introduction

This submission by a Hastings ratepayer on behalf of equality group Hobson's Pledge opposes the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's proposal to reserve two seats for Maori roll voters. We note that Maori roll voters nationally make up just 53 percent of Maori voters. A survey over the past month found that Hawke's Bay people are substantially opposed to Maori constituencies and we provide this as evidence to support our submission. The Council's proposal should be viewed within the context of a struggle for power by some iwi groups, activists, and MPs. The Council should vote against the proposal and continue with the inclusive voting system that we have. That is a system in which political rights are based on citizenship and not ethnicity. New Zealand is not and has never been a segregated society like the United States and South African have been. The Council should resist this attempt to segregate local governance.

Background

1. The current push for Maori wards is taking place in the context of a national power struggle between the Maori sovereignty movement and all other people of New Zealand. The establishment of Maori wards and constituencies in local government features on page 46 of *He Puapua*,¹ which is the current bible of the Maori sovereignty movement. *He Puapua* is the guiding document to implement in New Zealand the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.² Currently under implementation, without democratic mandate, this declaration that is not legally binding will bring radical change to New Zealand when implemented as policy. The implementation of the declaration in New Zealand represents a U-turn by the New Zealand Government which just 14 years ago was one of only four countries that voted against it when it was put in front of the UN General Assembly. In 2010, the then National Government bowed to its confidence and supply partner the Maori Party and agreed to support the declaration despite the previous Labour Government's warnings that the document was fundamentally incompatible with New Zealand's constitutional and legal systems.

¹ A 34-page version is posted on the Te Puni Kokiri website. A 123 page version was obtained under the Official Information Act.

² See <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/work-gets-under-way-on-plan-for-implementation-of-un-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-people/N2HFQ7YB5GZDSMBRTR6BK3OYCO/>

2. Maori wards are widely unpopular. Citizens and taxpayers were until February of this year entitled, under the Local Electoral Act 2001, to petition for binding referenda on proposals for Maori wards or constituencies. Three years ago, referenda overturned proposals in Palmerston North, Manawatu, Western Bay of Plenty, Whakatane, and Kaikoura, all by wide margins. At the beginning of this year, signatures were being collected for petitions in nine districts where councils had proposed Maori wards or constituencies. That was until February, when the Government amended the law under urgency to outlaw such petitions, with the result that all petitions were rendered of no effect despite many collecting the required number of signatures. More than 25,000 in nine districts signed petitions asking for the right to vote. (See Appendix 1).

A flyer poll in Hawke's Bay from March 12, 2021, to April 12, 2021, asking whether the recipient agreed that the Hawke's Bay Regional Council should reserve seats for Maori roll voters attracted 311 responses with 293 against the proposed Maori constituency, and only 18 in support.

3. The Council decided last November 2020 to hold a poll on the establishment of Maori constituencies at the next (2022) election. But after pressure from iwi groups and when the right for residents to vote on the matter was outlawed last month, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council decided to revisit the constituency proposal.

4. Three of New Zealand's 78 councils currently have Maori wards or constituencies. They are the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (established in 2001 by special legislation), the Waikato Regional Council (established in 2013 by council resolutions), and the Wairoa District Council (established in 2019 as the result of a poll at the 2016 local election).

5. The existence of the seven Maori seats in Parliament are cited as justification for Maori constituencies or wards in local government. However, if you look back at the history of the Maori seats and the Maori roll, the arrangement was established as a short-term measure in 1867. They were introduced at a time when the vote was limited to adult males who owned sufficient property. Most Maori men could not qualify because they could not provide evidence of property ownership since Maori land was held communally. The reason for separate Maori seats disappeared in 1893 when the vote was extended to all New Zealand citizens, both men and women, aged 21 and over. From 1893 to 1975, a person was required to have at least 50 percent Maori ancestry to qualify for the Maori roll. As it became increasingly difficult to find people with 50 percent Maori ancestry, that requirement was reduced, in 1975, to persons having any Maori ancestor.

6. A Maori constituency is for Maori roll voters. A candidate for a Maori constituency does not have to be Maori and can live anywhere in New Zealand but must be nominated by two electors on the Maori roll. Three representation examples were given by the Council, all of which add two Maori seat councillors. Two examples would increase the council from nine to 11 councillors. One would retain nine councillors but would reduce the representation for Napier and Hastings from three to two councillors.³

³ "Consultation on whether to establish Maori Constituencies for Hawke's Bay Regional Council", <https://www.consultations.nz/hbrc/establishing-maori-constituencies-for-hawkes-bay-regional-council/>.

7. The overall electoral population as at June 2020 for Wairoa, Napier, Hastings, and Central Hawke's Bay is 122,583. There are 106,076 on the general and 16,957 on the Maori roll.

District	General roll	Maori roll	Total enrolled
Wairoa	3279	2441	5720
Napier	42,459	4690	47,149
Hastings	50,800	8587	59,387
Central HB	9538	1239	10,777
Total	106,076	16,957	122,583

The discussion document asserts that 27 percent per cent of the Hawke's Bay population is of Maori descent. The document fails to state how many Maori in Hawke's Bay are on the Maori roll. If that figure was included, by the figures extracted from data for the four other councils in the Regional Council's area, it looks like the proposed Maori constituency would affect 13.8 percent of the Hawke's Bay electoral population. Bear in mind, nationally, Maori roll voters make up 53 percent of the Maori electoral population.

The case against two seats for Maori roll voters

1. The addition of two seats for Maori roll voters to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council runs the risk that Maori roll voters would be reduced to choosing candidates who push the Maori sovereignty agenda. Opening up the positions to non-Maori who may live anywhere in New Zealand is a recipe for carpetbagging and manipulation by Maori studies academics and iwi groups around the country. The Regional Council's role would change from managing water, erosion, floods, emergencies, and transport for everyone in the region to creating funds to promote Maori sovereignty whims and enact policies that assume Maori ownership of water and minerals. No one has considered the actual impact on Maori roll voters who may not want to vote for the candidates on offer and who would have to wait until the next census to move to the general roll to be able to vote.

2. "The Regional Council can decide to establish Maori constituencies as one way to give effect to Section 4 of the Local Government Act 2002", the discussion document says, as if Section 4 is not already being taken into account. Section 4 says:

In order to recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of the [Treaty of Waitangi](#)⁴ and to maintain and improve opportunities for Maori to contribute to local government decision-making processes, [Parts 2](#) and [6](#) provide principles and requirements for local authorities that are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes.

However, the council fails to state that it already has 28 persons fulfilling such a role. It has:

- One hapu advisory officer.
- Two Maori councillors elected on merit.
- Three Maori partnership group members.
- Ten iwi reps who control the Regional Planning Committee.

⁴ Justice Robin Cooke's principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are detailed below in Appendix 3.

- Twelve Maori social services nominees on Maori Committee.

Judging by the discussion document statement which said establishing Maori constituencies would add to the Regional Council's existing methods to engage with Māori, not replace them, the council has no plans to wind back this over-the-top Maori representation.

3. Is a Maori constituency necessary because it is difficult for Maori to get votes? This is not true. In fact, Maori are very well represented in both local and central government. In 2019, 13.5 percent of all elected local body officials were Maori – compared with 13.7 percent of the New Zealand population being Maori (according to the 2018 census). Note, having two out of nine councillors with Maori ancestry, the Regional Council already has 22 percent Maori representation at the top table and those were elected on merit. And in the current Parliament, 20 percent of all MPs have Maori ancestry.⁵ Maori would still be proportionally represented in Parliament, relative to the Maori share in New Zealand's total population, even if the seven Maori electorates were scrapped, as the Royal Commission on the Electoral System recommended in 1986.

4. "Maori representation is premised on Maori being a distinct 'community of interest' that has not been well served by traditional electoral arrangements", according to the discussion document. Often this is phrased as listening to the "Maori voice" and bringing a "Maori dimension" to council decisions. However, a closer look at what this entails touches on the absurd. Regional councils are responsible for managing water, erosion, floods, emergencies, and transport. Effective management of those five areas of responsibility is for the benefit of everyone irrespective of ethnicity. For instance, what is the Maori dimension of erosion? What is the Maori dimension of transport? Why not apply this approach to other ethnic groups? Is there a Chinese dimension to emergencies? Is there a race angle to erosion? If councillors stepped back from the rhetoric, perhaps councillors would see what they are proposing is absurd.

5. Do "Maori" live as some sort of separate class of citizen that exists in a partnership relationship with the Crown? No. In the world outside of central and local government, there is no separated society with Maori as a group and everyone else in another group. We are aware of the civil rights struggles in the United States in the 1960s, and the protests against apartheid in South Africa up to the 1990s. New Zealand is not and has never been a segregated society. The push for Maori constituencies looks like an attempt to create segregated local governance.

6. It's incorrect to argue that "the option to have guaranteed representation reflects the particular constitutional status of Maori under Te Tiriti o Waitangi", as the discussion document says. What part of the Treaty discusses the constitutional status of Maori? The Treaty of Waitangi is a brief document consisting of three articles with a preamble and a postscript. In Article 1, the chiefs cede sovereignty. In Article 2, the Queen guarantees that the chiefs own what they own and may sell land to an agent of the Queen if they so wish. Article 3 says that the Queen will protect the Maori people of New Zealand and grant them

⁵ Election 2020: All eyes on Maori MPs after impressive battle. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/election-2020-all-eyes-on-maori-mps-after-an-impressive-battle/EXCDURAI26VXNKI3JW7EICKNKO/>

the rights and privileges of British subjects. The text of the Treaty in English is attached as Appendix 2. The only part of the Treaty that can be construed as referring to “constitutional status of Maori is Article 3, in which Maori were afforded “the rights and privileges of British subjects”. That’s it. The Treaty actually affirms equality for all. Of course, we are now New Zealand citizens and no longer British subjects. The right to vote in local elections is shared by all New Zealand citizens. As you can see in the Treaty text appended to this submission, there is no mention of separate Maori representation. Nobody is guaranteed a seat on the council, but anybody may compete for a seat. There is no apparent limitation for any such opportunities afforded to Maori citizens. There is in fact no impediment for people of any ancestry in New Zealand either to enrol to vote, to vote, or to stand for council since the right to vote and stand for council is open to all New Zealanders 18 and over.

7. The council has made no attempt to show how Maori constituencies and wards have “encouraged more Maori to participate in local government,” as the discussion document says. No council proposing Maori wards has ever given voting turnout figures for the three councils with Maori wards because if they did, they would have to show that Maori roll turnout has continued to lag. For instance, overall turnout in the most recent election at the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, which has had Maori constituencies since 2001, was 43.2 percent, but turnout for Maori roll voters was 35 percent. But, the Kohi Maori constituency, with a Maori population of 18,500, returned 4037 votes; the Mauao constituency, population 19,850, returned 2716 votes; and the Okurei constituency, population 18,300, had only one candidate so there was no vote. Turnout there in 2010 was between 27 percent and 41 percent, and in 2013 was between 20 percent and 32 percent, when the general constituency turnout was 45.7 percent. Twenty years of Maori constituencies have not improved Maori voter turnout there.

Conclusion

A close look at the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council’s proposal to set up a Maori constituency shows that it is a combination of paternalism and virtue signalling that touches on the absurd. No one has considered the actual impact on Maori roll voters who may not want to vote for the candidates on offer and who would have to wait until the next census to move to the general roll to be able to vote. With nearly as many Maori voters on the general roll as on the Maori roll, such a move would cater for 13.8 percent of the Hawke’s Bay electoral population but would mean a huge gain for those who want to divide the community on racial grounds. Those who say a Maori constituency is Treaty based are unable to point to any part of the Treaty for justification, and Article 3 of the Treaty affirms equality for all.

The numbers of Maori councillors and Maori MPs show that Maori have no difficulty getting voted into office. The Local Government Act 2002 does not require separate Maori seats. Maori in New Zealand do not live as a separate group so why extend segregated governance? No evidence has been presented to show that Maori constituencies or wards increase voter turnout. We recommend against proceeding with a Maori constituency in the area of the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council, or at least put the matter to a vote as the council originally planned. A race-based voting arrangement is simply racist.

Hobson’s Pledge

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Hobson's Pledge members agree that there is no longer any need for special Maori representation in government, whether it be Maori electorates in Parliament, Independent Maori Statutory Board in Auckland, or racially based representation in other governance bodies. In many respects, Hobson's Pledge represents the silent majority, the 91% of New Zealanders who don't wish to be categorised and segregated by race. See hobsonspledge.nz

Appendix 1

More than 25,000 people in nine districts had signed petitions demanding binding referenda on proposals for separate Maori wards. Despite Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta sabotaging the process by announcing, on February 1, a law-change to prohibit such referenda, sufficient signatures were collected in seven of the nine areas to trigger votes. Signatures received compared with those required were:

	Received	Required
Northern Regional Council	8703	6027
Whangarei District Council	5133	3080
Kaipara District Council	1376	790
Tauranga City Council	6000	4742
Taupo District Council	1756	1241
South Taranaki District Council	903	847
Ruapehu District Council	551	385
Gisborne District Council	792	1625
New Plymouth District Council	Not available	2874
TOTAL	25,214	21,611

Tauranga's Concerned Citizens were the first to have their petition validated on January 29.

Appendix 2

The Treaty of Waitangi

This English text, below, is closest to the Maori text because it has just two words that differ from the document that chiefs signed, Te Tiriti, being the addition of the word "maori" in Article 3, and the date. This text is the Busby February 4 draft, also known as the Littlewood treaty.

Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of England in her gracious consideration for the chiefs and people of New Zealand, and her desire to preserve them their land and to maintain peace and order amongst them, has been pleased to appoint an officer to treat with them for the

cession of the Sovereignty [sic] of their country and of the islands adjacent to the Queen. Seeing that already many of Her Majesty's subjects have already settled in the country and are constantly arriving: And that it is desirable for their protection as well as the protection of the natives to establish a government amongst them.

Her Majesty has accordingly been pleased to appoint me William Hobson a captain in the Royal Navy to be Governor of such parts of New Zealand as may now or hereafter be ceded to Her Majesty and proposes to the chiefs of the Confederation of United Tribes of New Zealand and the other chiefs to agree to the following articles.-

Article first

The chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes and the other chiefs who have not joined the confederation, cede to the Queen of England for ever the entire Sovereignty [sic] of their country.

Article second

The Queen of England confirms and guarantees to the chiefs and the tribes and to all the people of New Zealand, the possession of their lands, dwellings and all their property. But the chiefs of the Confederation of United Tribes and the other chiefs grant to the Queen, the exclusive rights of purchasing such lands as the proprietors thereof may be disposed to sell at such prices as may be agreed upon between them and the person appointed by the Queen to purchase from them.

Article third

In return for the cession of their Sovereignty [sic] to the Queen, the people of New Zealand shall be protected by the Queen of England and the rights and privileges of British subjects will be granted to them.

Signed, William Hobson
Consul and Lieut. Governor.

Now we the chiefs of the Confederation of United Tribes of New Zealand assembled at Waitangi, and we the other tribes of New Zealand, having understood the meaning of these articles, accept them and agree to them all. In witness whereof our names or marks are affixed. Done at Waitangi on the 4th of February, 1840.

Appendix 3

There is no standard list of treaty principles. I have seen 12 different such lists, one of which has just three principles and another 13. They have been created by various individuals for various purposes and are referred to in an often-sweeping manner. Here is Justice Robin Cooke's six Treaty principles extracted and summarised from his Appeal Court judgement titled *NZ Maori Council v Attorney General 1987* were:

- (a) '[T]he Queen was to govern and the Maoris were to be her subjects; in return their chieftainship and possessions were to be protected, but . . . sales of land to the Crown could be negotiated.'
- (b) Because there was some inevitable potential conflict between those principles, both parties had a duty 'to act reasonably and with the utmost good faith' towards one another.
- (c) The principles of the Treaty do not authorise unreasonable restrictions on the right of a duly elected government to follow its chosen policy.'

- (d) The Crown assumed a duty of protection towards Maori: 'the duty is not passive but extends to active protection of Maori people in the use of their lands and waters to the fullest extent practicable.'
- (e) The Crown has a duty to remedy past breaches: 'the Crown should grant at least some form of redress, unless there are good grounds justifying a reasonable Treaty partner in withholding it – which would only be in very special circumstances, if ever.'
- (f) The Crown had an obligation to consult with Maori in the exercise of kawanatanga.

Note: The Treaty text that Justice Cooke used to form his opinion was neither Te Tiriti nor the English document appended to the Treaty of Waitangi Act. It was a new translation of Te Tiriti provided by the Waitangi Tribunal, which has 11 footnotes to guide understanding and in which key terms "kawanatanga" and "rangatiratanga" were redefined. This text could be described as the "what the chiefs might have understood" version. Unfortunately, the re-translation reflected the beliefs of the translator in the 1980s and was done without reference to the recorded comments of the chiefs present at the debate in 1840.