



ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

Māori Wards

Governance Briefing

Background

- Council adopted Māori ward in 2021 under the then Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2021.
- 21 May 2021
- At the time the decision locked in Māori Wards for 2022 and 2025 election
- RLC's current arrangements model
 - Māori wards (3 seats)
 - Rural ward (1 seat)
 - General (6 seats)
 - Mayor at large (1)



Background

- Decisions following representation reviews are set for 2 election cycles
- Two election cycles provides opportunity for council and community to see benefits of the representation model into decision making
- In turn, provides experience and learnings to take into a subsequent representation review



Background

- Fast forward to 2024
- Government introduced into Parliament Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill
- Bill will
 - Reinstate the ability for binding polls on the establishment of Māori wards
 - Provide a transitional poll mechanism for councils that either resolved to establish or established Māori wards since 2020 (without holding a poll); and
 - Adjust key election dates to allow more time for delivering voting papers.



What does this mean for Rotorua Lakes Council?



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**Councils that
established Māori
wards last term**

*Decision Point for Councils
(6th September 2024)*



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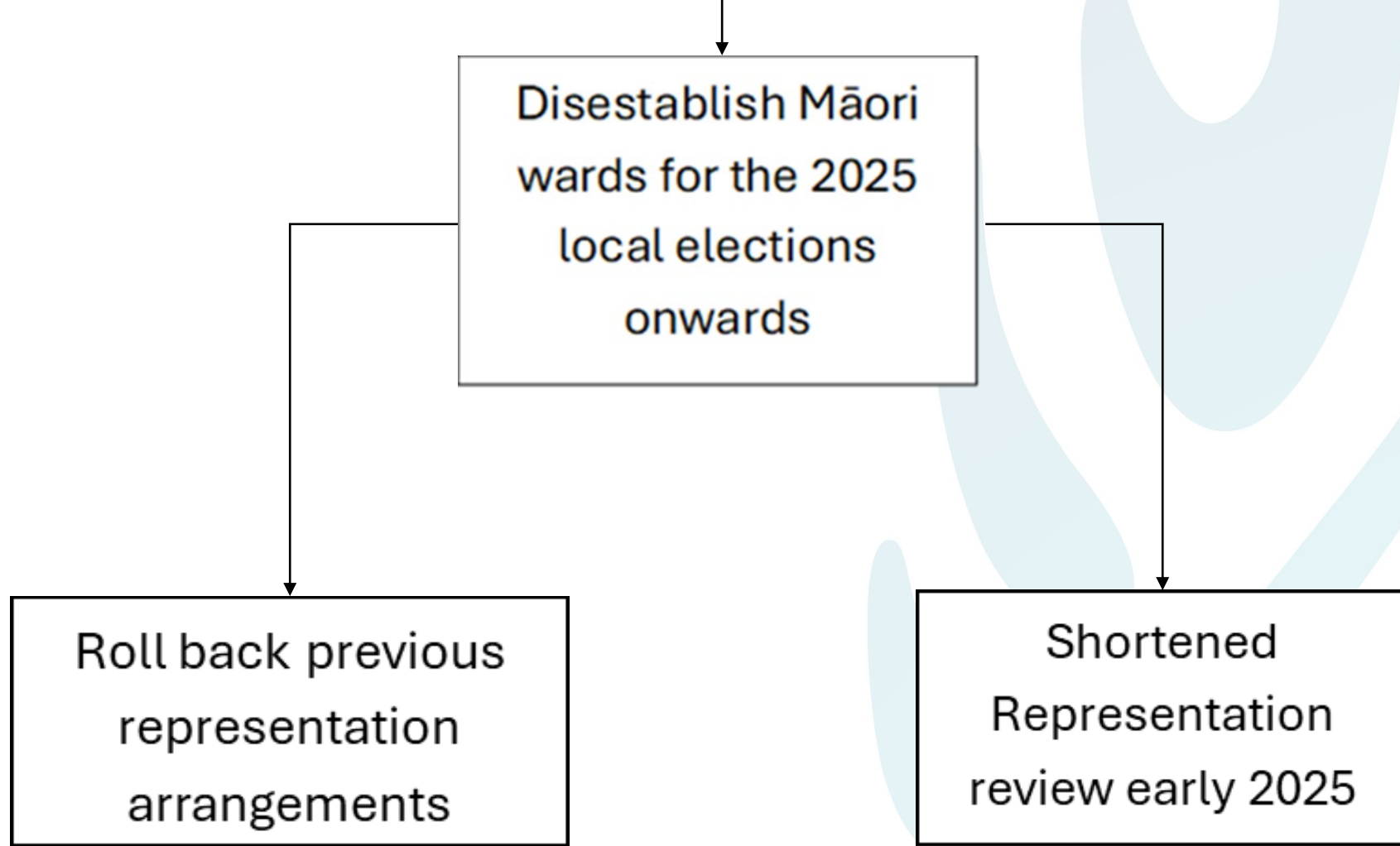
*Decision Point for Councils
(6th September 2024)*

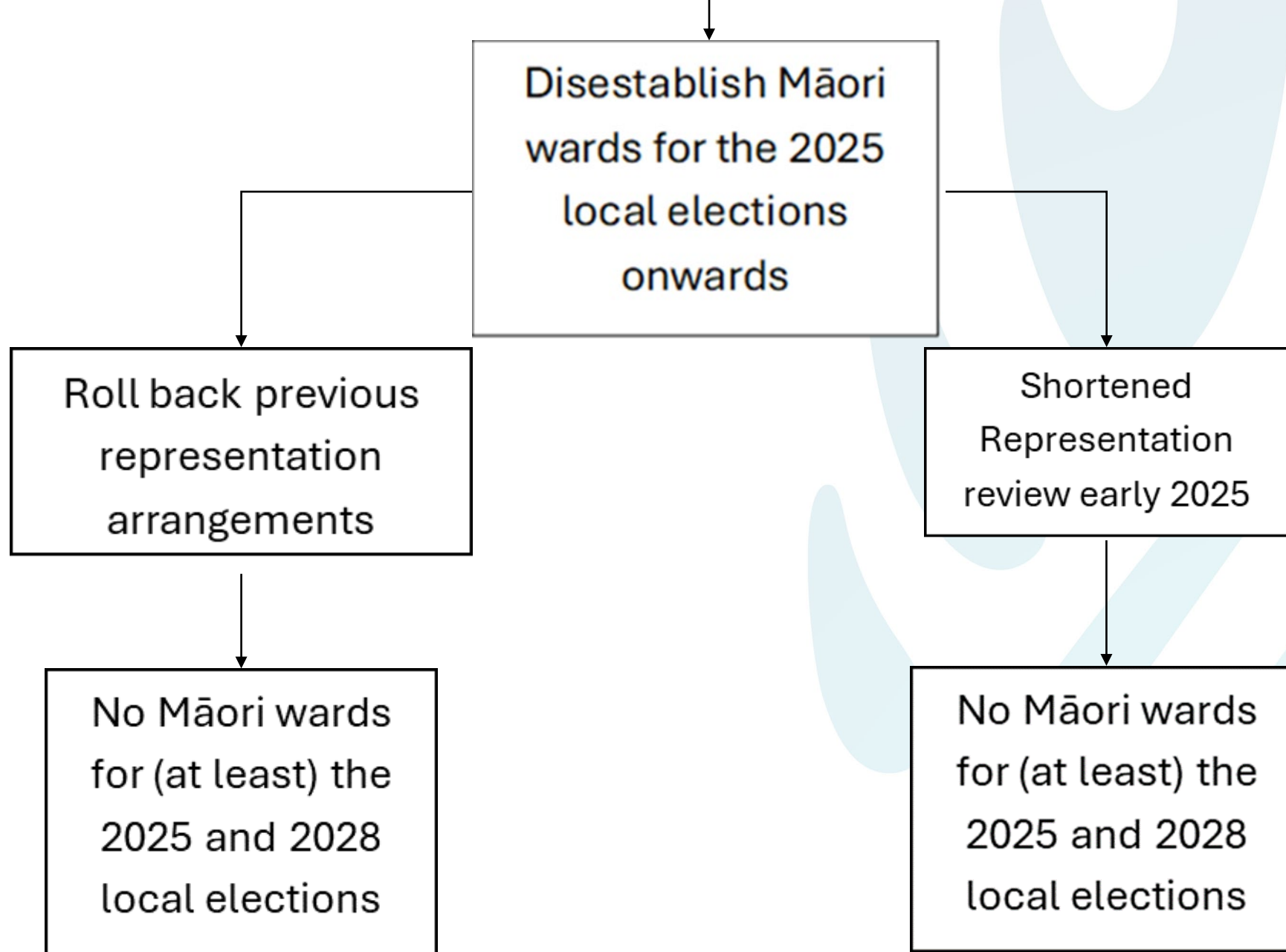
Disestablish Māori
wards for the 2025
local elections
onwards

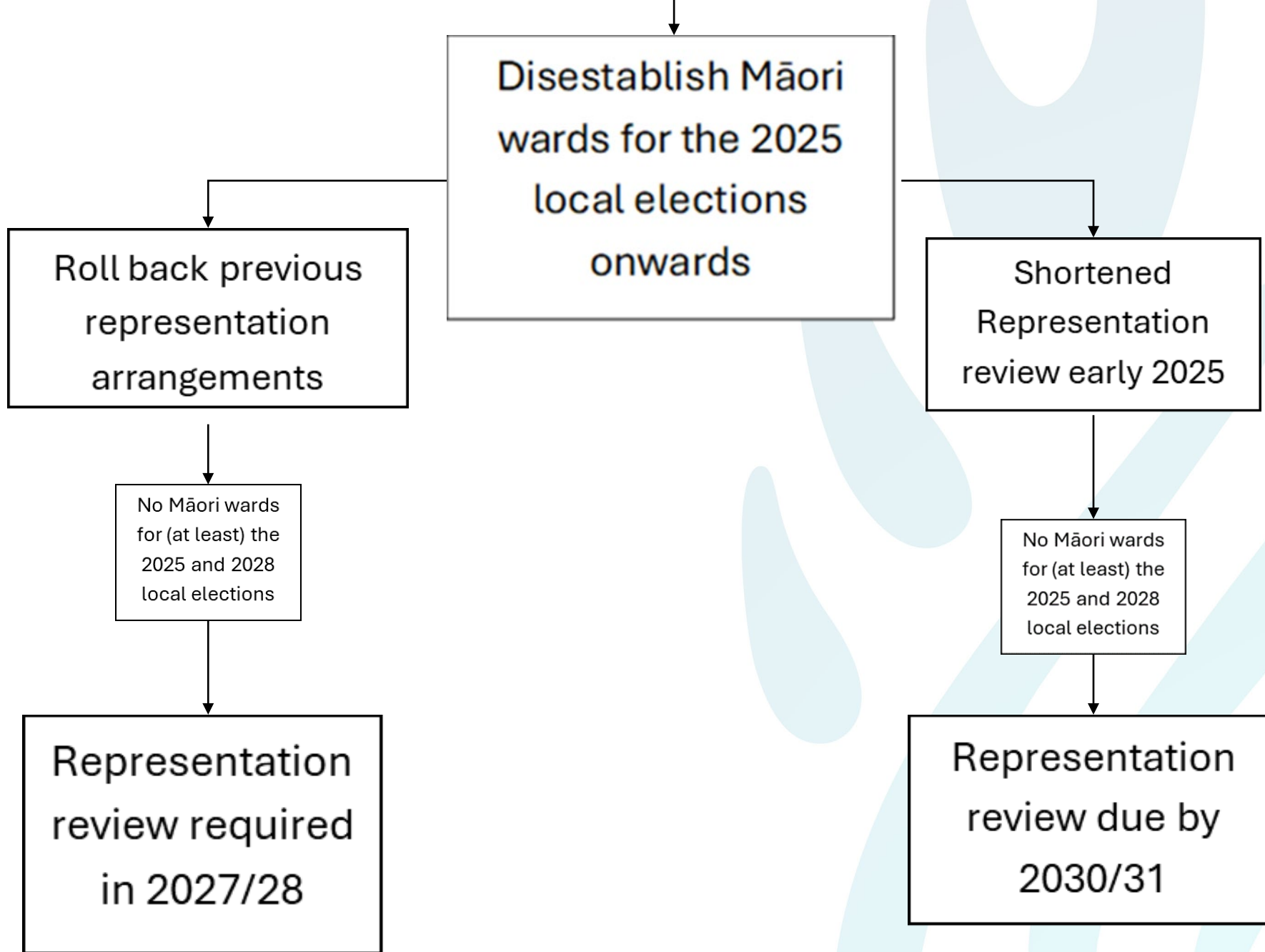
Binding poll
2025
local elections



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*Decision Point for Councils
(6th September 2024)*

Disestablish Māori
wards for the 2025
local elections
onwards

Roll back previous
representation
arrangements

No Māori wards
for (at least) the
2025 and 2028
local elections

Representation
review required
in 2027/28

Shortened
Representation
review early 2025

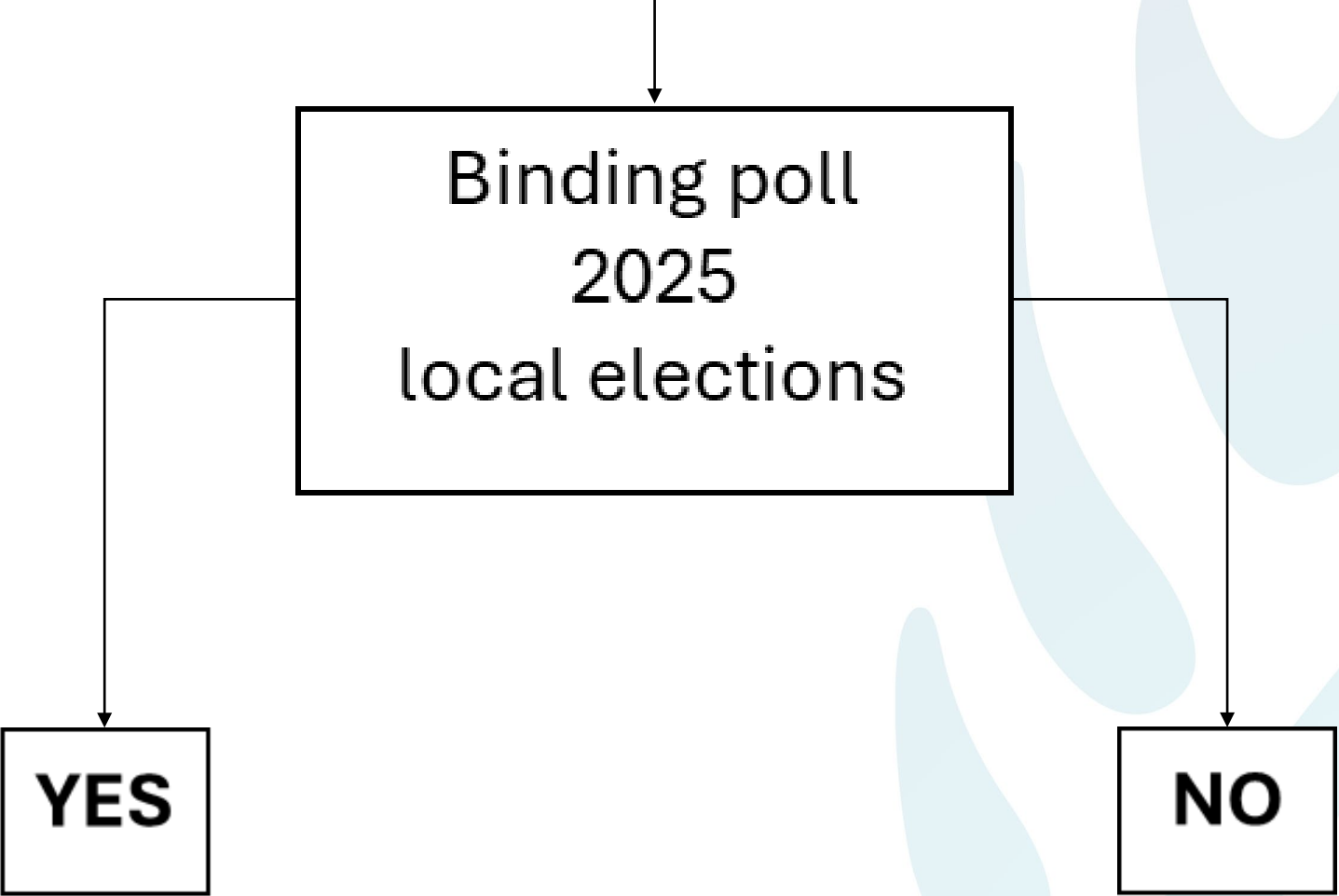
No Māori wards
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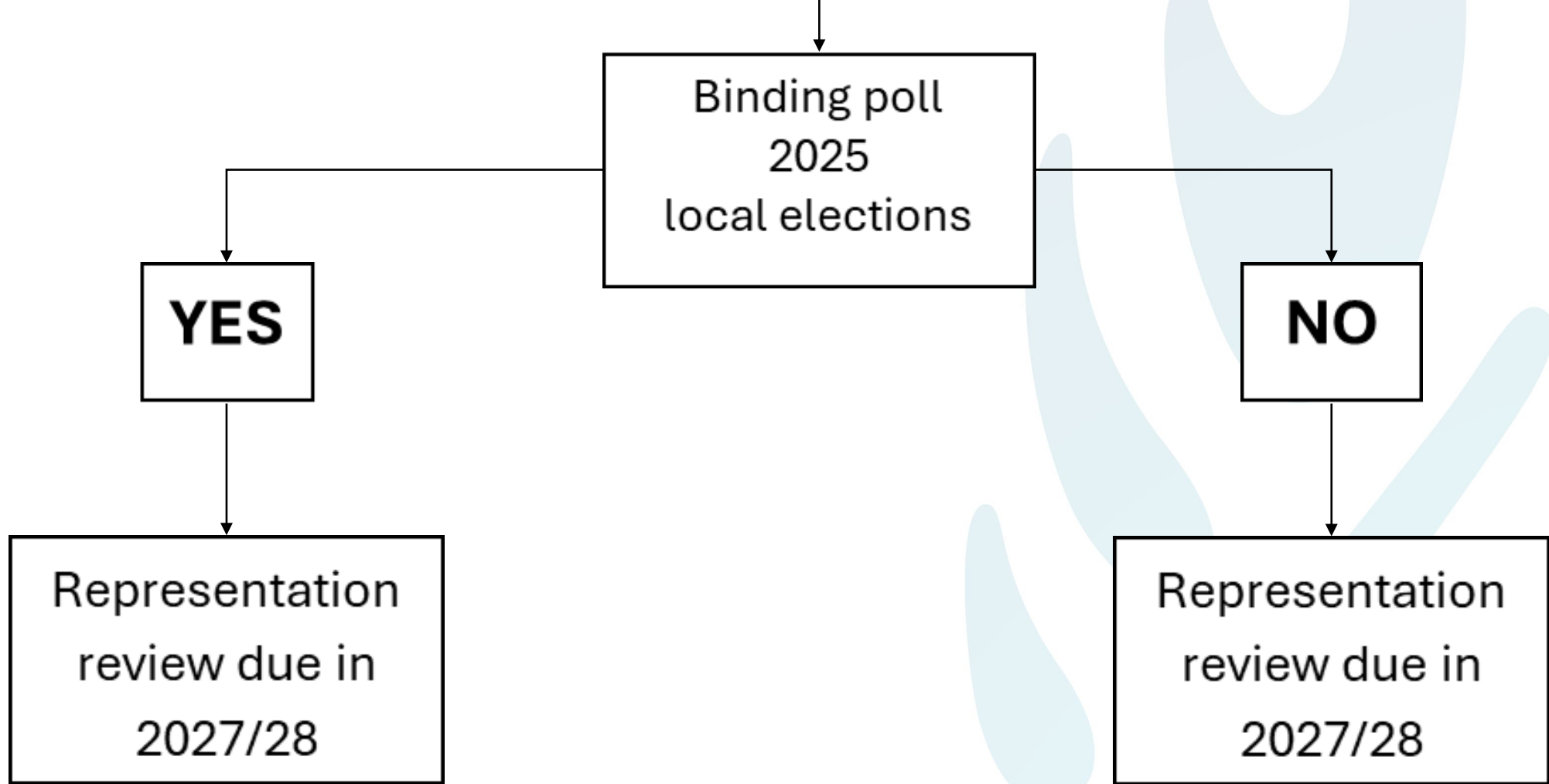
Representation
review due by
2030/31

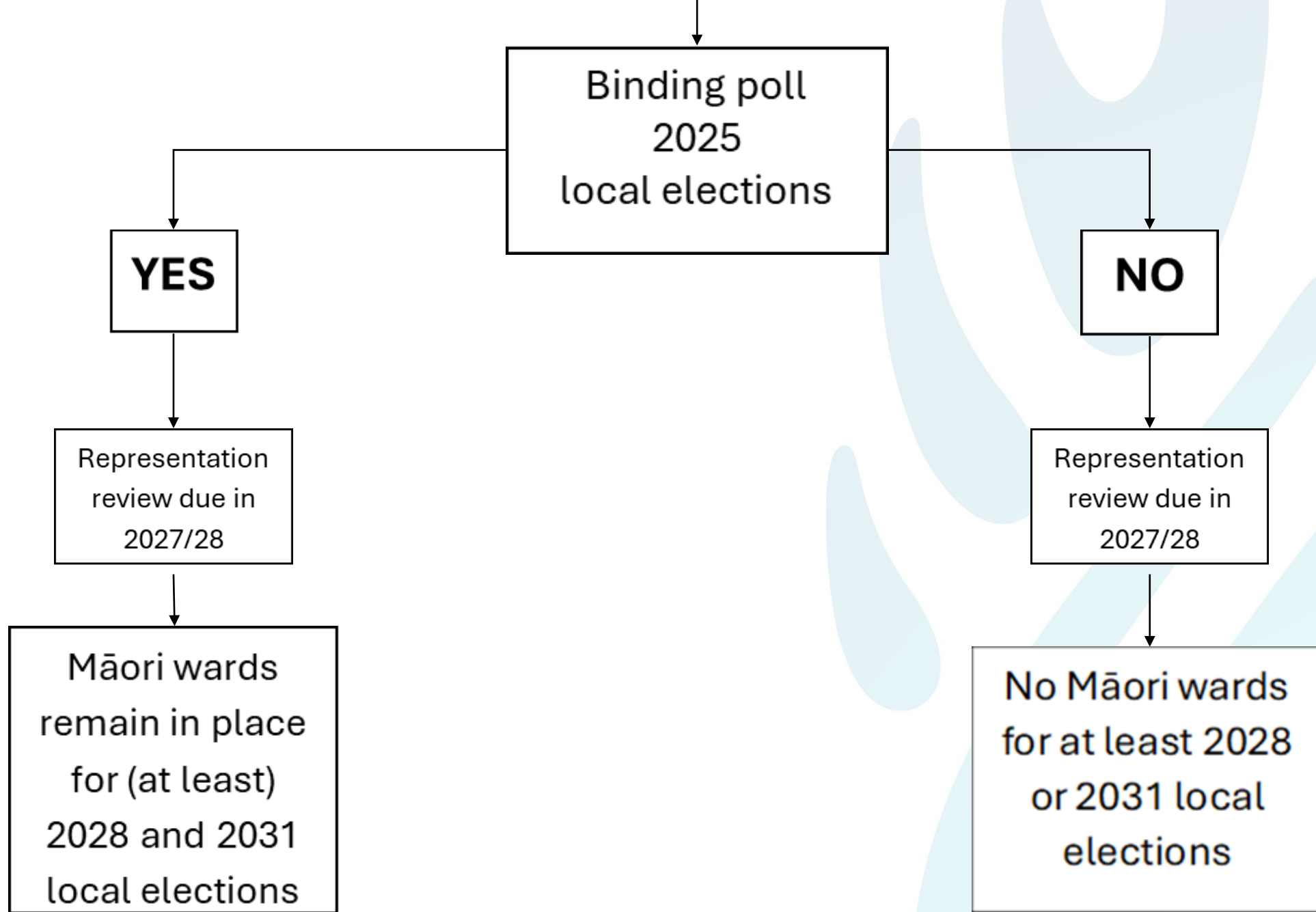
Binding poll
2025
local elections

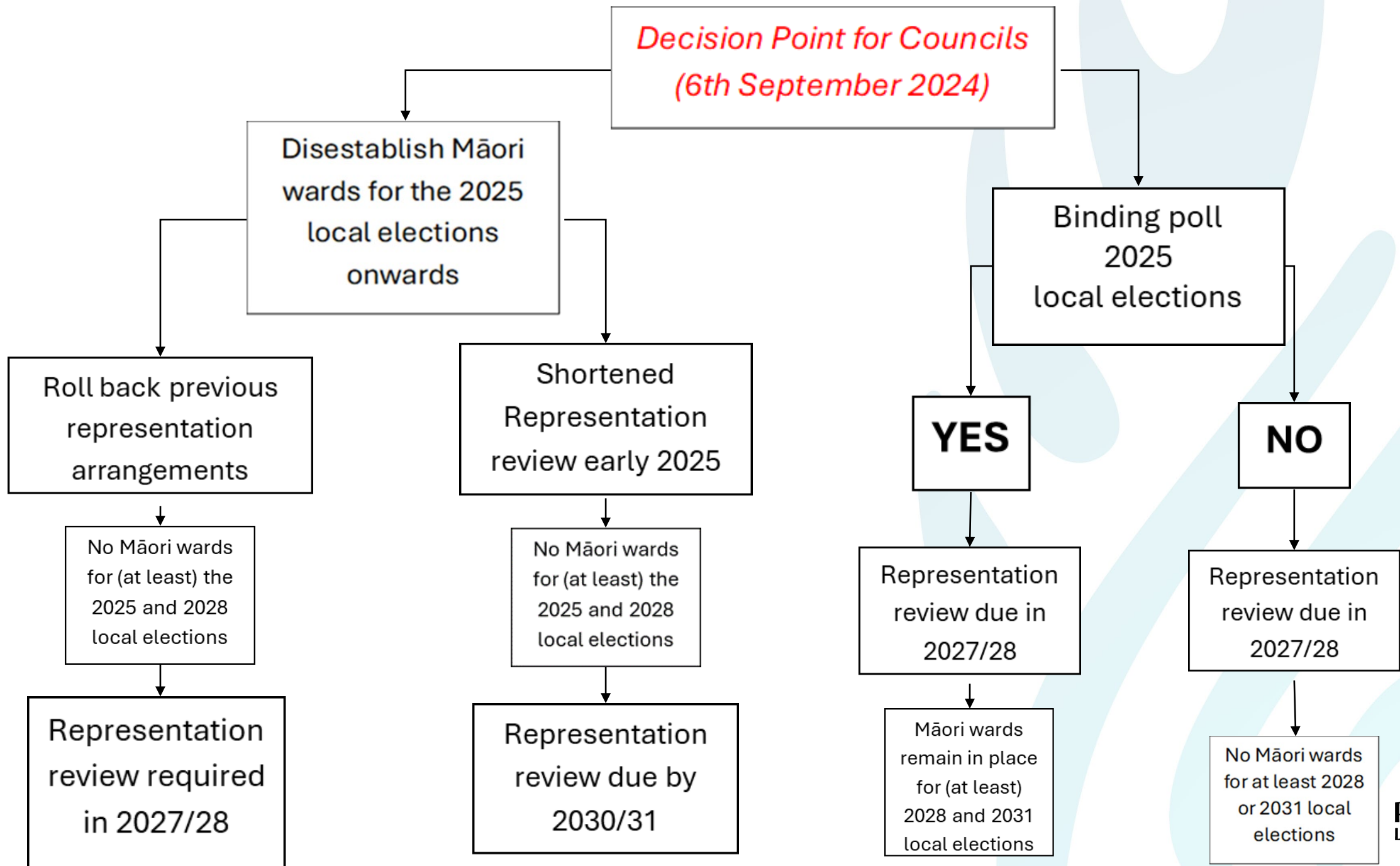


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Timetable

- 6 September 2024 - decision point - disestablish Māori ward or proceed to poll
- 13 September 2024 – latest date to resolve on initial proposal
- 20 September 2024 - initial proposal and information about the submissions process (must be published within 7 days of the resolution)
- 11 October 2024 - submissions close (latest date)
- 13 December 2024 - appeals or objections close
- 23 December 2024 - appeals and objections must be lodged with Local Government Commission



QUESTIONS



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