

NOTICE OF INTENDED MOTION

Dated: 18 June 2024

FOR

The Rotorua District Council Meeting of 26 June 2024.

PURSUANT TO

Standing Order 27.

BACKGROUND

On 23 May 2024 the Local Government Minister Simeon Brown announced that The Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill had passed its first reading in Parliament.

According to the Ministers release:

The coalition Government's legislation to restore the rights of communities to determine whether to introduce Māori wards has passed its first reading in Parliament, Local Government Minister Simeon Brown says,

"Divisive changes introduced by the previous government denied local communities the ability to determine whether to establish Māori wards."

The Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill will give councils that established a Māori ward *without referendum* the chance to reverse their decision or, hold a binding poll at the 2025 elections on whether to continue with the Māori ward.

"Councils that retain their Māori wards will be required to hold a poll alongside the 2025 elections. The results of these polls will be binding on councils and will take effect for the local government term beginning October 2028.

"Restoring the right to local referendums on the establishment and ongoing use of Māori wards is a commitment under both the ACT and NZ First coalition agreements with National."

The Bill will also reinstate a requirement for 5 per cent of voters to initiate a referendum on proposals for a Māori ward.

"The coalition Government's view is that any decision to establish or disestablish a Māori ward is one that should remain with communities. These changes ensure that local communities have a say in their governance arrangements."

RECOMMENDATIONS

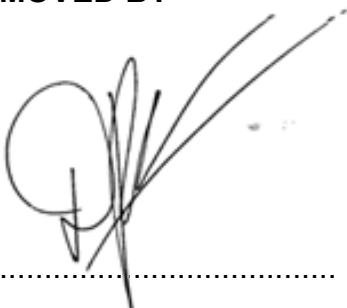
This motion will ensure Elected Members are informed of *all the possible options available to it*, with respect to the Representation Arrangements for the local government elections in 2025 in a timely manner.

I give notice that I intend to move that:

Council instructs the Chief Executive to investigate the new Bill and report back to the Council meeting of 24 July 2024:

1. details of representation arrangement options that are available, or expected to be available, for consideration by the Elected Members pursuant to the new Bill;
2. details of representation arrangement options that are available under current law, including a full representation review;
3. details of the timeline that Council would be required to comply with to give effect to the above options.

MOVED BY



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Cr Don Paterson

SECONDED BY

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Cr