

6 April 2021

Tēnā koe,

Kei ngā manu o uta, kei ngā manu o tai, tēnā tahuri mai rā ki te kaupapa nei kia rongoi ai i ō kōrero, i ō whakaaro e pā ana ki te nohonga Māori.

To the birds from the coast and those from inland areas, we are seeking your views and thoughts on Māori representation.

### **Survey on whether to establish Māori representation for Horizons Regional Council**

Horizons Regional Council is considering changing the way that Māori are represented in council decision making. There is an opportunity to determine whether to establish Māori constituencies in time for the 2022 local elections, arising from a recent law change. Council hasn't reached a position or made a decision yet, however they do need to do so by 21 May 2021.

We would like to hear from those registered on the Māori electoral roll, as well as iwi and hapū in the region about what they think, as these people are the most affected. Other voters can also provide their opinion and ideas.

Because the decision deadline is very close, we are running a short survey about whether you think establishing Māori constituencies is a good idea and how it might work.

This survey has been sent to those registered on the Māori electoral roll, for completion and returning in the post by Friday 30 April 2021. The survey can also be filled in online at [haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz](https://haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz) by 5pm, Sunday 9 May.

If Māori constituencies were established, voters enrolled on the Māori electoral roll vote would vote in a Māori constituency and voters on the general roll would continue to vote in their general constituency. No one can be enrolled on both rolls at the same time, so no one gets to vote in more than one constituency.

The number of Māori constituencies is set out in legislation – councils don't have any power to change this. In our region, there are likely to be two Māori councillors. They could represent one Māori constituency each, OR both councillors could represent a single Māori constituency that covers the whole region.

A decision to establish Māori constituencies would apply for the 2022 and 2025 local elections at a minimum.

If Council decides to establish Māori constituencies for the 2022 local election, it would have to carry out a review of the representation arrangements before the end of 2021. This would cover the names, boundaries and number of constituencies, and the number of councillors in each constituency.

Horizons would engage with its communities before making any recommendations about the arrangements, and there would be a formal public consultation process before a representation proposal is adopted (including appeals and objections to the independent Local Government Commission).

If, based on feedback received including this survey, Council decides not to establish Māori constituencies for the 2022 local elections, Councillors could still consider whether to make changes for the 2025 election. They would have until November 2023 to determine whether to establish Māori constituencies for that election.

For more information please see:

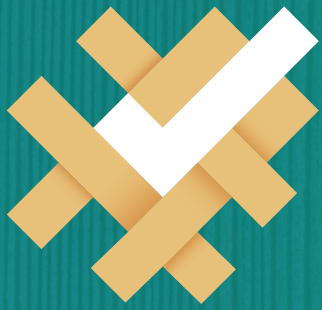
- the enclosed question and answer sheet
- Horizons' website at [haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz](http://haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz)
- Horizons' Facebook page
- contact a regional councillor or email [representation@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:representation@horizons.govt.nz).

We await your views. Tēnā korihi mai, korokī mai rā!

Nāku, nā



Rachel Keedwell, PhD  
**CHAIR**



# Ngā Pātai Auau

## Frequently Asked Questions

### He aha tā te Kaunihera ui? What is Council asking?

Horizons Regional Council has a short survey to ask residents and ratepayers in the region about whether there should be Māori representatives on the regional council. This would involve establishing one or two Māori constituencies.

### He aha oti te wāhanga? What is a constituency?

Regional councils must divide their area into constituencies, in the same way the whole of New Zealand is divided into electorates, or city and district councils can have wards. Voters in regional council elections vote for the candidate(s) they want to represent their constituency.

At present, Horizons has 6 constituencies and 12 elected representatives:

CONSTITUENCY	ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
Horowhenua	2
Manawatū-Rangitikei	2
Palmerston North	4
Ruapehu	1
Tararua	1
Whanganui	2



### E rua ngā momo wāhanga – whānui me te Māori. He aha te rerenga kētanga?

#### There are two kinds of constituency – general and Māori. What's the difference?

The difference is that voters enrolled on the general electoral roll vote for representatives in general constituencies and voters enrolled on the Māori roll vote for representatives in Māori constituencies. No one can be enrolled on the general roll and the Māori roll at the same time; you can only vote for the candidates in one constituency within a region.

### Mō te aha ngā wāhanga Māori? What are Māori constituencies for?

The aim of Māori constituencies is to guarantee Māori representation on a regional council, the same as Māori electoral seats in Parliament. One of Council's duties under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) is to provide for Māori participation in council decision-making. Having Māori constituencies is a mechanism that could help Horizons Regional Council meet its legal responsibilities. Māori constituencies would add to the ways Horizons engages with Māori, not replace them. They provide another way for Māori on the Māori roll to bring their priorities to Council more directly. They may also encourage more Māori to participate in local elections, by standing for office and voting.



For more information visit [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz) or freephone Horizons on 0508 800 800

***Mēnā he kaikaunihera Māori ka kōrero anake te Kaunihera i ngā take Māori ki aua kaikaunihera Māori? Does having Māori constituency councillors mean that Council only needs to discuss matters that may impact Māori with those councillors?***

No. Councillors elected to Māori constituencies would be another way for Horizons to meet its obligations to involve Māori in decision-making. They would not replace the existing day-to-day requirements to build strong, effective and respectful relationships with mana whenua in the region. They are also not a substitute for engaging with individuals, whanau, hapū, iwi and tangata whenua about issues that affect them.

***Me pēhea ngā kaunihera e kōwhiri ai i te tokohia o ngā kaikaunihera whānui, Māori hoki? How do councils decide how many general and Māori councillors to have?***

Councils can have between 6 and 14 councillors in total. The number of Māori councillors is based on the size of the Māori electoral population compared to the general electoral population, using a formula set out in the Local Electoral Act 2002. Councils can't decide to have a different number or ratio of Māori representatives. Electoral populations are calculated by Statistics NZ. They are based on the estimated population and numbers of voters enrolled on the Māori and general rolls, to take into account people who are not enrolled, such as children.

In the Horizons Region, if there were 11-14 councillors in total, 2 would be Māori representatives. If there were 6-10, 1 would be Māori. Horizons currently has 12 councillors.

***Ko wai e taea ai te tū hei kanohi Māori? Who can stand as a candidate for Māori constituencies?***

Candidates do not have to be of Māori descent or enrolled on the Māori roll. Anyone who is eligible can stand for election in the constituency they want to represent.

To be eligible, a candidate must be a New Zealand citizen, enrolled as a Parliamentary elector anywhere in New Zealand, and nominated by two electors whose names are on the roll in the constituency the candidate is standing for.

Candidates may not stand for more than one constituency in the region at the same time, so a candidate couldn't stand in both a general and a Māori constituency.

***Ka āhei ngā kaipōti o te rārangi Māori ki te pōti i te wāhanga whānui i ngā kōwhiringa o ia wāhanga? Can voters enrolled on the Māori roll choose to vote in a general constituency in their local council elections?***

No. If you are enrolled on the Māori roll and your regional council has Māori constituencies, your vote would be for candidates in the Māori constituency. Only voters enrolled on the general roll can vote in a general constituency.

You can only change the roll you're enrolled on during the next Māori electoral option (when all Māori voters are asked which roll they want to be enrolled on); this would mean you would vote on the general roll for the national Parliamentary elections too. The next Māori electoral option is scheduled for 2024. They are usually held every five years.

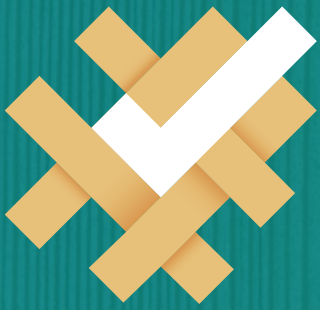
***Mēnā ka whakaae ngā kaikaunihera ki te whakarite i ngā wāhanga Māori mō te pōtitanga o 2022, ka ahatia? If councillors decide to establish Māori constituencies in time for the 2022 election, what would happen next?***

They would have to review their current representation arrangements in 2021. The representation review would look at the number of constituencies, their boundaries and names, and the overall number of elected members and number in each constituency. It would include a formal consultation process, an opportunity for anyone to make their views known about the arrangements. The Local Electoral Act sets out what a representation review has to cover and how (and when) it has to be done.

***Mēnā kāhore ngā kaikaunihera e whakaae kia whakaritea he wāhanga Māori mō te pōtitanga o 2022 he aha te tikanga o tēnā? If councillors don't decide to establish Māori constituencies in time for the 2022 election, what will that mean?***

Nothing would change for the 2022 election – the number of general constituencies and councillors would be the same. Councillors can continue to consider whether to make changes for the 2025 election and would have until November 2023 to decide whether to establish Māori constituencies.





# Tuku whakaaro on whether to establish Māori representation for Horizons Regional Council

*Tēnā tuku mai i ō whakaaro mō te whakarite kaikaunihera Māori mō te kaunihera ā-rohe o Horizons*

**Kei tēhea rārangi ingoa pōti koe? - Which electoral roll are you on?**

PLEASE TICK

MĀORI ROLL     MĀORI VOTER ON GENERAL ROLL     NON-MĀORI VOTER ON GENERAL ROLL     MĀORI NOT REGISTERED     NON-MĀORI NOT REGISTERED

**He kainoho, kaiutu reiti rānei koe i te rohe o Horizons (Manawatū-Whanganui)?  
Are you a resident or ratepayer in the Horizons (Manawatū-Whanganui) Region?**

PLEASE TICK

YES     NO

**Kei te tautoko koe i te whakarite wāhanga Māori mō te rohe o  
Manawatū-Whanganui? (ka pōtīhia e ngā kaipōti o te rārangi ingoa Māori)  
Do you support the establishment of Māori constituencies in the  
Manawatū-Whanganui Region? (To be elected by voters on the Māori electoral roll)**

PLEASE TICK

YES     NO

*Ko te nama o ngā kaikaunihera Māori e āhei ana a Horizons, he mea tohutohu e te ture. Ko te āhua nei, ka āhei a Horizons ki te whakarite i ngā kaikaunihera Māori e rua. The number of Māori councillors Horizons can have is set by the guiding legislation. It is likely that Horizons would have two Māori councillors.*

**MĒNĀ ĀE - Ko tēhea māhau: IF YES – Would you prefer:**

**OPTION A**  
1 constituency covering the whole region, electing 2 Māori representatives? OR

**OPTION B**  
2 constituencies each covering part of the region and each electing 1 Māori representative?

**Mēnā e 2 ngā wāhanga Māori ki ōu whakaaro ka takoto ngā rohe ki hea?**

*Hei tauria, ka hāngai ki ngā rohe o te tāone me te rohe whānui, hāngai rānei ki tētahi tūtohu whenua pērā i tētahi awa, i tētahi huarahi.*

**If there were 2 Māori constituencies, where do you think the boundary should be?**

*For example, it could be aligned with the boundaries of city and district councils, or with a geographic feature such as a river or highway.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Mēnā e hiahia ana koe kia mōhio ki te whakatau a ngā kaikaunihera homai koa tō īmēra, (tō wāhi noho rānei):*

*If you would like us to let you know what councillors decide about this issue, please tell us your email address (or physical address):*

\_\_\_\_\_

*We will only use your address to send you feedback on this process. Your personal details will not be made public, or linked to anything you've said in this survey.*



For more information visit [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz)  
or freephone Horizons on **0508 800 800**

