

13b Tainui Street
Welbourn
New Plymouth 4312

Mr Steve Ruru
Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352

By Email: haveyoursay@trc.govt.nz

Māori Constituency Submission

Tēnā koe Mr Ruru,

I am writing in support of the Taranaki Regional Council's proposal to establish a Māori Consistency. Doing so is commensurate the the Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA2002). Section 14 and 81 of the LGA2002 requires local government to provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to decision making. This requirement is beyond a requirement to engage and consult Māori, it requires Māori to sit around the Council table as decision makers.

The current provisions in the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA2001) prejudice the ability for Council's decision makers to introduce provision for a Māori ward. Local councillors are elected as representatives, not delegates of the community. As a voter I determine which persons I would like to entrust to make decisions in the best interests of the community. In no other part of the Council's decision making processes do I have a right to seek a public poll to challenge or overturn a legitimately formed decision of the Council, but this is the current situation for the establishment of a Māori ward.

The current provisions in the LEA2001 are inherently racist. It is unfortunate that out of the 24 Councils who have sought to establish a Māori ward only two have been successful. It is also reasonable to assume that a large number of other Councils have simply not ventured down this path knowing how easy it is for 5% of registered voters to challenge this decision. For Council's this is also a costly and time-consuming endeavour and distracts from the business of governing.

I am not Māori, I do however have the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Nga Iwi o Taranaki, something I have been honoured to do since living in the region since 2003. That

said, I do not have the right to make decisions about Māori without them nor determine if Māori should have a specific electoral ward to guarantee a Māori voice at the decision making table.

As the Regional Council is acutely aware the matters within its governance control are incredibly important to Māori. Maintaining, protecting and enhancing the environment is the business of Māori and Pākehā and in doing so it is important that both voices contribute to the debate.

Having the privilege of sitting alongside the regional councillors in the Planning and Policy Committee I witness the Council's commitment to working with Māori, iwi and hapū to sustain and nourish our natural environment. Supporting the establishment of a Maori ward is the next step. This will allow those Māori who choose to register on the Māori Roll to vote for a candidate whom they believe can represent their world view from an authentic standpoint of coming from that place. Whilst people like myself and the other regional councillors work hard to ensure that Te Ao Māori is inherently woven and respected by the democratic process, we are not Māori so we can only ever represent an 'outsider' view, however well intentioned.

The reality remains that Māori are woefully underrepresented in local government, as are women and younger people. It is therefore incumbent on those of us who are fortunate to be in a place to influence improvements to our democratic representation to do so. Making the decision to introduce a Māori ward will show how we care about the rights of all people in our community and acknowledge that each of us can only ever bring to the table our lived experience. We therefore need rich and diverse voices around our decision making tables.

Local government democracy is so very important and we can only make good decisions when we have representatives that span the demographic landscape of Aotearoa. Having a diverse body of councillors brings richer knowledge, robust debate, broader perspective and better decision making. Introducing a Māori ward is a demonstration of our commitment to a bi-cultural relationship truly founded on partnership, protection and participation, it shows our courage and highlights our ethic of care and justice.

A decision to introduce a Māori ward is positive for the current and future Taranaki community. I thank the Council for taking leadership in this matter. I wish to speak to this submission.

Nāku noa nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Tester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louise Tester (PhD)

23 February 2021

TRC April 2021 Meeting
Submission: Maori constituency

From Peter Moeahu
Iwi representative

Tena koutou katoa,

Council must establish a Maori ward for the 2022 local authority elections.

The government has changed the law so council can move swiftly to establish a Maori ward for 2022 without the threat of a binding referendum overturning its decision.

Maori have been poorly served by local authorities ever since they were established. Our perspectives went unheard, were ignored, ridiculed or considered irrelevant.

Maori have made a positive contribution to councils sub committees.

A Maori ward elected member will provide a Maori perspective at the council table.

A Maori perspective will play a major role in the Essential Freshwater and RMA reforms.

The May 21 deadline for council to make a decision is looming up fast.

The time for excuses and prevarication is over.

Establish a Maori ward for the 2022 elections.

I wish to speak to my submission

Peter Moeahu
259 Te Arei Road West
New Plymouth 4373
pmoeahu3@gmail.com
02102730763

Form Name:	TRC M?ori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 2, 2021 10:43 am
Browser:	Firefox 86.0 / Linux (Ubuntu)
IP Address:	203.184.20.34
Unique ID:	770612450
Location:	

Your details

Name	Urs Signer
Address	6484a South Road RD35 Opunake, Taranaki 4685
Email	urspetersigner@gmail.com
Phone	067638297
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a M?ori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
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Comments:	Kia ora t?tou, I strongly support the TRC establishment M?ori wards. I would like to speak via zoom. Ng? mihi Urs Signer
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Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 2, 2021 11:44 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 12.1.1 / iOS
IP Address: 101.98.203.7
Unique ID: 770832549
Location:

Your details

Name Angel Te pau konui

Address 40 Fabian Street
Stratford , Taranaki

Email ange_konui@hotmail.com

Phone 0273513543

**I wish to appear in person at a hearing
scheduled for 6 April in Stratford** Yes

Your submission

**Do you support the establishment of a
Maori constituency for Taranaki
Regional Council? (choose one)** Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)

Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 3, 2021 9:27 pm
Browser: Chrome 89.0.4389.72 / Windows
IP Address: 219.89.100.113
Unique ID: 771423511
Location:

Your details

Name Robert Taylor

Address 18 Durham avenue, Welbourn
New Plymouth, Taranaki 4310

Email sales@kss.net.nz

Phone 067512100

**I wish to appear in person at a hearing
scheduled for 6 April in Stratford** Yes

Your submission

**Do you support the establishment of a
Maori constituency for Taranaki
Regional Council? (choose one)** No

Comments:

This is APARTHEID in principle. To state next to the Yes box that "This is the Councils preferred option" is no less different than walking into a polling booth on election day to see a big advertisement for one only political party as "the preferred option". Are you deliberately trying to influence the vote?

If this nonsense is going to be put in place to suit the power and money grabbing aspirations of many competing tribes then why arent there moves afoot to establish Chinese wards and for other ethnic groupings?

I dont give a damn if someone is black white or yellow, we should all be COLOUR BLIND. Much is spoken about Maori disadvantage. Maybe they should take a damn hard look at themselves.

Like so many I have had a total gutsful of the dismantling of democracy in New Zealand and that councillors dont represent the views of the silent majority. We are headed to civil war if this nonsense continues

Form Name:	Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 19, 2021 8:30 am
Browser:	Firefox 86.0 / Windows
IP Address:	222.152.202.85
Unique ID:	780350369
Location:	

Your details

Name Mike Butler

Organisation (if applicable) Hobson's Pledge

Address 920A
Nelson St North
Hastings, Hawke's Bay 4120

Email mikebu@xtra.co.nz

Phone (027) 2777 295

I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one) No

Comments:

A close look at the Taranaki Regional Council's proposal to set up a Maori constituency shows that it is virtue signalling that touches on the absurd. With nearly as many Maori voters on the general roll as on the Maori roll, such a move would cater for just eight percent of the Taranaki electoral population. 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. A Maori constituency in Taranaki would be unwanted and unneeded paternalism. There is no reference to separate Maori seats in the Local Government Act 2002. Maori in New Zealand do not live as a separate group so why segregate some New Zealand citizens? No evidence has been presented to show that Maori constituencies or wards increase voter turnout. 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. We recommend against proceeding with a Maori constituency in the area of the Taranaki Regional Council, or at least put the matter to a vote. A race-based voting arrangement is simply racist.

Supporting documents 1

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/10241239350>



Submission against Maori constituency in Taranaki

Introduction

This is a submission against a proposal by the Taranaki Regional Council to set up a Maori constituency. There is no evidence that this is a step strongly desired by Maori roll voters. Sufficient opportunities for all citizens are available to contribute to decision-making processes. Maori constituencies and wards set up elsewhere have not increased participation by Maori voters. If the council wishes to test this option, the council should put the matter to a vote. The submission is on behalf of equality group Hobson's Pledge, which was set up to debate such issues.

Background

1. At the beginning of this year, signatures were being collected for petitions in nine districts where councils had proposed Maori wards or constituencies. At that time, residents in an area where a Maori constituency was proposed had the right to petition for a binding referendum on whether the proposal should proceed. A referendum would be triggered if the validated signatures of five percent of the area's electoral population had been collected. 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).

2. The Taranaki Regional Council is considering a Maori constituency under Section 19 Z of the Local Electoral Act 2001, by which all councils have the option of establishing Maori constituencies or wards by resolution of council.

3. The discussion document titled "Should the council establish a Maori Constituency?" (see <https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/working-with-iwi/maoriconstituency/>) says that a decision must be made by May 21, 2021. The council had decided last August against creating a Maori constituency, but the right for residents to vote on the matter was outlawed last month, and the Taranaki Regional Council decided to revisit the constituency proposal.

4. The overall electoral population for New Plymouth, South Taranaki, and Stratford is 88,484. There are 81,187 on the general and 7297 on the Maori roll. The discussion document asserts that 19.8 percent of the Taranaki population identify as Maori. The document fails to state how many Maori are on the Maori roll. If that figure was included, it would show that the proposed Maori constituency would benefit just 8 percent of the Taranaki electoral population, which is less than half those who identify as Maori.

5. 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 specific 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 general election).

6. When the South Taranaki District Council proposed a Maori ward, and when residents were entitled to petition for a vote, a total of 903 signatures were collected when 847 were required to trigger a binding referendum, although a number of signatures were declared invalid.

7. The main pressure for Maori wards or constituencies is not an outpouring from Maori roll voters. It comes from a handful of activists, mainly a number of Maori Party, Green, and Labour MPs, and a few iwi leaders, who present former New Plymouth mayor Andrew Judd, the self-described "recovering racist", to testify about his experience in trying to introduce a Maori ward.

8. The actual 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 the rights and privileges of British subjects. The treaty has no mention of treaty principles, treaty partnership, or reserved seats for Maori. See Appendix 2.

9. This is what the Local Government Act 2002 says about Maori participation in local government. The treaty clause (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](#) 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.

Section 14 (d) says:

a local authority should provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision-making processes

And Section 81 of that Act says:

A local authority must—(a) establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Maori 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; and (c) provide relevant information to Māori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).

The case against a Maori constituency

1. Why do some councillors see Maori constituencies as a part of a regional council's role? 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. The usual justification for Maori constituencies, wards, committees, or appointees is to hear the "Maori voice" and bring a "Maori dimension" to council decisions. However, a closer look at what this entails touches on the absurd. 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.

2. Would reserving a council seat for Maori roll voters, as the discussion document proposes, actually bring a "Maori dimension" to council? Arguably, not necessarily. Because 45 percent of Maori voters are on the general roll, a Maori constituency councillor would only bring to their work the views of their Maori roll constituents. This would only represent the views of 55 percent of the Maori residents of Taranaki.

3. Does a separate Maori seat on the council actually reflect the intent of the Treaty of Waitangi? Definitely not. Article 3 of the Treaty (appended below) 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.

4. 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). And in the current Parliament, almost 30 percent of all MPs are Maori. Maori would still be "over 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.

5. Councillors who propose Maori constituencies are either mistaken or disingenuous when they assert that the Local Government Act requires them. They appear unaware that 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.

6. 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

7. Maori constituencies have existed in the Bay of Plenty Regional Council since 2001, as well as in Environment Waikato. Wairoa has had a Maori ward since 2016. Yet, during the current push for race-based voting on local authorities there has been not one reference to how creating separate systems for Maori roll voters has increased voter turnout. For instance, voter turnout at the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's three Maori constituencies continued to lag. Turnout in 2010 turnout 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. Overall turnout there in 2019 was 43.2 percent. With no figures for the Maori constituency turnout, it looks like there was little interest because only the Kohi Maori constituency had a vote.

8. No one appears to have considered the downsides for Maori roll voters in a Maori constituency.

A. Maori roll voters vote for the Maori Ward candidates and no other ward candidates. This limits choice for Maori roll voters.

B. Decisions on so-called Maori issues will be channelled to Maori roll councillors who are there to give a distinctive Maori perspective. This would lead to such decisions being left to the Maori roll councillors, which would tend to reduce the amount of effort put into such decisions. Before MMP, such side-lining of Maori issues has been a substantial disadvantage of the Maori seats in central government.

9. It's not as though the Taranaki Regional Council is short of Maori representation. The 11-member council already has six iwi appointees who vote on the council's main standing committees.

Conclusion

A close look at the Taranaki Regional Council's proposal to set up a Maori constituency shows that it is virtue signalling that touches on the absurd. With nearly as many Maori voters on the general roll as on the Maori roll, such a move would cater for just eight percent of the Taranaki electoral population. 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. A Maori constituency in Taranaki would be unwanted and unneeded paternalism. There is no reference to separate Maori seats in the Local Government Act 2002. Maori in New Zealand do not live as a separate group so why segregate some New Zealand citizens? No evidence has been presented to show that Maori constituencies or wards increase voter turnout. 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. We recommend against proceeding with a Maori constituency in the area of the Taranaki Regional Council, or at least put the matter to a vote. A race-based voting arrangement is simply racist.

Hobson's Pledge
Mike Butler,
920A Nelson St North,

HASTINGS4120
(027) 2777 295
mikebu@extra.co.nz

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 is closest to the Maori text because it has just one word that differs from Te Tiriti, being the addition of the word "maori" in Article 3.

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.

Form Name:	Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 4, 2021 6:10 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address:	101.98.228.21
Unique ID:	771881609
Location:	

Your details

Name	Michael Bonner
Address	258 coronation ave Welbourn New plymouth Taranaki, New Plymouth Taranaki
Email	m.bonner3658@gmail.com
Phone	0273193657
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	No
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Form Name:	Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 9, 2021 4:46 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 88.0.4324.152 / Android
IP Address:	122.56.211.172
Unique ID:	775689626
Location:	

Your details

Name	Justin Clinton-Gohdes
Address	48A Wallace Place Westown New Plymouth, Taranaki 4310
Email	justingohdes@gmail.com
Phone	0275494050
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
Comments:	There needs to be Maori elected representation on TRC. The issues that we are facing, especially related to the environment, need tangara whenua supported solutions.

Submission form

Submitter details

First name: ALAN

Surname: MOULAND

Organisation/group (if applicable):

Postal address: 15 HUNTER ST HAWERA

Email: Ph. number: 2781491

I wish to present my submission personally at a hearing scheduled for 6 April 2021 in Stratford ^{HAWERA} Yes No (tick one)

Do you support the establishment of a Māori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? Yes* No

*(This is the Council's preferred option)



Attach additional pages for comments if required.

Note that your submission and any information you supply as part of it is considered public information and will be available in reports and documents relating to this process and will be published on our website.



Online

Fill in the submission form online at www.trc.govt.nz/haveyoursay



Post

Fill in the submission form and drop it off or post it to us at:
Māori Constituency Submission
Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352



Email

Email the submission form to:
haveyoursay@trc.govt.nz

15 Hunter St.
Hawera.

To whom it may concern,

It is my firm belief that people standing for any public office should be chosen, and voted for on merit and ability rather than selected on race, religion or any other group. I urge council to strongly vote against this proposal.

I personally need financial scholarships for high school students going on to university. These students are chosen only on ability! The same should apply to council.

Sincerely

A.V. Howland.

Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 15, 2021 12:20 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 219.89.100.110
Unique ID: 778320239
Location:

Your details

Name	Grant Knuckey
Address	33 Tiromoana Crescent Bell Block New Plymouth , Taranaki 4312
Email	grant@teatiawabusiness.co.nz
Phone	021496024
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	No
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Comments:

I don't support the proposal of a Maori Ward with out first beginning provided with and having a full over view of the democratic process that supports the democratic rights of the local tangata whenua as the registered Maori population on the electoral roll in the taranaki region constituency .

The tangata whenua have left out of the democratic process by the Taranaki regional council over the 20 years by its executive team that disadvantaged Maori as set in the current local bodies act excluding the local Maori from actively taking in local bodies annual plans .

The Taranaki regional regional council hold conflicts of interest in planning for Maori or dealing with Maori people in matters of land water sea or the distribution of resources to the local community Maori.

Submission form

Submitter details

229

First name:

PETE

Surname:

ARTHELL

Organisation/group (if applicable):

"WAKE UP NEW ZEALAND"

Postal address:

1238 EAST ROAD, MANGATOTARA

Email:

Ph. number:

7622673

I wish to present my submission personally at a hearing scheduled for 6 April 2021 in Stratford.

Yes

(tick one)

No

Do you support the establishment of a Māori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council?

Yes*

No

*(This is the Council's preferred option)



Attach additional pages for comments if required.

Note that your submission and any information you supply as part of it is considered public information and will be available in reports and documents relating to this process and will be published on our website.



Online

Fill in the submission form online at
www.trc.govt.nz/haveyoursay



Post

Fill in the submission form and drop it off or post it to us at:
Māori Constituency Submission
Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352



Email

Email the submission form to:
haveyoursay@trc.govt.nz

Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 15, 2021 5:00 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 14.137.7.170
Unique ID: 778377105
Location:

Your details

Name	Dinnie Moeahu
Address	128 Tasman Street Opunake, Opunake Taranaki
Email	dinniemoeahu@gmail.com
Phone	0211462813

I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes
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Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
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Comments:	I wish to speak in support of the establishment of a M?ori Ward/Constituencies.
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Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 15, 2021 6:43 pm
Browser: Chrome 89.0.4389.82 / Windows
IP Address: 150.107.172.155
Unique ID: 778393185
Location:

Your details

Name David Payne

Address 20 Birdwood Ave.,
Moturoa
New Plymouth, Taranaki 4310

Email never2old2ridenz@gmail.com

Phone 0220766498

**I wish to appear in person at a hearing
scheduled for 6 April in Stratford** Yes

Your submission

**Do you support the establishment of a
Maori constituency for Taranaki
Regional Council? (choose one)** No

Comments: This is not a race issue. This is a matter of Democracy. Some 2500 years ago Solon started the opportunity for everyone to have a vote. This was not the right of most people around the world until recently. There is something pure about having one [person, one vote and that does not allow for a separate vote based on racial derivation.
While I have the opportunity.....no where in the Treaty of Waitangi does it say that anyone has special rights over anyone else. It does say that there will be equal rights (by inference including voting) for everyone who is a New Zealander under the oversight of the Queen/ King of England.

Form Name:	Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 16, 2021 1:42 pm
Browser:	Chrome 89.0.4389.82 / Windows
IP Address:	202.150.127.33
Unique ID:	778893394
Location:	

Your details

Name	Barbara Hammonds
Address	74 Lorna St Lynmouth New Plymouth, Taranaki 4310
Email	barbara_ha@outlook.com
Phone	067597077
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
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Comments:	<p>This is the only way to guarantee a M?ori voice at full Council meetings. It's great there are already iwi representatives on the two Standing Committees. A M?ori constituency is an important missing piece to enhance the role of M?ori in local government .</p> <p>As Council's information on this says: 'It is crucial that M?ori perspectives and cultural values are fairly represented and understood at the Council decision-making table, alongside those of the wider community.</p> <p>'We believe a M?ori constituency councillor would bring with them a strategic M?ori lens on issues as well as the ability to draw on and foster relationships with M?ori across the region.'</p> <p>I couldn't say it better.</p> <p>It will also enhance the decisions already made by NPDC and STDC to establish a M?ori Ward, and help all four councils in Taranaki better represent and understand M?ori perspectives and values.</p>
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Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 17, 2021 9:26 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 12.1.2 / iOS
IP Address: 125.238.143.133
Unique ID: 779325025
Location:

Your details

Name	Gail Simpson
Address	46a Gaine Street 46a Gaine Street Lynmouth, New Plymouth
Email	simpsons1@xtra.co.nz
Phone	0279390091
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
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Comments:

Tena Koutou

Ko Taranaki toku maunga

No Te Atiawa me Gilbert ahau

Ko Tokomaru me William Bryan toku waka

Ko Gail taku ingoa

I support the implementation of a Maori Constituency in the Taranaki Regional Council and here are my reasons why.

I am a member of the once silent majority in Taranaki who believe in a Maori Constituency on the Regional council because it is the right thing to do, to give Tangata whenua a full voice at the table as required by the Te Tiriti o Waitangi. I am a member of Te Rongamou Community Action Group who are educating and advocating for Maori Wards or Constituency for all of Taranaki. The principles of the treaty referred as to the three p's are partnership, participation and protection. These underpin the relationship between local government and Maori.

Partnership involves working together with Iwi, Hapu, Whānau to develop strategies for the good of all our region. Partnership relies on us welcoming and having genuine relationships with Maori across our region to allow Taranaki to go forward and flourish together.

I am a retired teacher of 36 years in various primary schools around New Zealand.

My ancestors arrived at Ngamotu Beach in New Plymouth. On one side were Te Atiawa in the Tokomaru canoe and on the other were the Gilbert's from England on the William Bryan. My Whānau on my Dad's side have had close ties with Te Atiawa in Taranaki when his brother Sir Paul Reeves was an Anglican minister in Okato.

In Taranaki, history has been closely interwoven among Maori and their Treaty Partners. We do need to acknowledge the past to move onto the future. A Maori Constituency would create democratic governance creating a genuine community representation and therefore promoting democracy. Maori would have a full mandate with decisions being made by Maori for Maori in conjunction with overall council direction. Remember it is only one voice amongst eleven however a very important voice for Maori. The Taranaki Regional Council has established 3 Iwi positions on The Policy and Planning Committee as well as The Consents and Regulatory Committee which they say is mandated by the Te Tiriti which does give them a vote on their committees but not a vote on the full regional council. In finishing up I totally agree with my late Uncle's vision back in 2010 " that the way to deal with inequality is to provide representation. That the emphasis on one person one vote must be balanced by a guarantee of adequate representation. He was talking about decision-making in Taranaki and the delivery of health, education, employment opportunities and housing sectors where Maori then were not doing well. I quote from one of his speeches " Of course there is a future for Taranaki. It's a place where history can be acknowledged and aspiration honoured. It won't happen easily and it won't happen overnight, but a combination of facts and shared values (the common ground) can see us through. We are called the energy

province but our basic resource is not oil and gas, or even milk. Our basic resource and our future will be built upon the people who are here. We must work hard so that our grandchildren have cause to bless us and not to curse us."

Our future in across all of Taranaki needs to be built on equal representation and partnership, community collaboration. People, people are the most important. (Te Whiti o Rongamou)

Please do the right thing and support a Maori Constituency for Maori, our grandchildren, our community community and the region of Taranaki.

I acknowledge quotes from Sir Paul Reeves speech 2010

Nga Mihi

Gail Simpson

Form Name:	Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 16, 2021 11:03 pm
Browser:	Chrome 88.0.4324.190 / Windows
IP Address:	139.180.65.153
Unique ID:	779007648
Location:	

Your details

Name	Wharehoka Wano
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Organisation (if applicable)	Taranaki M?ori Trust Board
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Address	1 Young Street Waitara, Taranaki
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Email	whare@taranaki.iwi.nz
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Phone	0272430454
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I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes
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Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
---	--

Comments:

T?n? koutou katoa

The Taranaki M?ori Trust Board (TMTB) makes this submission: Taranaki Regional Council Submission: M?ori Ward

The TMTB supports the establishment of a M?ori Ward.

The TMTB supports equitable voting rights of Maori within General Wards.

The establishment of a M?ori Electoral Ward must not disqualify M?ori from voting in General Wards where there are multiple councilor positions available.

For example, there are 5 councilors for the New Plymouth Ward. A M?ori elector in this ward must have the right to vote for a M?ori Ward candidate as well as 4 New Plymouth Ward candidates. This would give them 5 votes just like everyone else.

Anything less would disenfranchise M?ori.

As Chairperson of the TMTB I wish to speak to this submission.

Ng? mihi

Whare

Form Name:	Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 16, 2021 11:00 pm
Browser:	Chrome 88.0.4324.190 / Windows
IP Address:	139.180.65.153
Unique ID:	779006688
Location:	

Your details

Name	Wharehoka Wano
Organisation (if applicable)	Te K?hui o Taranaki
Address	1 Young Street New Plymouth, Taranaki
Email	whare@taranaki.iwi.nz
Phone	0272430454
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
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Comments:

T?n? koutou katoa

Te K?hui o Taranaki (TKoT) makes this submission: Taranaki Regional Council Submission: M?ori Ward

TKoT supports the establishment of a M?ori Ward.

TKoT supports equitable voting rights of M?ori within General Wards.

The establishment of a M?ori Electoral Ward must not disqualify M?ori from voting in General Wards where there are multiple councilor positions available.

For example, there are 5 councilors for the New Plymouth Ward. A M?ori elector in this ward must have the right to vote for a M?ori Ward candidate as well as 4 New Plymouth Ward candidates. This would give them 5 votes just like everyone else.

Anything less would disenfranchise M?ori.

We wish to speak to this submission.

Ng? mihi

Whare

Form Name:	Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 17, 2021 10:43 pm
Browser:	Chrome 65.0.3325.181 / OS X
IP Address:	115.189.128.14
Unique ID:	779531109
Location:	

Your details

Name	Ross MacNicol
Address	148 Sole Road Ngaere Stratford, Taranaki RD 23
Email	rossmacnicol55@gmail.com
Phone	06 7650307
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	No
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Comments:

It is my view that Taranaki Maori require representation on the TRC in a manner that is formalised, permanent and inclusive within the decision making and policy development roles of the council. I believe the lack of effective representation has created a monocultural organisation which reflects the general reluctance of a significant percentage of the population to grant even a modicum of representation in the form of a Maori ward of some type. The benefits of a ward type system for Maori are only of a limited influence given the weight of general seats but remains a very positive step. The leadership of the TRC in promulgating this ward is to be commended- and certainly the removal of the "overturning referendum powers" makes the decision to promote the ward more politically acceptable. Opposition to the change will remain but in my opinion gradually subside as it is unworthy of energy given the very real challenges faced by our region.

The effective disenfranchisement of Maori in local government has been a concern I have pondered for many years. In the 1970s to 1990s I worked in local government as a planner in both a provincial city and in Auckland. District Scheme reviews are an important part of that work and the blur of admin speak baffles even assiduous ratepayers. The press consider these matters tedious and lack the experienced staff who could unravel the core of the policy from the subsections and clauses. My career in education firstly at Patea High and more latterly 20 years as a departmental head and BOT member in an influential Taranaki secondary school followed by an increased role in management and day to day work on our whanau farm has helped give me insights into the importance of fair and just representation of this significant minority.

The relative invisibility of a Maori voice has only marginally improved since the 1990s- the Resource Management Act gave undue emphasis to environmental and development management issues and very little emphasis to community and socio economic development. Now many would argue that a regional authority has little role in those areas- I would respectfully submit that time has indeed moved on and regional government has been left behind. Without being able to provide the statistics- (indeed I would suggest it is your officers roles to provide these) I suggest the general engagement of voters in regional councils is poor and that Maori disengagement is positively alarming. This is not the fault of the general voter base nor of Maori it is just the importance of regional council activities is not widely known, has changed significantly compared to its district council cousins and has now a significant need for real engagement.

The lack of awareness of the importance of the regional tier of government has in many ways allowed organisations such as the TRC with its experienced staff and councillors to carry on with core business and respond to the challenges in the traditional spheres of influence. However now is the time to let the other brothers into the room. It must be more than a PR exercise and cannot be delegated to some appointed committee or mid ranking officer. It is part of the tide of history in Aotearoa that has seen the steady moves towards some redress of the terrible cultural, social and economic wounds inflicted upon the indigenous inhabitants of our Motu.

Taranaki suffered fearfully from the wave of the settler economy and the unjust confiscations of the late 1800s. Indeed for Maori the wars and Colonial militia revenges were painful but what followed was even more torturous - Indeed " The Peace Of The Pakeha is more To Be Feared Than His War" my choice of capitals for emphasis. The TRC is part of that domination through regulation and those days have not gone away despite the treaty wash that occurs nowadays. The steady increase in recognition of the of the Treaty and its interpretation as being integral to the legislative framework of our country is a just move and a million miles away from the accusations of 'special rights' as some critics wrongly chant. A Maori ward with meaningful representation, officer support and a commitment to assist the person who achieves the role via election is a very important part of the process. Maori organisations and the Iwi leadership groups are under enormous pressure and intense scrutiny in a way few Pakeha would understand.

Kay McAlpine

From: krmoratti@xtra.co.nz
Sent: Thursday, 18 March 2021 2:39 PM
To: Have Your Say
Subject: SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION ON MAORI WARDS

In reference to the possibility of implementing a Maori Ward, you as Councillors need to ask yourselves a number of questions.

As reference is always being made that Euro-Maori are in "partnership" with The Crown. Please consider how this is possible?

Under all aspects of The Treaty how can Crown subjects be "in Partnership"?

Recent communications with Euro-Maori people would indicate that they wish to have 50% representation on Councils. This has been further reinforced by your Chairmans' comment whereby he said "How can we have one Maori Ward when there are 7 other Iwi"?

As there is already 6 Euro-Maori on Council put there owing to Treaty Settlements, why would you need more inclusion on major Committees when these 6 already have input?

Are you as Councillors in favour of 50% Euro-Maori on Council?

Do not elect people based on race... it is divisive and will destroy democracy in New Zealand.

Kevin Moratti.... 39 Ninia Road, RD3, New Plymouth. Ph: 0274-246868

Submission to Taranaki Regional Council on whether to establish a Māori constituency.

Name: Theresa Adamski

- 1) I would like to say thank you to the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC or Council) for upholding democracy in consulting with the ratepayers on how our representatives are elected on to the TRC. My preference, however, for any change in the voting process is to hold a binding referendum at the next election cycle. This would ensure all ratepayers would have a voice in the establishment of its representations and vote without feeling intimidated or influenced and would be truly democratic.
- 2) While I appreciate the TRC providing information on establishing a Māori constituency and outlining its preferred option, I note on the submission form where submitters are asked to tick Yes or No and next to Yes it has "*(This is the Council's preferred option)*" I see this as influencing and possibly pressuring the submitter into selecting the 'Yes' option. I would expect the submission form to be neutral and ask in all future submission forms the TRC preference is not shown on the Submission Form.
- 3) The date scheduled to hear submissions personally is the day after Easter Break (6 April, 2021). Often people take extra leave either before or after the Easter Break and according to education.govt.nz website, Easter Tuesday 6 April is a school holiday. Is it possible to move the hearing to 12 April, 2021 (School holidays start from Saturday 17 April, 2021).
- 4) I do not support the establishment of a Māori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council for the following reasons.

Below is an extract from The TRC Elected Members Code of Conduct (*Document Number: 2354767*)

Principles of the Code of Conduct for Elected Members

The Code is based on the following principles of good governance:

Public Interest

8. *Members should serve only the interests of the region as a whole and should not improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any one person.*

It goes on further to say under Objectivity paragraph 10.:

"... Elected members should also note that, once elected, their primary duty is to the interests of the entire region and not just the constituency they represent."

Therefore, am I to assume by the introduction of Māori constituencies the current Council do not represent the interests of the entire region. Second information provide on the Council website says by establishing a Māori constituency, noting while councillors must act in the best interests of the whole region, a Māori constituency would provide a democratic mandate for its

councillor to present and advocate Māori views. This is providing an advantage to Māori and is in contradiction to the Public Interest principle of the Code of Conduct. Second this mandate would not be democratic unless all ratepayers have an opportunity to vote on a Māori constituency.

- 5) If you are going to have a mandate for Māori view then, for fairness and democracy, the whole electoral system would need to change from councillors being elected to represent constituencies across the region, to one of councillors being elected to represent constituency on ethnicity.

Statistics New Zealand 2018 Census identified six major ethnic groups as follows European (70.2), Māori (16.5%), Pacific peoples (8.1%), Asian (15.1), Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (1.5%) and Other Ethnicity (1.2%). Digressing, I would say the European category would be rather broad, most of whom would be native New Zealanders as would be most Māori. I note this because Māori, as with all ethnic groups, have their own intricacies (traditions, language, history, religion, myths etc.).

- 6) In South Africa apartheid is defined as a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race. Apartheid was prevalent from 1948 until early 1990's. New Zealand legislation is being subtly cloaked in apartheid. Our country is being separated broadly into two groups Māori and Non-Māori. Examples include:

- a) Māori Constituency - the purpose of which the councillor is to present and advocate Māori views. It is purposed (Noting any eligible voter would be entitled to stand as a candidate), only those enrolled on the Māori electoral roll vote in the Māori Constituency. As per the New Zealand Government website www.govt.nz. Only New Zealand Māori and the descendants of New Zealand Māori can register for the Māori roll. (If you are an adopted child in a New Zealand Māori family, you can only register for the Māori roll if you are a Māori yourself). Māori descendants have a choice to be on the Māori Electoral Roll or the General Electoral Roll. Non-Māori New Zealanders only have the General Electoral roll.
- b) Separate Electorates – Māori and General electorates. One is based on race, the other on region.
- c) The three iwi positions on the Policy and Planning Committee and the Consents and Regulatory Committee (mandated by Treaty of Waitangi - Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlement legislation).
- d) Local Government Act 2002 – In Part 6, Section 81(1) as per below:

81 Contributions to decision-making processes by Māori

(1) 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; and

(c) provide relevant information to Māori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).

This is a result of the Part 4 where the Crown is taking its responsibility in relation to the Treaty of Waitangi by legislating Local Authorities to single out Māori in local government decision-making processes. The Crown acknowledges it is not transferring its responsibilities to Local Government. However, the Treaty of Waitangi is a Treaty between the Crown and Māori, not Local Authorities, by the Crown legislating to fulfil its responsibilities under the Treaty is elevating the Treaty to Law and a Treaty is an agreement between parties not Law.

e) Resource Management Act 1991

7) Democracy is a system of government where the power is vested in the people and exercised by them through a system of representation. In the case of the TRC the people are the ratepayers. Much like a Company (where you have shareholders and board of directors) the TRC has ratepayers and elected council representatives to act as the governing body to carry out the governance of the region.

As a ratepayer I expect to have the same opportunity for input, decision-making and consultation, through the same channels as every other ratepayer. The proposal of Māori constituencies means a segregation of ratepayers on ethnicity allowing this group greater input into the governance and decision making of our region with multiple channels to do this, (including through the iwi positions on existing committees). This is not democracy, and this is at the core of why I object to a Māori constituency. I want to know when I vote for a council representative I am voting as an equal and as an equal I have equal input into decision making. I too, financially support the TRC through my rates and would expect the same input into the council as every other ratepayer.

Personally, I feel all ratepayers should have a vote across all region representatives as all councillors are there to represent our whole region. Those in some regions do not necessarily reflect my views.

Submission to Taranaki Regional Council on whether to establish a Māori constituency.

Name: Theresa Adamski

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Personally, I feel all ratepayers should have a vote across all region representatives as all councillors are there to represent our whole region. Those in some regions do not necessarily reflect my views.

Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 18, 2021 6:55 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 14.0.3 / iOS
IP Address: 115.188.74.131
Unique ID: 780046316
Location:

Your details

Name	Karen Venables
Address	45c Paynters Ave Strandon New plymouth, New Plymouth 4312
Email	karen@legalsolutions.nz
Phone	021702354
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
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Comments:

T?n? Koutou

I would like to make a submission in support of M?ori wards for the Taranaki Regional Council.

The reasons I support a M?ori ward are:

I believe that Territorial Authorities have an obligation under the Treaty of Waitangi and the Local Government Act to ensure the M?ori have a seat at the decision making table.

I also believe that it is important that M?ori are involved in decision making from the beginning of the process, not as it appears now, as a tick boxing exercise at the end of the process.

My understanding of M?ori tikanga is that M?ori are guardians of our natural resources. TRC manage our natural resources. M?ori have an absolute interest and right to be making decisions about what happens with our natural resources within our rohe.

M?ori are the indigenous people of our land and before we (P?keha) arrived had full responsibility for caring for our natural resources. Before our arrival M?ori had every seat at this table.

The impact of colonisation on M?ori has meant they have worse health, education, employment, mental health, imprisonment and other outcomes. It is our responsibility as P?keha to help them regain the position they were in prior to our arrival.

My family upon arrival to this rohe on the first English settlor ship to New Plymouth were welcomed, provided food and shelter and given a lift up by tangata whenua to help them find their feet in a new land. My family left England for a better life. Which they got but to the detriment of the tangata whenua of the land they arrived in. It is our turn to show the same respect by helping M?ori regain their rightful place at the decision making table.

Form Name:	Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 19, 2021 9:03 am
Browser:	Chrome 89.0.4389.90 / Windows
IP Address:	222.154.232.229
Unique ID:	780366660
Location:	

Your details

Name	Dion Luke
Organisation (if applicable)	Te Korowai o Ng?ruahine Trust
Address	147 High Street Te H?wera, Taranaki 4610
Email	dion@ngaruahine.iwi.nz
Phone	0272791359
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
Comments:	Please find submission document attached.
Supporting documents 1	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/10241466211



'Māori Constituency Submission'

Chief Executive

Taranaki Regional Council

Private Bag 713 Stratford 4352

Via Email: haveyoursay@trc.govt.nz

RE: Establishment of a Māori Constituency

Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust (TKONT) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Taranaki Regional Council on the question of Māori Wards. TKONT is the post settlement governance entity for Ngāruahine Iwi - being one of several organisations which advocates for the cultural, social, economic, and spiritual wellbeing of all Ngāruahine Uri and has around 5,400 registered members.

1. TKONT supports the introduction of Māori wards for the Taranaki Regional Council.



Why does TKONT support the establishment of Māori wards?

2. At a fundamental level, Māori wards provide for the expression of three important principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in regard to decision making which directly affects Ngāruahine Uri and their relationship to the environment.
 - Partnership, protection and participation.
3. The well-known historical injustice of the Taranaki region requires us all to be knowledgeable and responsive to the intergenerational trauma and inequality it has created. This means not letting ourselves be defined by that history but instead having a shared understanding of it and embracing partnership, protection and participation as the foundation of coexistence and a prosperous future for all those who live in the Taranaki community.
4. We acknowledge the improved engagement and consultation approach that TRC has taken recently with Iwi and see the introduction of Māori wards as a natural evolution towards normalising partnership between Iwi/Hapū and the regional council.
5. TKONT notes the Taranaki Regional Council's chair signing of the Taranaki Mayoral Forum's letter calling for the removal of poll clauses in the Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill.
6. The failure of the New Plymouth and South Taranaki petitions to reach the numbers required to challenge the establishment of Māori wards shows that there is a discernible transformation in the hearts and minds of people around the region.



7. The unanimous decision of the South Taranaki District Council late last year to introduce Māori wards for the 2022 and 2025 local body elections showed its councillors were both courageous and progressive in their approach and thinking. This is the choice now faced by the Regional Council.

What are the benefits of having a Māori constituency?

8. The benefits of dedicated Māori representation include addressing multiple requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 such as:
 - Section 4 – *take appropriate account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes.*
 - Section 14 - *In performing its role, a local authority must act in accordance with the following principles (d) a local authority should provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision-making processes.*
 - Section 81 - Contributions to decision making processes by Māori.
 - Schedule 10 (clause 8) - *Development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes.*
9. A Māori worldview is often the polar opposite of the mainstream western one. An ongoing Māori perspective, facilitated by dedicated representation, might be most useful when unquestioned common sense and business as usual approaches to decision-making become enshrined in institutions and in the norms of society.



10. All eight Iwi of Taranaki have now settled their historical treaty of Waitangi claims. They all have a diverse range of views and objectives which include but are not limited to the environment. Dedicated Māori representation may provide a vector for integrating and pivoting off Iwi strategic economic and social objectives which might otherwise be unknown to council.

11. The onslaught of central government reforms around resource management and water services infrastructure serve to remind us of the importance of local perspectives and relationships. Mana whenua representation will be a significant part of upcoming legislative reforms. A good working relationship with Iwi and Hapū will ensure that the local voice is clear and embedded if multi-regional amalgamation of local government organisations occurs.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our perspective and aspirations on this important kaupapa. I look forward to speaking to our submission when the opportunity arises.

Dion Luke

Kaiahurea Advisor Iwi Development

Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust

PO Box 474, Te Hāwera, Taranaki 4640

dion@ngaruahine.iwi.nz

027 2791359 or 06 278 7411

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Maru Trust
Office 4, 52-54 Molesworth Street,
New Plymouth, 4310

9th February 2021

Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352

Tēnā koe

RE: Māori Constituency

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Maru Trust is the mandated entity for Ngāti Maru iwi from Taranaki. The Trust is currently in the process of finalizing its Historic Treaty of Waitangi Settlement. Prior to the confiscations and various other mechanisms designed to transfer land out of Māori ownership, the original rohe of Ngāti Maru was 220,000 ha in central and north east Taranaki. Ngāti Maru has a registered membership population of 3000 people, it recently carried out a ratification of its Deed of Settlement. Almost 50% of its voting membership participated in the ratification and 92% approved the current package for settlement.

Ngāti Maru is strongly in favour of the decision to establish a Māori constituency at the Taranaki regional Council. Our opinion is that this would provide much needed diversity at the council table and create a body that is more reflective of the make-up of our local population.

The relationship between councils and Iwi is maturing into a collaborative working one where each party is supporting the outcomes of the other at various levels. This includes sitting on external committees together, supporting council initiatives and funding applications.

This practice should continue to develop and grow for the betterment of our region. It makes sense that Iwi also have representation at the governance table to enhance this relationship.

I would like to speak to this paper during the submissions presentations.

Nga mihi nui



Anaru Marshall
General Manager
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Maru Trust

Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 19, 2021 1:54 pm
Browser: Chrome 89.0.4389.90 / Windows
IP Address: 219.89.201.147
Unique ID: 780470344
Location:

Your details

Name	Haimona Maruera Jnr
Organisation (if applicable)	Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui Trust
Address	74 Princes Street Hawera Hawera , Taranaki 4610
Email	office@ruanui.co.nz
Phone	062780148
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
Comments:	See attached Submission
Supporting documents 1	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/10242879465

19 March 2021

Māori Constituency Submission
Chief Executive Steve Ruru
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352

Tēnā koe Steve,

Submission Māori Constituency

Ngāti Ruanui welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Council's deliberation to introduce Māori Constituencies for the Taranaki Regional Council.

The recent changes to the Electoral Act at a national level have now provided a clear path for all Councils to exercise an "even playing fielding" for determining local body representation that best fits their jurisdiction.

The unfair system that existed in the past and is reflected in the fact that since 2002 24 councils have voted to establish Māori constituencies, but referendums have overturned many of those decisions.

For too long Māori representation at a local government level has been side-lined with limited engagement and partnership. Consultation has been used to demonstrate a shift in engagement and involvement of mana whenua but often is has become a tick box and window dressing exercise. True partnership is recognised in Te Tiriti giving effect to the rights and privileges of citizenship as promised by the Crown.

Recent appointments to committee structures have been a move in the right direction but these have been empowered through settlement claims rather than a clear willingness and desire to for a decision-making relationship.

The introduction of Māori constituencies is one action which makes a bold step to the meeting Te Tiriti obligations.

Ngati Ruanui firmly believes that any decision **not to introduce** a Māori constituency would continue the racist position that largely exists now.

The essence of racism is around systems of power. For too long Māori have been oppressed by systems of local government. The government systems are ones that have been operated by those in power who have oppressed Māori in the widest sense; having land taken by legal means, punishment for speaking their language and imprisoned for protecting what is theirs.

Failure to acknowledge this system of power and its history continues a racist system and in turn provides no ability to create equity for Māori.

Letting majorities decide how minorities should be represented is also not a tenable position anymore. Non-Māori residents simply do not know what it like to be oppressed and what is like to be part of a group routinely excluded from decision making structures. Central Government has now made the move that now allows Councils to consider Māori voices as a minority; unhindered by an uneven playing field

of polls and five percent thresholds.

Māori Constituencies provide the ability to create the right a balance where previously Māori remain woefully underrepresented in local government. Having a Council representative elected directly by those on the Māori electoral roll ensures that a specifically Māori perspective is present in Council.

Legislation now is moving to a position that requires the importance of recognising Māori perspectives and requires a partnership at the highest levels of decision making; it is a paradigm shift that is occurring. Such new perspectives at the decision-making table are also likely to lead to better processes and ultimately more acceptable decisions. For example, Māori knowledge and perspectives are beneficial when considering land uses and conservation practices.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples notes that:

"Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State."

Māori representation in local government really does mean working in partnership with Māori and not separate from them.

Further it has been noted that:

"Democracy is strengthened if Māori candidates for public office can present themselves to Māori voters and be evaluated by Māori voters, in ways that make cultural sense and are responsive to the particular circumstances of prior occupancy, colonisation and culture."

Empowering Māori to be part of Local government is an essential step for partnership. Māori constituencies are just one way in which this can happen. More needs to occur but building the right foundation for partnership relationships is important for our society.

Ngati Ruanui supports the introduction of a Māori Constituencies for the Taranaki Regional Council.

Nāku noa, nā



Haimona Maruera Jnr

Tumu Whakaae

Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 19, 2021 1:38 pm
Browser: Safari 14.0.3 / OS X
IP Address: 219.89.103.112
Unique ID: 780466476
Location:

Your details

Name	Bonita Bigham
Address	23 Riemenschneider Street Manaia, Taranaki 4612
Email	bonitab@xtra.co.nz
Phone	027 457 7400
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
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Comments:

T?n? koutou k?toa.

Ng? mihi o ng? tini ?huatanga kei mua ia t?tou i t?nei wa. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposal for TRC to introduce a M?ori constituency at the 2022 local body elections.

As you know, I am a current iwi representative on the Policy and Planning committee alongside others selected from across our Taranaki confederation of three waka. This has been an enlightening and interesting time and I thank the Council and other appointees for the ongoing dialogue that has come forward during those hui.

However, as a former three-term councillor at STDC, I also understand that the direction and strategy of TRC is set by the elected members who sit around the table as Councillors. Presently, M?ori participation at that level is limited by who sits there with a M?ori worldview. If there are no such candidates who are successfully elected at that level, there is not voice for M?ori in the critical decision-making discussions.

This should not and cannot be left to chance! Taranaki District Health Board stats tell us that M??ri are 19.7% of Taranaki's population and a Berl report commissioned for the TDHB states that M?ori have a young and growing population in a region where the growth is static at best. Therefore, it just makes strategic sense to ensure that the worldview and cultural lens of M?ori sits at the Council table to participate in the conversations that set the strategic direction for our rohe.

I am submitting in favour of TRC establishing a M?ori constituency, my top 10 reasons are as follows;

1. The local government and electoral systems were established in this country from a purely Euro-centric perspective which has marginalised M?ori ever since.
2. Iwi are increasingly ready and able to participate in these fora and will provide quality candidates.
3. M??ri desire the same outcomes as non-M?ori, ie. healthy environments, clean water, safe places for our tamariki and mokopuna to live, work and play.
4. STDC and NPDC have shown courageous leadership in this space, which has since been validated by their communities. TRC should follow their lead.
5. Bay of Plenty Regional Council has had M?ori constituencies for 20 years which they say has been nothing but beneficial for their Council.
6. Waikato Regional Council also has M?ori constituencies and say the same thing.
7. There is nothing to be lost by increasing the diversity of perspective and participation at the decision-making table.
8. This is an opportunity to build and maintain better relationships with tangata whenua around the mouna.
9. Staff seem to genuinely want to understand the issues and work with

M?ori.

10. The LG Act states that Council must provide for M?ori participation (outside the iwi reps to committees which are entrenched through Treaty Settlements).

For all these reasons, and more, I support the establishment of a M?ori constituency and I wish to speak to my submission.

Mouri ora

Bonita Bigham

Form Name:	Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time:	March 19, 2021 3:57 pm
Browser:	Chrome 89.0.4389.82 / Windows
IP Address:	203.109.220.59
Unique ID:	780500742
Location:	

Your details

Name	Sue Comrie
Organisation (if applicable)	Rongomou Community Action
Address	Eltham Road RD21 Stratford, Taranaki 4391
Email	comlew@xtra.co.nz
Phone	06 764 8565
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
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Comments:	Mandated Maori Ward seats are a logical part of Regional and local body Councils in this country in this day and age. Thank you for recognising this fact. We will look back and wonder why it has taken so long to address this anomaly and correct our course.
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Supporting documents 1	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/10243272200
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SUBMISSION on Maori Constituency to TRC

Sue Comrie 19-3-21

The current consideration of the introduction of Maori Ward seats on Councils throughout Aotearoa New Zealand signifies an important moment of self appraisal and reflection regarding how we do things and who we really are.

Are we caught in our old stale ways of majority rule excluding Maori and only allowing limited involvement at consultation level and then only when it is deemed relevant ... "everything but the band" ... everything short of decision making roles?

Or do we see ourselves as a decent and equitable society?

Do we continue to do things as we have been doing?

Or are we as people often say, "All New Zealanders"? If we are, then are we bold enough and loyal enough to each other to change, to step up to creating equitable and inclusive processes and structures placing truly representative Maori within all civil and governmental decision making bodies in their own and only unique country?

It seems absurd not to have, guaranteed, mandated by Maori, for Maori, from their own self selected constituency, Iwi Hapu representatives at the TRC decision-making table.

Nga Mihi

Form Name: Maori constituency submission form
Submission Time: March 19, 2021 8:47 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 89.0.4389.90 / Android
IP Address: 151.210.167.20
Unique ID: 780546925
Location:

Your details

Name	Daniel Lander
Address	188a Tukapa St Westown New Plymouth , Taranaki 4310
Email	dan.lander@taranakicathedral.org.nz
Phone	0220311513
I wish to appear in person at a hearing scheduled for 6 April in Stratford	Yes

Your submission

Do you support the establishment of a Maori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council? (choose one)	Yes (This is the Council's preferred option)
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Comments:

In order for our communities to flourish and thrive we need diversity and unity at the top decision making tables throughout the Taranaki rohe, particularly when it comes to Tangata Whenua.

There is an all to common misunderstanding when it comes to unity. Unity is often conceived as sameness. As uniformity. As conformity. This, however, is not unity. This is assimilation, more often at the hands of those who hold the riegms of power & privilege. For unity to exist there must be difference. Unity at its best is a diverse range of people, experience and world views coming together and working for the good of all.

A M?ori ward presents an opportunity for the Taranaki Regional Council to take a step forward toward real unity, to better honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and to building a better and more just Taranaki.

South Taranaki District Council and the New Plymouth District Council have both made decisions to establish a M?ori ward. I implore you to follow suit and establish a M?ori ward at the Taranaki Regional Council.
