Māori Wards for Electoral Purposes

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The Options

That the Manawatū District:

1. be divided into one or more Māori Wards for electoral purposes
2. hold a poll on the question of whether the Manawatū District should be divided into one or more Māori Wards for electoral purposes
3. NOT be divided into one or more Māori Wards for electoral purposes

Note 1: in all three options we must notify the public. In the case of options 1 & 3 we must give the public a chance to countermand our decision by a poll
Questions and Answers 1

• What is a Māori Ward?
  • A Māori Ward is the same as our current electoral wards in that it allows a sub-set of our residents to vote for someone to represent them
  • In this case instead of being determined by geography (Southern, Feilding, Northern) it is determined by which electoral roll a resident is on (General, Māori)

• Does having a Māori Ward mean we will have to reduce the number of Councillors in another ward?
  • No - The number of Councillors is decided, by you, as part of the Representation Review

• Do we have to decide this/decide this now?
  • under the Local Electoral Act 2001 we must make a decision by 23 November 2017 for any decision to be effective for the next election
Questions and Answers 2

• Who can stand for a Māori Ward?
  • Anyone – Technically they must be a citizen, not in prison for 3+ years or sectioned under the mental health act
  • This is identical to our existing wards

• What’s different about a Māori Ward?
  • Importantly a Councillor elected by Māori has the right and mana to speak on behalf of Māori

• Shouldn’t this trigger the significance and engagement policy?
  • No as it is covered by a separate act, and as noted previously, we have to engage with the public on our decision. We have already engaged with the people impacted by our decision, Māori

• What would a poll cost?
  • A poll is likely to result in similar costs to an election, upwards of $50 000
Recommendation

• Our Council’s Marae Representative committee, Ngā Manu Tāiko has recommended that Council approve option 1:
  • That the Manawatū District be divided into one or more Māori Wards for electoral purposes

• This recommendation is supported by the Executive of the Manawatū District Council
Summary

Options: That the Manawatū District:

1. be divided into one or more Māori Wards for electoral purposes
2. hold a poll on the question of whether the Manawatū District should be divided into one or more Māori Wards for electoral purposes
3. NOT be divided into one or more Māori Wards for electoral purposes

Recommendation from Ngā Manu Tāiko & the Executive: Option 1

Your questions?