

## **2006 MĀORI ELECTORAL OPTION KEY DATES**

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<b>10 March</b>	Face-to-face liaison with Māori begins
<b>Late March</b>	Pre-awareness advertising starts
<b>3 April</b>	Māori Electoral Option packs sent to Māori currently enrolled on the Māori Roll or the General Roll who have identified themselves as Māori
<b>14 June</b>	Reminder cards sent to electors
<b>2 August</b>	Māori Electoral Option closes
<b>Early February 2007</b>	Number of Māori and General Electorates announced
<b>Early Feb - Sept 2007</b>	Electoral boundaries redrawn

## **NGĀ RĀ HIRA O TE KŌWHIRINGA MĀORI**

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**10 Poutū-te-rangi** Ka tīmata te mahi takawaenga me te iwi Māori, kanohi ki te kanohi

### **Ngā rā whakamutunga o Poutū-te-rangi**

Ka tīmata te pānuitanga hei whakamōhio i te iwi

### **3 Paenga-whāwhā**

Tukua ai ngā mōkihi Kōwhiringa Māori ki te hunga kei runga i te Rārangi Ingoa Pōti Māori, me ērā kei runga i te Rārangi Ingoa Pōti Whānui kua kī mai he Māori rātou.

### **14 Pīpiri**

Tukua ai ki ngā kaipōti he kāri whakamahara

### **2 Here-turi-kōkā**

Ka mutu te Kōwhiringa Māori

### **Ngā rā tōmua o Hui-tanguru 2007**

Ka whākina te nui o ngā Rohe Pōti Māori me ngā Rohe Pōti Whānui

### **Ngā rā tōmua o Hui-tanguru 2007 – Mahuru 2007**

Ka tuhia ngā rohe pōti hou

## 2006 MĀORI ELECTORAL OPTION

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The Māori Electoral Option will run from Monday April 3 to Wednesday August 2 2006.

The Māori Electoral Option is held as close as possible to the Census of Population and Dwellings.

The Option gives New Zealand Māori the chance to review and change, if necessary, the electoral roll type they are currently enrolled on. All Māori who are already enrolled to vote, or have let their enrolment lapse, or haven't enrolled yet have the choice of being enrolled on either the Māori Roll or the General Roll.

The number of Māori who choose to be on the Māori Roll has an impact on the number of Māori and General Electorates there are for the next two General Elections.

On Monday, April 3, all Māori currently enrolled to vote will be sent their personalised Māori Electoral Option pack in the mail.

Eligible, but not enrolled, Māori can choose their electoral roll type by filling in an enrolment form.

If someone wants to change the roll type they are on they need to:

- ✓ check their details on the form inside the pack and correct them if needed
- ✓ print the roll type they want to change to – Māori or General
- ✓ sign and date the form and send it back.

A national advertising and publicity campaign will run from April to August to raise awareness of the Māori Electoral Option and what to do to get involved.

A key aspect of the campaign is a nationwide 'kanohi ki te kanohi' (face-to-face) liaison programme. This will involve the kanohi ki te kanohi team making presentations at hui, working with key organisations to enlist their support and approaching Māori in places such as shopping malls, workplaces and marae.

This programme will be supplemented by registrars of electors who will be active in their areas, targeting local people and encouraging community groups to help spread information about the Māori Electoral Option.

The next opportunity following this year's Māori Electoral Option for Māori to change roll types will be in 2012.

### Other key facts:

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- The first four separate Māori Electorates were established in 1867, initially as a temporary measure.
- When New Zealand introduced MMP in 1993, the law was changed so that the number of Māori electorates depended, in part, on the choices made by Māori in the Māori Electoral Option.
- Since 1993, the number of Māori Electorates has grown steadily;

1993 General Election	4 Māori Electorates
1996 General Election	5 Māori Electorates
1999 General Election	6 Māori Electorates
2002/2005 General Elections	7 Māori Electorates
- The choices Māori make in the 2006 Option will impact on the number of Māori and General Electorates for the 2008 and 2011 General Elections. ā
- If more Māori enrol on the Māori Roll, there could be more Māori Electorates. If more Māori enrol on the General Roll, there could be more General Electorates.

- The table below shows examples of how the number of Māori electorates could change as a result of this year's Māori Electoral Option.

<b>Number of Māori Electorates</b>	<b>All figures are estimates only based on 2001 Census information.</b>	
<b>13 Māori Electorates</b>	All Māori enrol on the Māori electoral Roll	
<b>8 Māori Electorates</b> (an increase of 1 electorate)	About 14,100 Māori change roll type from the general roll to the Māori roll	<b>OR</b> About 34,000 Māori enrolling for the first time enrol on the Māori roll
<b>6 Māori Electorates</b> (a decrease of 1 electorate)	About 17,000 Māori change roll type from the Māori roll to the general roll	<b>OR</b> About 33,000 Māori enrolling for the first time enrol on the general roll

- Approximately 378,000 people who identify themselves as Māori are currently enrolled to vote. 208,000 are on the Māori Roll and 170,000 on the General Roll.
- In addition, there are some 19,000 Māori on the Māori Dormant Roll and some 12,000. People who have identified themselves as Māori on the General Dormant Roll.

**NB: The Dormant Roll contains previously enrolled electors who have changed address within the last 3-years and not updated their enrolment details.**

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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### ***What is the Maori Electoral Option and how to take part***

#### *1. What is the 2006 Māori Electoral Option?*

A chance for New Zealand Māori and their descendants to choose to be on the Māori Electoral Roll or the General Electoral Roll when they vote in the next two General Elections.

#### *2. When is the 2006 Māori Electoral Option being held?*

Between Monday 3 April and Wednesday 2 August 2006.

#### *3. Why should I be involved?*

Taking part means you decide which electoral roll type you want to be on – Māori or General.

You are also helping to set the number of Māori and General Electorates for the next two scheduled General Elections in 2008 and 2011.

#### *4. Who can take part in the Māori Electoral Option?*

All people eligible to enrol to vote, who are New Zealand Māori or of New Zealand Māori descent can take part in the Māori Electoral Option.

#### *5. How do I take part in the 2006 Māori Electoral Option?*

If you're enrolled to vote, and you said you were a New Zealand Māori or a descendant of a New Zealand Māori you will get your personalised Māori Electoral Option pack in the mail.

The pack will come to you in the week starting 3 April. This will be sent to you at the most recent address we have for you.

If you want to stay on your current electoral roll type and all your details are correct, you do not need to do anything.

If you want to change the electoral roll type you are on (either from Māori to General or General to Māori) fill in the form inside your personalised pack, sign and date it, then send it back in the reply envelope provided.

#### *6. If I don't receive a 2006 Māori Electoral Option form in the mail by Thursday 6 April what should I do?*

You need to fill in an enrolment form (also known as an 'application' form). You can do it by:

- going online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)
- freetexting your name and address to 3676 for an enrolment pack
- calling 0800 36 76 56
- or going to any PostShop and filling in an enrolment form.

#### *7. How will I know if I have been registered on either the Māori or the General Roll?*

If you are already enrolled, the roll type you are currently on will be highlighted on the 2006 Māori Electoral Option pack you will receive in the mail.

If you are enrolling for the first time, or you change your roll type, you will receive a letter confirming the roll type you have selected.

*8. Can I make more than one change during the Māori Electoral Option period?*

No. Once you have made your choice and returned your form, you will not be able to change roll types again until the next Māori Electoral Option scheduled for 2012.

*9. Can Māori living overseas take part in the 2006 Māori Electoral Option?*

Yes, as long as they are qualified to enrol to vote. To be qualified, they need to be either:

- a New Zealand citizen, 18 years of age or over and have visited New Zealand at some time in the past three years; or
- a New Zealand Permanent Resident who has visited New Zealand at some time in the past 12 months.

*10. What happens if I receive a Māori Electoral Option form and do nothing?*

You will remain on the electoral roll type you are currently on. Your next chance to change roll type will be in the next Māori Electoral Option in 2012.

*11. When must I make my choice by?*

You must post your Option form by Wednesday 2 August so that it reaches your registrar of electors by noon the next day. After that, any changes to your roll type will not be accepted.

*12. Why can't Māori change roll type at any time?*

At present, the law requires a Māori Electoral Option to be held generally once every five years over a four month period, as soon as possible after the Census of Population and Dwellings has been held.

**What the Māori Electoral Option means**

*13. How does the Māori Electoral Option affect my vote on Election Day?*

If you're on the General Electoral Roll, you will vote for an MP in a General Electorate at the next two scheduled General Elections.

The person who wins the most votes in your General Electorate will become your local Member of Parliament (MP) and represent you and your region in Parliament.

If you're on the Māori Electoral Roll, you will vote for an MP in a Māori Electorate at the next two scheduled General Elections.

The person who wins the most votes in your Māori Electorate will be your local MP and represent you and your region in Parliament.

The roll type you are on makes no difference to who you can vote for with your Party Vote.

*14. Does it affect who I can vote for with my Party Vote?*

No. Every voter regardless of which electoral roll they are on or where they live in the country has the same list of political parties to choose from when using their Party Vote.

*15. How does the Māori Electoral Option affect the number of Māori electorates?*

There are currently seven Māori Electorates. If more Māori enrol on the Māori Roll, it could mean more Māori Electorates in Parliament. The number of General Electorates could also change. For example, if all Māori enrolled on the Māori Roll there could be as many as 13 Māori electorates. If all Māori enrolled on the General Roll, there would be no Māori electorates.

*16. Who decided there should be a Māori roll and a General Roll?*

Four Māori electorates were established by the 1867 New Zealand Parliament to give Māori a direct say in Parliament. Before 1867 there were only 'general' electorates in the New Zealand Parliament.

Today, there are three different kinds of MPs:

- General Electorate MPs: you vote for these based on where you live. Everyone enrolled on the General Roll, including Māori registered on the General Roll, can vote for them.
- Māori Electorate MPs: you vote for these based on where you live, however only Māori registered on the Māori Roll can vote for these MPs.
- List or party MPs: everyone who is enrolled to vote elect these MPs using their Party Vote.

***Making your choice***

*17. I am a Māori, but not on any electoral roll. What should I do?*

You should complete an enrolment 'application' form. Enrolment forms are available by going online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz), freetexting your name and address to 3676, calling 0800 36 76 56 or at any PostShop.

The enrolment form has a place for you to choose whether to be on the General Roll or the Māori Roll.

*18. I am a Māori. Do I have to go on the Māori Roll?*

No. If you are enrolling for the first time then you can decide whether you want to be on a General or a Māori Roll by signing the appropriate panel on the enrolment form.

If you are enrolled, you have the opportunity to change roll types during the 2006 Option. After that, the next scheduled Māori Electoral Option will be held in 2012.

*19. I am on the Māori/General Roll and I want to change. How can I do that?*

You can change roll types during the Māori Electoral Option from Monday 3 April to Wednesday 2 August 2006.

If you said you were a New Zealand Māori or a descendant of a New Zealand Māori when you first enrolled, your Māori Electoral Option pack will be sent to you. You can change the roll type you are currently on by completing the Option form and returning this by Wednesday 2 August.

Once you have made your choice you will remain on that roll type until the next Option which is due to be held in 2012.

*20. Why do I have to complete the Māori descent question on the enrolment form?*

So we can identify those people who are Māori or of Māori descent. This information is used to send Māori Electoral Option forms to those who declare themselves as being New Zealand Māori or descendants of New Zealand Māori.

*21. I believe that I was eligible to take part in the Māori Electoral Option, but did not receive a form. What do I do?*

If you did not receive an Option pack, you should complete an enrolment form. The enrolment form has a section where you can declare yourself to be a New Zealand Māori or of Māori descent. The form also has the roll type option included.

## **Timing of the Māori Electoral Option**

### *22. When will the next Māori Electoral Option exercise be?*

After the 2006 Māori Electoral Option the next one is due to be held in 2012.

### *23. Why is it six years away?*

The Māori Electoral Option must be held as close as possible to the Census of Population and Dwellings, but it can not be held in a General Election year. The next Census is scheduled for 2011, and based on the three year election cycle a General Election is scheduled for 2008 and 2011. The next Māori Electoral Option would then have to take place in 2012.

### *24. Why shouldn't Māori be able to exercise a fresh option before every General Election?*

The frequency of Māori Electoral Option exercises is set by Parliament. Currently, Māori Electoral Option exercises are held generally every five years, just after Census of Population and Dwellings. The results of the Māori Electoral Option together with the Census data are used to determine the number of Māori and General Electorates in Parliament and to revise electorate boundaries.

## **General**

### *25. Has MMP changed the Māori Option exercise?*

Yes. A special Option was run following the 1993 referendum that saw MMP introduced as New Zealand's preferred electoral system.

This Option saw more Māori registering on the Māori Roll and resulted in the number of Māori electorates rising from four, under the previous system, to five. Subsequent Māori Electoral Option exercises have seen the number of Māori electorates increase to seven.

### *26. Who is eligible to take part in the Māori Electoral Option?*

Only New Zealand Māori. The Electoral Act defines Māori as "a person of the Māori race of New Zealand; and includes any descendant of such a person". This includes Chatham Island Māori.

### *27. Are Pacific Island Polynesians allowed to go on a Māori Roll?*

No. Only New Zealand Māori or descendants of New Zealand Māori can be registered on the Māori Roll. Under the Electoral Act, Cook Island Māori are not regarded as New Zealand Māori and must be registered on a General Roll.

### *28. Is the Option open to whāngai?*

Only if the whāngai or adopted child/children are New Zealand Māori or descendants of New Zealand Māori.

### *29. Will my choice have any impact on how I vote in council or District Health Board elections?*

The electoral roll type you choose may have an impact on your vote in a local authority or council election if your local authority has created Māori Wards or Constituencies under the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Currently only one council, Environment Bay of Plenty, has created a Māori Constituency. If you choose to go on the Māori Roll and your local authority decides to create a Māori Ward or Constituency, you would have to vote for the candidate in the Māori Ward.