

Time	Topic and Purpose	Presenter(s)	Format	Time allocated
9.30am	<p>Changes to the Maaori Ward and proposed restoration of binding Polls</p> <p>The purpose of this briefing is to update Members on the status of the proposed Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Constituencies) Amendment Bill. The Bill is proposed to address two matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinstatement of Polls on Maaori wards, 2. Adjustment of electoral timing to address postal pressures. 	<p>Mish Hawthorne Amy Viggers</p>	Open Briefing	90 minutes

DISCUSSION TOPIC SUMMARY

Topic: Changes to the Maaori Ward and proposed restoration of binding Polls
Related Committee: Council
Key Staff Contact/s: Mish Hawthorne, Muna Wharawhara, Amy Viggers
Status: Open

PURPOSE OF TOPIC/INFORMATION

The purpose of this briefing is to update Members on the status of the proposed Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Constituencies) Amendment Bill as was requested by Members. The Bill is proposed to address two matters:

- 1. Reinstatement of Polls on Maaori wards,
- 2. Adjustment of electoral timing to address postal pressures.

WHAT KEY THINGS SHOULD MEMBERS THINK ABOUT/ CONSIDER IN UNDERSTANDING THIS INFORMATION?

At the time of writing, the bill has not been introduced or published.

KEY SUMMARY POINTS

The Minister of Local Government wrote to Council with established Māori wards on 4 April 2024 to notify them of impending changes to the legislation for Maaori Wards and constituencies. A link to the Minister’s press release can be found [here](#). The Local Government Commission then released further information about the repeal here, in Representation review pānui 8 - [Representation review pānui 8 - Councils and Māori organisations - Local Government Commission \(lgc.govt.nz\)](#).

The DIA facilitated a short presentation for Electoral Officers shortly after the media release which outlined the information that they had, which was:

- The Bill is proposed to address two matters:
- 1. Reinstatement of Polls on Maaori wards,
 - 2. Adjustment of electoral timing to address postal pressures.

The proposed timeline is:



They advised that they will be working the transitional mechanism and drafting the bill, with the bill being introduced/published in late May.

In the letter from the minister two options were outlined:

Option 1 – Resolved to disestablish Maaori Wards either by completing a short representation review or revert to the previous representation arrangement.

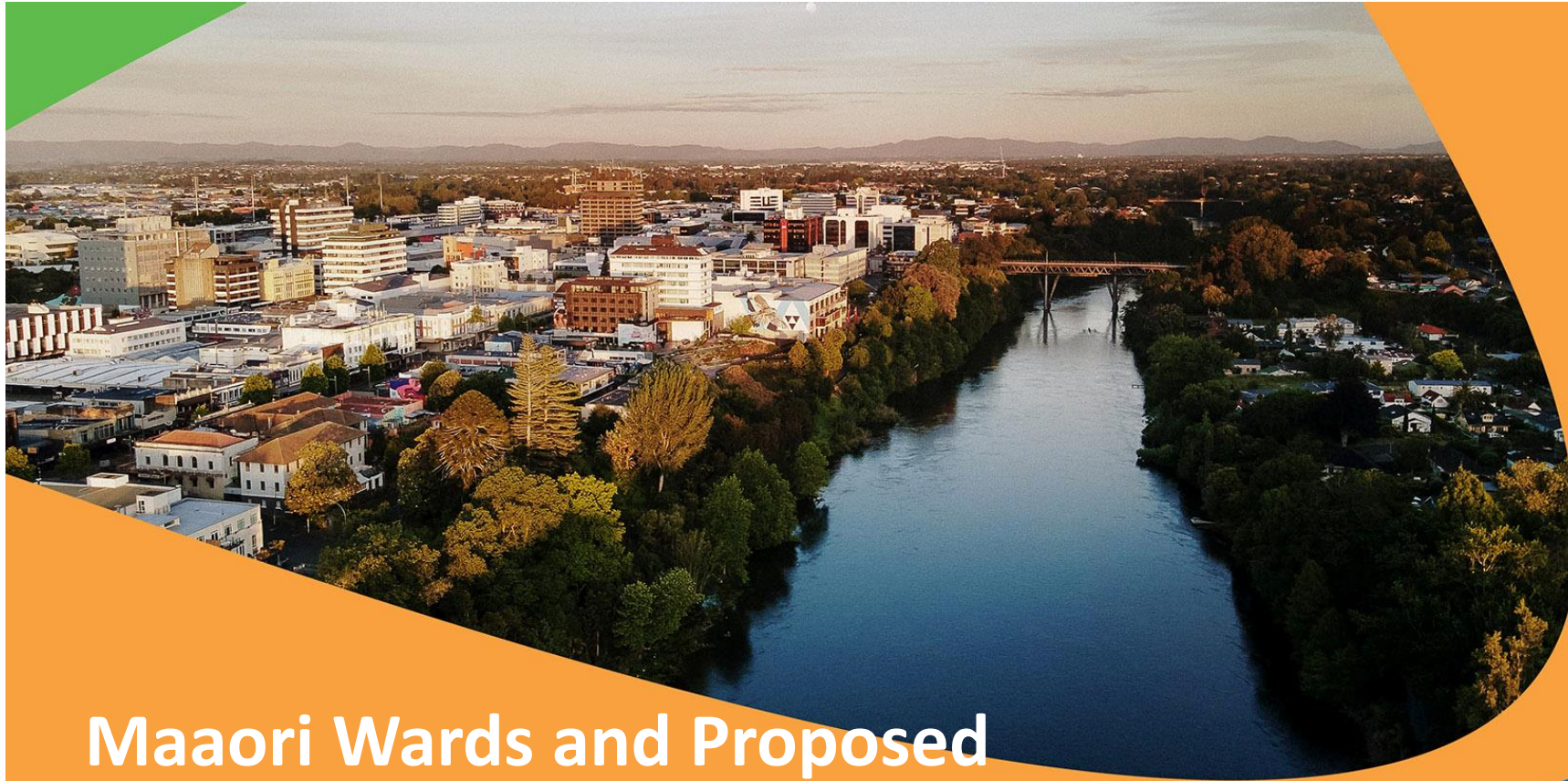
Option 2 – Hold a poll as a part of the next election in 2025.

WHERE CAN MEMBERS FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Te Tiriti analysis on the 2021 legislative changes Below are links relating to the 2021 Bill (Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill):

- [Cabinet decisions](#) relating to the 2021 Bill
- [Impact summary](#): Changes to the process for establishing Māori wards and constituencies
- Departmental [initial briefing](#) to the select committee
- [Departmental report](#) on select committee submissions
- [Select committee](#) report
- A full set of public [submissions](#) on the Bill are available on this page
- Treasury: Improving the mechanism for establishing Māori wards and constituencies at [local government \(2021\)](#)
- Central Government announcement to require [referendum for Maaori Ward](#)
- The Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) [Amendment Bill](#)
- Information from 2021 on [Introduction of Maaori Wards](#)
- DIA Reinstating the [Ability for Polls on Māori Wards](#)
- DIA Factsheet: [Upcoming Changes to Local Elections](#)
- DIA Proposed Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill – [Council FAQ's](#)

WHAT DIRECTION/FEEDBACK/INPUT DO YOU NEED FROM ELECTED MEMBERS



Maaori Wards and Proposed Restoration of Binding Polls

DATE

Purpose of Topic/ Information

The purpose of this briefing is to update Members on the status of the proposed Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Constituencies) Amendment Bill as was requested by Members. The Bill is proposed to address two matters:

1. Reinstatement of Polls on Maaori wards, and
2. Adjustment of electoral timing to address postal pressures.

Timeline

The Proposed Timeline is as Below.



DIA has advised that they will be working the transitional mechanism and drafting the bill, with the bill being introduced/published in late May,

Proposed Changes

The Minister of Local Government wrote to Council with established Maaori Wards on 4 April 2024.

In the letter from the minister two options were outlined:

Option 1 – Resolved to disestablish Maaori Wards either by completing a short representation review or revert to the previous representation arrangement.

Option 2 – Hold a poll as a part of the next election in 2025.

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Date	Current process – representation review (LEA 2001)	Council resolves to disestablish Māori wards (Group 1 process) and undertakes shortened representation review	Council resolves to disestablish Maaori wards (Group 1 process) and reverts to pre-2020 representation arrangements	Council conduct of a binding poll in 2025 if Maaori wards not disestablished	Maaori Ward By-election key dates
14 May 2024					Nominations open
11 June 2024					Nominations close
16 July 2024					Voting opens
31 July 2024	The latest date for resolving an initial proposal (ex-ord Council meeting)	Legislation enacted – commencement date and transition period begins. (date TBC)	Legislation enacted – commencement date and transition period begins. (date TBC)	Legislation enacted – commencement date and transition period begins. (date TBC)	
6 August 2024	Public notice of an initial proposal is required within 14 days of the resolution, but not later than 8 August				
7 August 2024					Voting closes (noon)
8 August 2024					Provisional Results declared
9 August 2024					Final declaration of results
13 August 2024					Swearing in ceremony (ex-ord Council meeting)
6 September 2024		Council may resolve to undertake, in 2024, a shortened review of its representation arrangements for elections but must undertake the representation review if the criteria for fair and effective representation are not met . Latest date to do so is 6 September 2024.	Council may resolve to revert to its pre-2020 representation arrangements only if the arrangements will provide fair and effective representation (the bill sets out details of requirements). Latest date to do so is 6 September 2024. Public notice and survey plans to be prepared.	If Council does not, by 6 September 2024, resolve to disestablish Māori wards must hold a poll on the question whether, from the 2028 triennial general election, the district should be divided into 1 or more Māori wards. The poll must be conducted using FPP.	
9 September 2024	Consultation closes on the initial proposal (minimum 1 month)				
12 September 2024		The latest date for resolving an initial proposal is 13 September 2024 (ex-ord Council meeting)			
17 September 2024		Public notice of an initial proposal is required within 7 days after making the resolution and not later than 20 September 2024			
24 September 2024	Hearing on initial proposal (ex-ord Council meeting)				
10 October 2024		Consultation closes on the initial proposal not later than 11 October 2024 (minimum 3 weeks)			
15 October 2024	Deliberations and final proposal decided (ex-ord Council meeting)				
17 October 2024	latest date for public notice of the final proposal is within 8 weeks of the submissions period closing (20 October)				
24 October 2024		Deliberations and final proposal decided (ex-ord Council meeting)			

29 October 2024		latest date for public notice of the final proposal is within 6 weeks of the submissions period closing (20 October)			
18 November 2024	The latest date for the appeals/objections period is 3 December 2024				
21 November 2024					
13 December 2024		The latest date for the appeals/ objections period is 13 December 2024			
20 December 2024	latest date for forwarding appeals and objections to the Commission				
23 December 2024		latest date for forwarding appeals and objections to the Commission			
10 April 2025	latest date for the Commission to make determinations	latest date for the Commission to make determinations			
11 October 2025	Decision takes effect	Decision takes effect (2025 and 2028 elections)	Decision takes effect (2025 and 2028 elections)	Poll conducted to take effect from 2028 elections	