



Kaitupeka Māori Women's Welfare League

SUBMISSION MĀORI ELECTORAL OPTION

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Organisation Name: Kaitupeka Māori Women's Welfare League

Organisation Description

Kaitupeka Māori Women's Welfare League was a founding branch of Māori Women's Welfare League (the League) which was established with the support of the Department of Māori Affairs to specifically address the needs of all Māori women and their whānau in 1951. Kaitupeka branch was re-registered in June 2021 after having been inactive for some years. Our branch continues to support the kaupapa of the League through upholding he taonga tukuiho and enabling our whanau to meet their dreams and aspirations.

Kia tutuki ai nga wawata i tumanakotia

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

To work within the true spirit and intent of te Tiriti, the Crown's responsibility is best stated in the **translated** version of te Tiriti o Waitangi (Māori text) and, not the **interpreted** Crown version. The translation of the appropriate Māori text relative to this kaupapa is below:

¹Ko te tuatoru

Hei wakaritenga mai hoki tenei mo te wakaetanga ki te Kawanatanga o te Kuini – Ka tiakina e te Kuini o Ingarani nga tangata maori katoa o Nu Tirani ka tukua ki a ratou nga tikanga katoa rite tahi ki ana mea ki nga tangata o Ingarani.

signed] W. Hobson Consul & Lieutenant Governor

For this agreed arrangement therefore concerning the Government of the Queen, the queen of England will protect all the ordinary people of New Zealand and will give them the same rights and duties of citizenship as the people of England.

signed] W. Hobson Consul & Lieutenant Governor

¹ Translation by Professor I H Kawharu, published in Report of the Royal Commission on Social Policy, Wellington, 1988



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Māori Electorates

Māori seats were introduced in 1867 to give Māori a direct say in parliament. The number of Māori seats is subjected to the number of Māori registered on the Māori roll. It would not have been our Tupuna's intent for Māori to be registered on the General Roll. Tupuna aspirations are diminished each time a Māori is registered on the General roll. The Crown's responsibility under Ko Te Tuatoru of Te Tiriti (the Māori text), gives Māori the same rights as other citizens which means a Te Tiriti o Waitangi model of governance should reflect a 50:50 membership of ²Tangata Whenua and ³Tangata Tiriti in Parliament. Under the current regime the only way to influence the aspirations of our Tupuna to maximise the number of seats by increasing the number of Māori on the Māori roll.

Submission

Ultimately, the call to repeal Section 76 and other relative sections of the Act would be the ideal solution. However, the outcome associated with that may alienate Māori who are currently on the General Roll. A greater timeframe and a national campaign for all Māori around the whakapapa and intent of our Tupuna in introducing Māori seats would be required. Given the national reach that the League have, they would be well equipped to undertake this mahi if given the resources to do so. In lieu of that, this solution is presented for the Crown's consideration:

Section 76. Māori option

- (1) This section provides an option for Māori who possess the qualifications as defined in the Act to have an option of being registered either as an elector of a Māori electoral district or as an elector of a General electoral district.
 - a. The current practice under this Section is, if a Māori meets the qualification defined above and has stated their ethnicity as Māori but fails to select either the General or Māori electoral district that the Electoral Office defaults that constituent to the General Roll.
 - b. This practice must cease., if a Māori meets the qualification defined above and states their ethnicity as Māori but fails to select either the General or Māori electoral district that the Electoral Office action should default that constituent to the Māori Roll.

² **Tangata Whenua:** Generic term for Māori comprising those with Mana Whenua responsibilities (Māori who are tied culturally to an area by whakapapa and whose ancestors lived and died there) together with Taura Here (Māori resident in an area, but who belong to waka and Iwi from other parts of Aotearoa)

³ ³ **Tangata Tiriti:** Generic term to describe people whose rights to live in Aotearoa derive from Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the arrangements that the Crown has established under the provisions of '**Ko te tuatoru**' of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Māori text)



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Section 77 – Periodic exercise of Māori option and determination of Māori population

Should any Māori wish to change from the General roll to the Māori roll at **any time** the action should reflect the same as if a constituent changes their address which results in a change of electoral district.

Rationale

When a constituent has a change of address which results in a change of electoral district, the Electoral Office allocates them to the new electoral district. This process is very simple. Therefore, if the Act applied the same logic to when a Māori constituent wants to change from the General Roll to the Māori Roll the need to allocate specific times would no longer be required. However, give the intent of the Māori seats if constituents wish to reverse their enrolment from Māori to General. to meet their responsibilities under Ko te Tuatoru of Te Tiriti the Crown require that Constituent to declare that their actions may result in the reduction of the number of Māori seats in parliament.