

# Petition demanding a poll on the establishment of Māori Ward(s) in the Kaipara District

Meeting: Kaipara District Council  
Date of meeting: 24 February 2021  
Reporting officer: Gavin Dawson, Governance Advisor

## Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To provide a petition requesting the council conduct a poll on the establishment of a Māori ward and advise of the next steps.

## Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Kaipara District Council:

- a) Notes that a petition requesting the council conduct a poll on the establishment of a Māori ward in the Kaipara District (**Attachment A**) has been formally received by staff.
- b) Notes that the Electoral Officer is processing the petition by checking the signatories against the electoral roll.
- c) Notes that Council staff will report back to the 31 March 2021 Council Meeting.

## Context/Horopaki

Council can receive petitions from the public under Section 17 of Kaipara District Council Standing Orders. This section provides for the presentation of a petition to the council at least five business days before the date of a scheduled meeting and allows the petitioner(s) five minutes to present their views at the next scheduled meeting (excluding questions).

In October 2020, council resolved to establish a Māori ward applicable for the 2022 and 2025 Local Government elections. Council made this decision after seeking views of iwi in the District. Both Te Roroa and Te Uri o Hau discussed with Māori, presented to council and requested that a Māori ward be established.

Under current legislation, the public may request that council conduct a poll on the matter. Any request for a poll requires at least 5% (approximately 790) of electors in the district to sign it and must be received by Council before 4pm on 22 February 2021.

## Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

A petition was received by council staff on 5 February 2021 with further signatures provided on Tuesday 16 February. A covering letter and the petition wording (without the signatures), is located at **Attachment A**.

At time of writing, the lead petitioners (Craig Jepson and Ash Nayyar) have been approached regarding presenting at this 24 February Council Meeting. The petition currently has a total of 1,338 signatures on it (including both sets delivered) and the petitioners have advised that more will be delivered prior to the final date of 22 February.

If the confirmed numbers exceed 790 registered electors from the Kaipara District, council will need to conduct the poll, unless legislative change is enacted.

The current legislative provisions which allow for a petition to request a poll on the establishment of Māori wards is under review by the current government. The Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill (the “Bill”) is currently before the Parliament under urgency and it is possible that these provisions will be enacted by the time of this February council meeting. Staff will verbally update council as necessary at the meeting.

Staff are processing the petition under current legislation and our Electoral Officer has commenced checking the names against our electoral roll. The cost to process the petition is estimated to be between \$2k and \$3k.

Normal process under council's petition policy is for council to receive the petition, provide 5 minutes for the lead petitioner(s) to present to council, with staff then presenting a response back to a subsequent council meeting. Staff will continue to follow the petitions policy and will report back to the March council meeting with an updated response.

## **Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā**

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

## **Next steps/E whaiake nei**

- The petition will be processed and staff will monitor any legislative amendments
- Staff will report to the 31 March 2021 council meeting with a response.

## **Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga**

	Title
A	Cover letter and petition wording