



Themes from hui

Theme: Do not undermine existing Mana Whenua relationships

- How would adding a Māori ward affect relationships already in place?
- How do we make sure Mana Whenua have a voice?
- May help address stretched capacity for Mana Whenua (as they work across four Councils)
- Mana Whenua are already at the table
- Would the Māori ward represent urban Māori?
- Why not Mana Whenua as voting members on all Council Committees?

Theme: Treaty relationship

- [Māori wards] Demonstrate partnership, giving practical effect to Te Tiriti principles
- Treaty of Waitangi gives a national perspective; Māori wards local perspective
- The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand. Having Māori wards is the right thing to do. Integrity!
- [Having Māori wards will] Hold local government accountable under Te Tiriti
- Māori ward representing Mana Whenua and Mātāwaka
- Doesn't matter who is voted in, what matters are the policies
- Are Māori wards the best (and only) approach – is there something better?

Theme: Guaranteed representation

- Guaranteed, dedicated and secure voice for Māori
- Guaranteed Māori councillor(s)
- At the moment have 4, but they do not necessarily represent Māori interests, because we don't give them the Māori programme
- Never had a representative to take our kaupapa to council.
- Seat at the table – strong voice for us
- Could result in Māori having less representation across all Council seats

- Ensure no one is left behind in our communities
- Increased representation = increased trust
- Voice on Māori Kaupapa and needs
- Will better representation = better outcomes?
- More engagement of Māori with better representation

Theme: Single voice representing all Māori

- Lower Hutt is too big for one Māori representative, one Māori ward councillor may be an isolated, lone voice, should be two
- Risk that one Māori ward councillor could dominate the narrative
- If one seat at Council then might just avoid accountability – prefer co-governance model instead of voices at the edge

Theme: Māori participation in local government

- Adding a Māori Ward may encourage more Māori to vote because they see themselves represented
- Increased engagement opportunities for Māori who live in Hutt City
- Get more young people voting
- More Māori on the Māori roll
- Encourage Māori to stand for Council
- Māori Wards is a good step in addressing inequity and disadvantage, it promotes participation and engagement
- Hopefully greater participation by Māori all round