



Māori Representation for Tamatea – Central Hawke's Bay

Engagement document

Te Kaunihera a rohe o Tamatea / Central Hawke's Bay District Council will decide in November 2023 on Māori representation for the district, including whether to introduce Māori wards for the 2025 local elections.

Māori hold a special and unique position as Mana Whenua of Tamatea Central Hawke's Bay. There are nine marae across Tamatea and 21 iwi/hapū. This decision on Māori representation is important. It's about how democratic leadership and decision-making in Central Hawke's Bay can best reflect the role of Mana Whenua, and ensures democratic representation in an equitable way for Māori.

Council has legislative responsibility for this under the Local Government Act 2002, Resource Management Act, new Spatial Planning Act; Natural and Built Environment Acts 2023, and Treaty Settlement legislation of Heretaunga Tamatea.

For the first time, Mana Whenua of Tamatea Central Hawke's Bay, via representatives on Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea, have requested Council consider Māori wards as part of partnership, rangatiratanga and representation in this rohe (district). Before deciding, Council would like to hear and consider views and preferences of Māori and wider Central Hawke's Bay public.

We want your feedback

We want your views on whether Central Hawke's Bay District Council should introduce Māori wards or another form of Māori representation. Council will take this into account when it decides in November. If we decide to change Māori representation arrangements for the next local elections, we must do so by 23 November 2023. That is why we are engaging with you now. Even after the decision is made, there will be more work to ensure everything is in place in time for the 2025 local government elections. Please read through the following information and share your views with us online at letstalkchb.nz, or by using the attached form.

Options for Māori representation

Representation of Māori at the Council table is important to ensure Council decisions provide for and increase the participation of Māori in decision-making. Options that Council could consider include:

Māori Standing Committees

A committee structure can be used to seek views and feedback from Mana Whenua on key decisions of Council. For a short period many years ago, Central Hawke's Bay District Council had a Standing Committee with representatives appointed from each marae. Committees can bring direct representation very close to Council business, but are disconnected from the final decision-making of elected Council.

Appointed Roles

Some Councils use appointments to Council and/or Committees as a way to ensure representation for Māori. In Central Hawke's Bay, we have had an appointed role to Council for many years, most recently called a Kaiārahi Matua. This role worked directly with elected Councillors and provided valuable guidance to decisions but did not, by legislation, have an actual vote.

Māori wards

Māori wards provide a way for Māori to directly contribute to decision-making by having representation and a vote at the Council table. Those enrolled on the Māori electoral roll vote for candidates standing for Māori wards. Similarly, those enrolled on the general electoral roll will vote for candidates standing for general wards.

Council currently has two wards – the rural Aramoana/Ruahine ward and the urban Ruataniwha ward. The introduction of a Māori ward would have those on the Māori electoral role no longer voting for those general wards. The number of Māori Councillors in the Māori ward(s) would be determined in the next step of Council's representation review planned for early 2024, based on a formula in the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Why are we making this decision now?

Council is required to review its representation arrangements at least once every six years. The Local Electoral Act 2001 gives Council the ability to establish separate wards for Māori electors, and our review must include the decision whether to do this.

Māori representation: the background

Central Hawke's Bay District Council recognises Te Tiriti o Waitangi as New Zealand's founding document, and the special and unique position of Mana Whenua of Tamatea – Central Hawke's Bay District.

Central Hawke's Bay District Council conducted a representation review in 2011 and then again in 2018. Based on feedback from the community and Mana Whenua, during these reviews Council resolved not to establish Māori wards. Now the community has a further opportunity to consider Māori wards.

Hearing your views, and next steps

We want to hear your views on Māori wards for Central Hawke's Bay. Feedback is invited until 5pm on 27 October.

The findings will be included in Central Hawke's Bay District's representation review, which considers a range of decisions relating to local government elections.

Community voice is at the heart of democratic representation, and Council encourages everyone to have their say.

Here's how to make your voice heard:

- 1. Complete the short feedback form online at letstalkchb.nz** or complete the form in the engagement document at Council hubs and libraries
- 2. Come along to a drop-in session** near you:
 - Sunday 8 October 2pm - 5pm: Takapau Town Hall
 - Sunday 15 October 11am - 2pm: Pōrangahau Hall
 - Monday 16 October 2pm - 5pm: Te Huinga Wai – The Knowledge and Learning Hub, Waipukurau
- 3. Present a submission** at the public forum at Council on 15 November 2023. Let us know if you would like to do this when you fill out the survey.



Who can vote in the Māori wards?

- People enrolled on the Māori electoral roll for the area can vote for candidates standing in their Māori ward.
- People on the Māori electoral roll can only vote for candidates in a Māori ward.
- People on the general electoral roll can only vote for candidates from a general ward.
- People are able to move to the Māori roll during the next Māori Electoral Option in 2024. This is in time for the local elections in 2025.

Standing for election in a Māori ward

To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be:

- A New Zealand citizen (by birth or citizenship ceremony)
- Enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand); and
- Nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the ward a candidate is standing for. Candidates in Māori wards do not need to be of Māori descent, but they do need to be on the parliamentary electoral roll.

Timeline

- **AUGUST 2023**
ENGAGEMENT WITH MANA WHENUA
- **29 SEPTEMBER**
OPEN FOR FEEDBACK
- **5PM, FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER**
FEEDBACK PERIOD CLOSES
- **15 NOVEMBER**
COUNCIL DECISION

Māori representation for Central Hawke's Bay District Council

Feedback must be received by 5pm on 27 October

Central Hawke's Bay District Council currently has a mayor and eight elected councillors from two wards. We want to know your views on Māori representation for the 2025 local elections. If we decide to have Māori wards for the 2025 local elections, planning for this would need to begin in November 2023.

We encourage you to give feedback online at letstalkchb.co.nz, or fill out the survey form below.

Privacy Statement

For the purposes of this consultation, your feedback will be collected via the Māori representation in CHB Consultation document, you will be asked a number of questions and will be provided an opportunity to provide your feedback. This information will be held in confidence. **Your first and last name along with your feedback will be presented to the Central Hawke's Bay District Council Elected members by way of a publicly available report.** All other information requested in the consultation document will not be used in any public domain. And will be destroyed no later than 6 week after the submission closing date.

Your details

Your name and feedback will be included in public documents. All other personal details will not be made publicly available.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Email address or postal address: _____

Phone number: _____

Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation or business?

(If yes, this confirms you have authority to submit on the organisation's behalf) **Yes / No**

Name of organisation/business: _____

Which ethnic group(s) do you feel you belong to? (Please select as many as apply)

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pākehā/NZ European | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other European | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongan | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Māori | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | _____ |

With which Iwi/Hapū do you affiliate?

There are three potential options for Māori representation and decision-making. Council could choose to have any, or several. Which option(s) do you think would best achieve Māori representation?

- A Māori standing committee Appointed Role(s) Māori ward(s)



Specifically, do you think Central Hawke's Bay District Council should introduce Māori wards for the 2025 local elections?

Support

Do not support

Other

Tell us why:

Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Councillors to consider when making this decision?

Would you like to speak for 5 minutes during the public forum session at Council meeting on 15 November?

Yes (if you have answered yes, we will be in touch to arrange a time for you to speak please ensure you have completed your contact details)

No

If you need more room, please attach extra pages.

The personal information that you provide in this form will be held and protected by Central Hawke's Bay District Council in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993.

