WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

Kia Tū, Kia Māia – Stand and be counted Wairoa! #Vote2016



Māori Wards

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act) provides that Māori wards or constituencies may be established for territorial authorities. This can be achieved either by way of a local authority resolution or as the outcome of a poll of electors. Such a poll may either be demanded by electors or be the result of a local authority resolution. The statutory

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provisions for establishing Māori James Baty - Electoral Officer, wards or constituencies are set out in sections 19Z to 19ZH of the Act

Councils around the country are required to decide every six years whether or not to institute official Māori Seats to their council. Wairoa District Councillors have discussed this issue and although they have the ability to make the decision themselves, they've opted to seek public opinion to find out what YOU want.

Therefore, an additional question will be added to this year's local government elections to be held on October. So - you will be able to decide on not only your Mayor, Councillors,

DHB rep and HBRC rep, but you will also be asked if you support the establishment of Māori Wards at this year's elections.

We will be providing additional information over the coming weeks about Māori Wards and what this might mean. I know that many of you have questions about this issue and our information campaign will be about answering those questions. Information will be provided through various mechanisms including the website, the WDC Facebook page, and local media. We will have a full page information piece in this newspaper later this month about Māori Wards.

The last time the Wairoa district was asked this question was in 2012 and it generated a lot of interest with 1,210 votes FOR the establishment of Māori Wards and 1,306 AGAINST the establishment of Māori Wards. A very close result which meant that Māori wards could not be introduced for the 2013 or 2016 triennial elections.

It's important that our community has their say on whether they support the establishment of Māori Wards this October and we will make as much information available as possible to ensure that our community have all the right information when they come to make their decision.

FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS

23 August: 10am 27 September: 10am

COUNCIL FORUM

9 August: 2pm 13 September: 2pm

MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

12 August: 12.30pm, Kahungunu Marae Nuhaka

9 September: 12.30pm, WDC Chambers

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

14 September: 1.30pm







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shape our communities.

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Wairoa **District Council**