

# RECENTLY RELEASED LGOIMA RESPONSES:

## MĀORI WARD - updated 7.11.2023

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1. **How many people on the Maori Electoral Roll voted to have a Māori Ward created? – released on 7/11/2023**

A council can vote on whether to establish Māori wards for its city or district, it does not require the vote of those on the Māori Electoral Roll although they will be able to vote in the next elections for any candidates standing for the Māori Ward.

2. **What expenses will be incurred by the creation and maintenance of this ward? – released on 7/11/2023**

The creation of this ward is part of Council's review of its representation arrangements, which it is required to undertake at least once every six years. The full review will not be completed until 2025, at which point more will be known about potential costs depending on decisions made by Council (or the Local Government Commission) on the representation arrangements such as the number of wards and councillors in the district. Council's representation arrangements proposal will be consulted on around July/August 2024 and the public can make submissions on the proposal, and have rights of objections or appeals on Council's decisions, which will be referred to the Local Government Commission. Originally the request was to have a Māori ward earlier, but this was deferred to align with the representation review.

3. **What will be the salary of the elected Maori Councillor? – released on 7/11/2023**

The Remuneration Authority sets the minimum allowable remuneration for councillors (currently \$39,936), it also sets a governance remuneration pool which Council must allocate between the councillors, depending on additional responsibilities. In this current term, councillors with no additional responsibilities are remunerated at \$46,942 per annum. The Māori ward Councillor would be remunerated at the same level which will be decided following the Remuneration Authority's 2025 determination.

4. **How will Māori benefit from the creation of this ward? [How will our Maoris benefit from the creation of this ward?] – released on 7/11/2023**

Māori wards and constituencies provide a way for Māori to contribute to decision-making and have representation at council. People elected onto Māori wards and constituencies will represent Māori communities for fair and effective community representation. Māori ward councillors will have a particular responsibility to represent people of Māori descent and bring forward Māori views and aspirations. However, they also represent the entire community in a region, city or district.

5. **If Maoris are presently disadvantaged how did our elected councillors allow this to happen? – released on 7/11/2023**

Changes have only recently been made to Local Government legislation by Central Government to allow councils to decide on whether to include Māori wards in their representation arrangements – it is not a mandatory requirement.

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