

# **Response to petition demanding a poll on the establishment of Māori ward(s) in the Kaipara District**

**Meeting:** Kaipara District Council  
**Date of meeting:** 31 March 2021  
**Reporting officer:** Gavin Dawson, Governance Advisor

## **Purpose | Ngā whāinga**

To provide a response on the petition received by Council demanding a poll on the establishment of Māori ward(s) in the Kaipara District.

## **Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga**

That the Kaipara District Council:

- a) Notes that the Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2021 was enacted on 1 March 2021 removing the right for the public to demand a binding poll.
- b) Notes that the valid demand for a poll received by Council at the February Council meeting was subsequently cancelled with the public notified.

## **Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero**

Council received a petition demanding a poll be held on the establishment of Māori ward(s) in the Kaipara District at its February Council meeting. Our electoral officer checked the petition names and addresses and advised that the petition had met the threshold for a poll to be run.

Parliament was travelling through its decision-making process regarding the process behind Māori wards at the time of the Council meeting. It was signalled that staff would report back to the March Council meeting regarding the legislative impacts on the petition.

The Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2021 (the 'Act') was enacted on 1 March 2021. This legislation removes the right for constituents to demand a poll, even where any demands had been received before the date of enactment, which is the situation here.

As required under the legislation at the time, Council publicly notified that a valid petition to demand a poll was received and advised that a poll would be run. Once the new legislation was enacted, Council (along with the Northland Regional Council and Whangarei District Council) placed a joint public notice in the Northern Advocate on Tuesday 2 March 2021 advising that the poll would be cancelled. This was also displayed on the Council public website and is available at **Attachment A**.

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

The decisions or matters of this report are considered to have a low degree of significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. No feedback is required, and the public will be informed of Council's decision via the agenda and minutes publication of this meeting, on the website and through other channels if appropriate.

## Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Joint advertisement published in the Northern Advocate on Tuesday 2 March 2021