

# Rohenga Māori | Māori Wards

## Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Kawerau | Kawerau District Council

September 2023



# Background

- Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to
  - take appropriate account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi | the Treaty of Waitangi
  - maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes
- Local Electoral Act 2001 enables councils to establish one or more Māori wards
- similar to Māori Parliamentary seats, Māori wards would sit alongside general wards

# Background

- in 2020, Council decided not to establish Māori wards
- Council wants to carry out a more robust review before making the decision this time
- Council is considering establishing Māori wards for the 2025 triennial elections
  - wishes to consult with Tangata Whenua Iwi and community before making its decision
  - has until 23 November 2023 to decide
- 61.7% of Kawerau's population identify as being Māori (2018 Census)

# Current arrangements



- mayor
- 8 councillors elected “at-large”  
(meaning all councillors are elected from the whole district or ward)
- no Māori wards
- no community boards

# Explanations of wards and electors

- wards = areas where councillors are elected (Māori or general)
- Kawerau currently does not have wards – all councillors are elected from the entire district (“at-large”)
- electors = people who are enrolled and can vote
- once elected, councillors represent entire district, not just the ward they are elected from

# What are Māori wards?

- only electors on the Māori electoral roll (from Parliamentary Māori Roll) can vote in a Māori ward
- only electors on the general electoral roll (from Parliamentary General Roll) can vote in a general ward
- an elector cannot vote in both a Māori ward and a general ward at the same time
- all electors vote for the mayor

# What are Māori wards?

- any elector (on the general or Māori electoral roll)
  - can stand for a Māori ward, **but** must be nominated by two electors on the Māori electoral roll
  - can stand for a general ward, **but** must be nominated by two electors on the general electoral roll
- a person cannot stand for both a Māori ward and a general ward at the same time
- a person can stand for a ward (Māori or general) and mayor
- Māori wards aim to have a Māori voice on Council table

# Māori wards process

- carry out consultation
- do iwi/hapū want Māori wards?
- other options available instead / as well as?
  - Māori standing committees
  - appoint members to committees
  - working parties
  - iwi partnership models
  - however, these don't have voting rights



# Māori wards process

- every 3-years council can consider whether to establish one or more Māori wards
- council decision required by 23 November 2023
- if Council decides to have Māori wards, in place for minimum two triennial elections (2025, 2028)
- if Council decides not to have Māori wards, the decision can be reviewed again 2026 (for 2028 triennial election)

# How many Māori wards for Kawerau?

- formula in legislation

$$nmm = \text{mepd} / (\text{mepd} + \text{gepd}) \times nm$$

nmm = number Māori members

mepd = Māori electoral population of district

gepd = general electoral population of district

nm = total number members

- 3,480\* Māori Electoral Population (44.84%)
- 4,280\* General Electoral Population (55.16%)
- if 8 councillors retained:
  - 4 Māori councillors (3.59 rounded to 4) elected from 1-4 Māori wards
  - 4 general councillors – elected from 1-4 general wards

\*2022 Department of Statistics population estimates

# How many Māori wards for Kawerau?

Example: 8 councillors

With Māori ward(s) – 4 Māori ward councillors, 4 general ward councillors

Could have:

- 1 district-wide Māori ward electing 4 councillors; and
- 1 district-wide general ward electing 4 councillors; or
  
- 1-4 Māori wards electing total 4 councillors; and
- 1-4 general wards electing total 4 councillors
  
- or a mixture of general and Māori ward councillors, and some “at-large” councillors

# Other councils with Māori wards

- currently 35 councils have Māori representation
  - 29 city/district councils
  - 6 regional councils
- some councils with Māori wards:
  - Wairoa District Council (5,563 electors)
    - 6 councillors (3 from one Māori district-wide ward, 3 from one general district-wide ward)

# Other councils with Māori wards

- Whakatāne District Council (25,887 electors)
  - 10 councillors (3 from three Māori wards, 7 from three general wards)
- Gisborne District Council (33,948 electors)
  - 13 councillors (5 from one Māori district-wide ward, 8 from one general district-wide ward)
- Stratford District Council (6,556 electors)
  - 11 councillors (1 from one Māori district-wide ward, 10 from two general wards)

# Other councils with Māori wards

- Rotorua Lakes Council (48,000 electors)
  - 10 councillors (3 from one Māori district-wide ward, 7 from two general wards)
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council (224,000 electors)
  - 14 councillors (3 from three Māori constituencies, 11 from four general constituencies)

# Where to from here?

- kōrero mai!
- Council is consulting with local iwi and local community groups
- views presented to Council for consideration
- Council can decide by 23 November 2023 to establish one or more Māori wards for 2025 & 2028 elections
  - or consider matter again in 2026

# Where to from here?

- if Māori wards to be established
  - must apply for at least two triennial elections
  - must undertake a representation review
    - total number of councillors
    - number Māori and general councillors
    - number, names and boundaries of wards
    - whether to have community boards (including number, names, membership, boundaries)



Questions? / He Patai?

# Rohenga Māori Māori Wards



*Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Settlement Trust*

*Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora*

*Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Kaumātua*

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