



te kaunihera ā-rohe o  
**matamata-piako**  
district council



# Representation Review

## Submissions and Facebook Comments

15 September 2021 - Hearing



# Representation Review – Submission Statistics

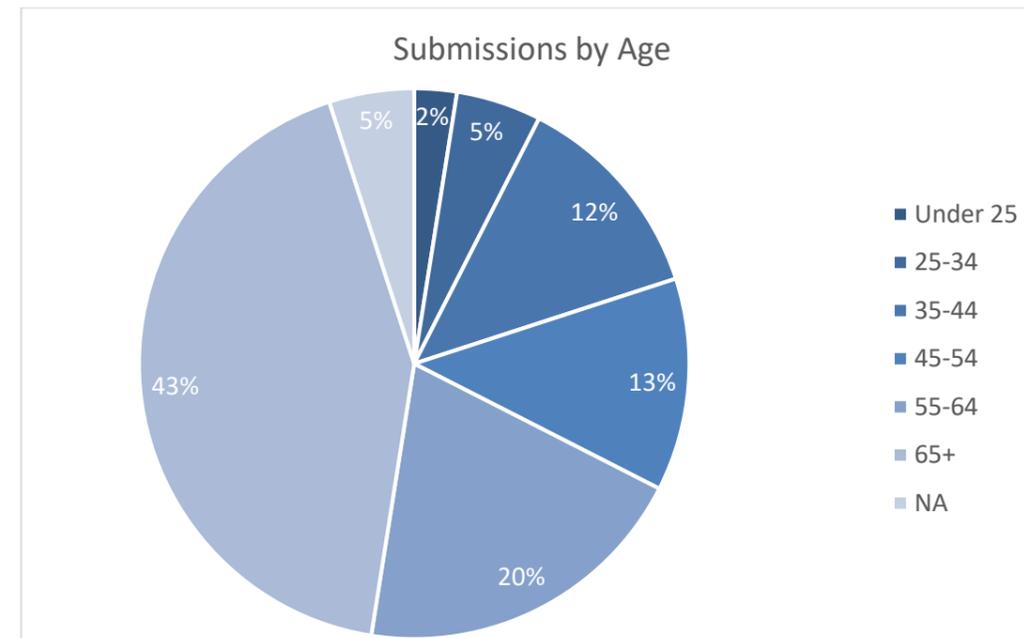
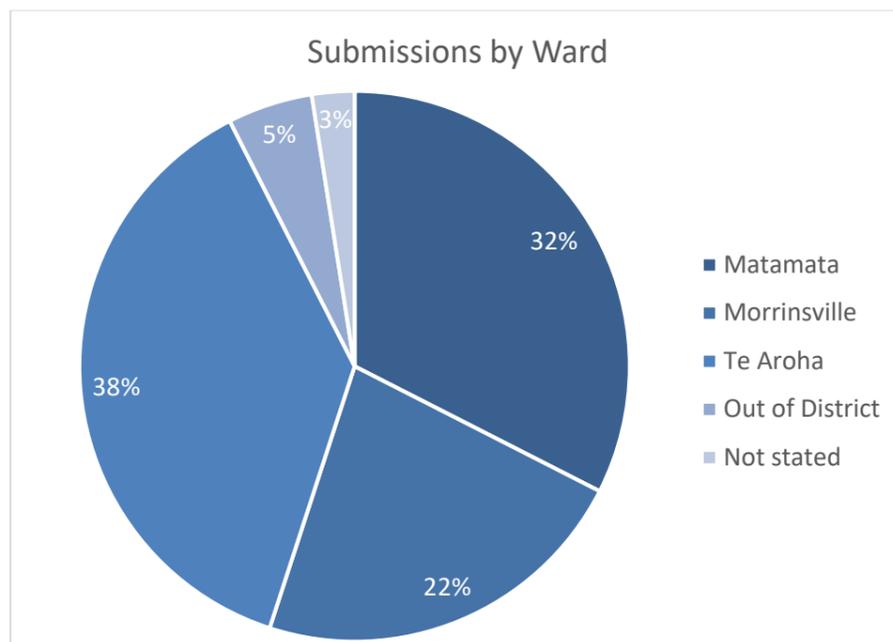
Total Submissions = 40

## SUBMISSIONS BY WARD

Matamata	13
Morrinsville	9
Te Aroha	15
Out of District	2
Not stated	1
	40

## SUBMISSIONS BY AGE

Under 25	1
25-34	2
35-44	5
45-54	5
55-64	8
65+	17
NA	2
	40



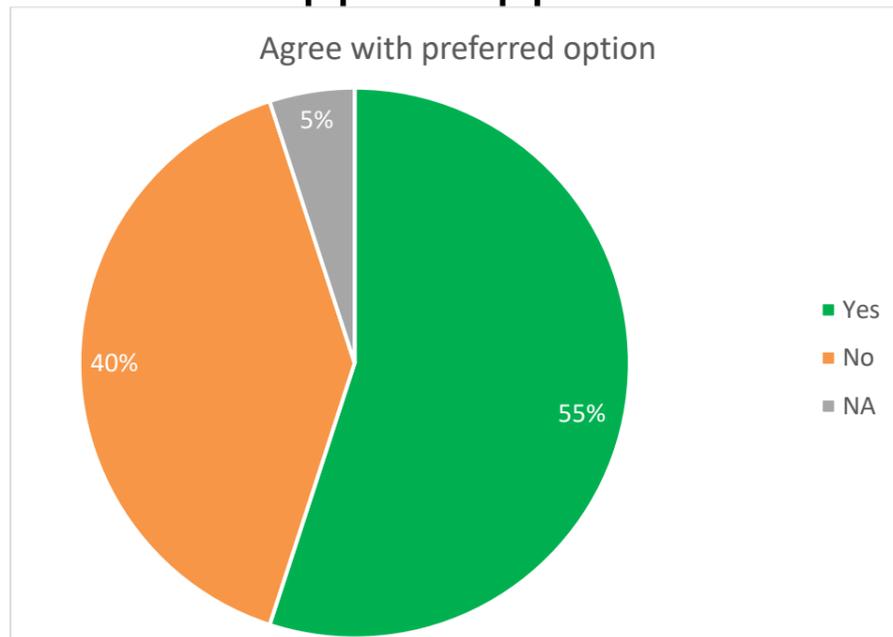
## SUBMISSIONS BY METHOD

All 40 submissions were received via the website.

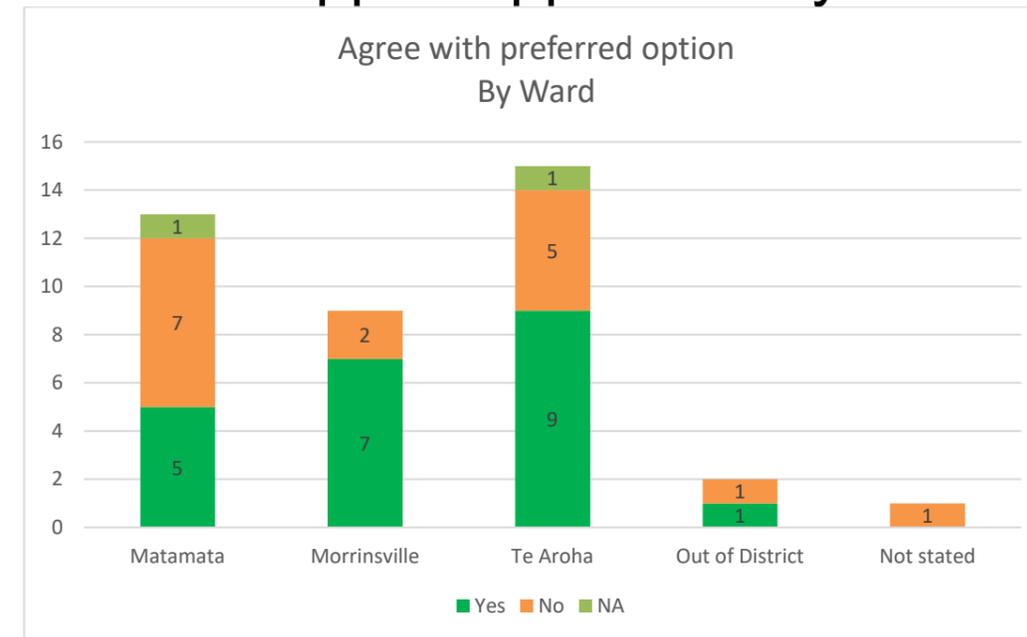
# Do you support Council's initial proposal to have one Mayor and 12 Councillors?

Total Submissions = 40

## Overall Support/opposition



## Overall Support/opposition by ward



Reasons for yes	
Yes – But tweak the boundaries	1
Yes – fair representation	2
Yes – inclusion of Maori ward	5
Yes – but should have more Maori wards	1
Yes – but should reinstate community boards	1
Yes – but include representation of over 65yo	1

Reasons for no	
No – Reduce number of Councillors 3, 3, 2, 1	3
No - More Councillors in Matamata	1
No – Should be 2 Maori wards	6
No – No Maori ward	7
No – Reduce number of Councillors 3, 3, 2, 1	3

Reasons for other	
Reduce number of Councillors 3, 3, 2, 1	1

Note: Staff have categorised responses based on submission comments as a broad indication of the key points raised.

# General comments

**What do we currently have?** We currently have one Mayor (who is elected by the whole district) and 11 Councillors - four representing the Matamata Ward, four representing the Morrinsville Ward and three representing the Te Aroha Ward. We do not have any community boards.

**What are we proposing?** We're proposing to stick with the same ward structure / boundaries, but increase the total number of Councillors to 12, and to continue with no community boards for the next two Council elections. A Maori Ward would be added representing Maori across the district. One of the legal requirements is ensuring each Councillor represents roughly the same number of people in the district (known as the +/- 10% fair representation rule). If we stick with the same number of General Ward Councillors, that means each Councillor should represent between 2,631 – 3,216 people. Matamata and Morrinsville Wards would be within this range, however, the Te Aroha Ward would be just outside this range (by 78 people per Councillor). The Maori Ward Councillor would represent 4,130 people across the district – being the total Maori Electoral Population. All figures are based on 30 June 2020 statistics.

**Why are we proposing to retain the keep the same structure with 12 Councillors?** Despite being slightly outside the required range, we believe that our current Council structure with the additional of 1 Maori Ward Councillor will fairly and effectively represent our community. Councils can choose not to comply with the +/- 10% rule if they believe it would divide a community of interest or unite communities of interest with few commonalities. We think this applies in our case, because for the Te Aroha Ward to comply and stick with the same number of Councillors we would need to change the ward boundaries (i.e. shift some people who are currently in the Matamata and/or Morrinsville Wards into the Te Aroha Ward).

Based on the feedback the community gave us during the previous representation review, we believe this would divide some people from their community of interest and will mean they have few commonalities of interest (e.g. they may work/shop/identify with Matamata or Morrinsville, but be required to vote for Te Aroha Councillors).

In addition to these criteria, we have also considered:

- In 2017's community survey, 84% of respondents told us that the ward they live in reflects their community of interest and 80% of respondents told us they think the current representation system fairly reflects their community.
- We only just fall outside the allowable range for the number of people per Councillor in the Te Aroha Ward (by 78 people per Councillor or 234 people overall for the Te Aroha Ward).
- Our current representation arrangements have been in place for many years and are familiar to the community.
- We no longer have community boards (which a number of other councils have, in addition to Councillors).
- We could comply with the +/- 10% rule by changing the ward boundaries, or increasing or decreasing the number of Councillors. However, our community have told us they believe the current representation works well, so we don't believe these changes are required.

**Communities of interest** We used the 2017 community survey to identify if all the 'communities of interest' (the places people associate with) in the district are fairly represented. We have identified our three main towns, Morrinsville, Matamata and Te Aroha, small rural townships, rural, and Maori as our communities of interest. We believe that these are all effectively represented by what we are proposing.

**Councillor remuneration** The Remuneration Authority has determined that each Council receives a certain amount of money to pay Councillors (based on population, assets etc not on the number of Councillors). The amount of money will stay the same regardless of the number of Councillors, meaning, the more Councillors you have the less they get paid and the less Councillors you have the more they get paid. Of note other associated costs (such as training and travel costs may increase as Councillor numbers increase).

The Remuneration Authority has decided the pay for community board members is linked to population with a minimum level of remuneration set. Community board remuneration is not part Council's overall governance remuneration pool, however if a Council wishes delegate beyond a Boards usual role then any additional remuneration would come out of the council governance remuneration pool, in recognition that additional work by community board members relieves councillors of this work.

**Community Boards** Council previously had 3 Community Boards covering the Morrinsville, Matamata and Te Aroha Wards with 4 members each. Council disestablished these as part of the 2012 representation review. The reasons for disestablishing these were the Mayor and Councillors can provide fair and effective representation to the community and this extra layer of elected representation was a duplication and therefore unnecessary.

In the 2017 community survey 64% of respondents said Council should not re-establish community boards, with 29% saying they should be. Of those that provided a reason, 45% felt the current system works well/Councillors are accessible.

In July 2021 Council resolved an initial proposal that did not include Community Boards; Council noted in its resolution that its proposal would provide sufficient representation without the need for Community Boards. It is noted that 10% of electors of the district's community are able to petition for the establishment of a Community Board at any time under Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

**Ward structure** Councillors can either be elected by wards, across the whole district or a mixture of both. To be elected across the whole district generally the district needs to be relatively compact in size, have a shared common community of interest or a community of interest that spreads across the district.

In the 2017 community survey we surveyed the general community but also specifically targeted residents living along the existing ward boundaries. Overall 84% of respondents provided feedback that the ward in which they live reflects their community of interest and 80% of respondents advised the current representation system fairly reflects their community.

Feedback from some respondents, for example in the Waitoa/Ngarua area indicated more association with the Morrinsville Ward and preference to be shifted from the Te Aroha Ward into the Morrinsville Ward.

**In conclusion** Overall, the majority of submitters (55%) have agreed with Councils initial proposal. Of those who did not support the initial proposal (40%), a variety of reasons were given, the most common reason was that they did not support the establishment of a Maori Ward (7 submissions). Of note 6 submissions indicated they supported the addition of second Maori Ward Councillor.

**Next steps** Following Council decision on the final proposal, this will be notified in the local newspapers for a period of 1 month, during which time if the final proposal is to maintain the status quo submitters on the initial proposal can appeal. If Councils final proposal is a different option e.g. not the status quo + 1 Maori Ward Councillor then anyone may object to the decision.

If Council decides upon the status quo as its final proposal the matter must be referred to the Local Government Commission. If the final proposal is different from the status quo (and complies with the +/- % rule) then it must also be referred to the Local Government Commission and they make the final decision for Council.

# Facebook comments

\*These Facebook comments are not counted as submissions but are used to inform Council during decision making

## Organic Post – 27 July (Animated explainer video)

**5 reactions, 1,749 people reached, 231 engaged with the video**

Following our recent decision to establish Māori Wards, we are taking a fresh look at how many elected members there are and what communities they represent across the district. We want to hear your thoughts on our proposed structure for Council for the next two elections (2022 and 2025). Check out <http://mpdc.nz/representation> for more information or to share your thoughts

Comment: Can any new zealander represent the proposed maori ward?

Commenter name: Jason McQuinn

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Comment: Jason McQuinn the short answer is yes. To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be: \*a New Zealand citizen (by birth or citizenship ceremony); and \*enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand); and \*Nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the respective area that a candidate is standing for. As such, candidates in Māori Wards do not have to be of Māori descent.

Candidates cannot stand for General and Māori Wards at the same time.

Commenter name: Matamata-Piako District Council

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Comment: Why not drop a Councillor from Morrinsville and Matamata and add 2 more maori ward's which in total would be 3 and have a fairer representation across the whole district instead of only one maori ward

Commenter name: Irene Tai-Rakena

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Comment: Irene Tai-Rakena if you head to <http://mpdc.nz/representation> the various scenarios are outlined, and there's a further link where you can calculate/play with other scenarios.

Commenter name: Matamata-Piako District Council

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Comment: Matamata-Piako District Council so you answer others opinion and push me towards a link???? Where's my human answer

Commenter name: Irene Tai-Rakena

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Comment: Irene Tai-Rakena the other questions were straight forward but because your question's more complex the representation calculator and various scenarios would've been helpful. In answer to your question, in this situation fairness is based on having Councillors representing similar numbers of people. Therefore your suggestion would not be considered fair. However, based on the current populations, having 2 Māori Ward seats is arguably fairer representation, as it would mean the Māori Ward Councillors would represent roughly the same number of people as the Matamata/Morrinsville/Te Aroha Ward Councillors. However, to create a second Māori Ward seat there would need to be a total of 14 Councillors (currently there's 11). This could look like - \*Mayor x1 (representing all wards) \*Matamata Ward x5 (representing 2560 ppl per Councillor) \*Morrinsville Ward x5 (representing 2340 ppl per Councillor) \*Te Aroha Ward x3 (representing 2553 ppl per Councillor) \*Māori Ward x2 (representing 2065 ppl per Councillor). Hope that's helpful.

Commenter name: Matamata-Piako District Council

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Comment: Can any one of Maori descent come forward like myself with Maori whakapapa . On my mother's side . ?

Commenter name: Irene Helen Hopper

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Comment: Irene Helen Hopper to be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be: \*a New Zealand citizen (by birth or citizenship ceremony); and \*enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand); and \*Nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the respective area that a candidate is standing for. As such, candidates in Māori Wards do not have to be of Māori descent. Candidates cannot stand for General and Māori Wards at the same time.

Commenter name: Matamata-Piako District Council

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Comment: Stop rearranging borders If you have to make a change to how many councilors take one away from each Thanks 😊

Commenter name: Taupuhi Semmens

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**Organic Post – 10 August (Video of Arihia and Te Awa explaining Maori wards)**

**17 reactions, 2,479 people reached, 318 engaged with the video**

We've had loads of great questions about the Māori Ward, who is eligible to vote and how to enrol - so we asked a couple of local rangatahi to help us explain it.

👉 For more info on the Māori Ward check out <http://mpdc.nz/maoriwards>

👉 For more info or to share your thoughts on the proposed structure of Council for the 2022 and 2025 elections check out <http://mpdc.nz/representation>

Comment: Be nice to have a community gathering sponsored by Council where people come to look and listen. Have handouts. Speakers. Put on some music, kai and show us what you're all talking about. Like they did for Lockerbie. Huge success. Chat centres on hay bales were great for meeting others and listening to views outside the home.

Commenter name: Ann Armstrong

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Comment: Ann Armstrong pai tēnei whakaaro Ann! Good idea!

Commenter name: Arihia Moore

**Ad Campaign – Ran 4 Aug – 21 Aug (Animated explainer video)**

**9,680 people reached, sent 293 people to the website**

Following our recent decision to create a Māori Ward, Council is taking a fresh look at how many elected members there are and what communities they represent. We've considered several options and come up with a proposal that we think ensures everyone will be fairly represented at the Council table and we want to hear what you think.

38 reactions, 205 comments, 5 shares

David Bradbury - Recent non mandated decision...

**Jason McQuinn**- Who is eligible to vote for the maori ward candidate? All ratepayers?

- **David G King** - If it's the same as central government, it will be those on the Maori Electoral Roll.
- **Matamata-Piako District Council** - David G King is correct. Those on the Māori Electoral Roll will vote for Māori Ward candidates, and those on the General Electoral Roll will vote for candidates in the general wards (Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha)
- **Jason McQuinn** - Its all ratepayers cookie jar...we all should vote on an unbiased representative to best represent the newly formed ward. To say any ward is specifically for a certain area or ethnicity opens a big can of worms...
- **Matamata-Piako District Council** - Jason McQuinn right now people who live in Morrinsville elect the Morrinsville Councillors, Te Aroha elect Te Aroha Councillors etc. The Māori Ward is an addition to this current ward based system. However, all councillors, including the Māori Ward Councillor are actually charged with representing and making good decisions for the entire district. A genuine alternative is to abolish the ward structure and elect all councillors 'at large' (from across the entire district). You can read more about this and the other options available at <http://mpdc.nz/representation>
- **Jason McQuinn** - Matamata-Piako District Council yep bring back first past the post. Too much central government trying to seep into local body politics with their disconnected ideals and petty 2.5billion offer for 120 billion worth of local water infrastructure
- **David G King** - Jason McQuinn MPDC has been FPP for a very long time.
- **Wayne Eddy**- Matamata-Piako District Council if you do have a maori ward councillor and only maori can vote,then that will be a blatant racial out come
- **Kurl Harris** - Wayne Eddy how so wouldn't the decision making process still remain the same way as it always has been? Hardly think 3 new Maori councillors would sway any vote if it's in the best interest of ALL concerned.
- **Jason McQuinn**- Kurl Harris anyone can identify as maori to be placed on the maori role and vote accordingly so that maori receive equitable voting rights and outcomes according to te tiriti o Waitangi

**Vanessa Kellie Thompson** - Ok one Maori Warden that's a beginning.It should be someone that knows the area very well and the history.

- **David G King** - Vanessa Kellie Thompson That will be up to those that nominate candidates and those that vote for them.

**Irene Helen Hopper** - I have two questions I feel a fair

1) By having the Maori ward in our district be good for all cultures in Matamata-Piako District Council region?

2) Or is it there solely to represent Maori.?

- **David G King**- Irene Helen Hopper That got me thinking about existing councillors and what requirements there are that they only serve their wards.
  - **Irene Helen Hopper** - David G King agree cause at times the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing

- **Matamata-Piako District Council** - All Councillors, whether elected from General or Māori Wards, are charged with representing the entire district. By having a Māori seat at the Council table we are ensuring the Māori world view is considered in decision making - and bringing diversity in thought into decision making can only lead to more robust decisions for everybody.
  - **David G King** - Matamata-Piako District Council Excellent answer. And on a side note, I really must figure out using a macron on my computer
  - **James Paterson** - Go into keyboard settings and add Māori keyboard and switch to it. You can leave it on full-time as it does everything the English keyboard does. To create a macron hit the -/~ key (top left) then the letter you want.
  - **Dennis Edward** - Matamata-Piako District Council who represents our ever growing Asian population? Shouldn't they also have seats proportional to their community numbers. Local and national government.
  - **David G King** - James Paterson I can use another way to get the macrons. My biggest issue is knowing where it should be used. A life time of reading the Māori language without macrons has left me ignorant. About 10 years ago a kaumatua from the BOP taught me that my pronunciation was wrong in some cases. I was only using short vowels rather than the long vowels that some words have.
- **Irene Helen Hopper** - Interesting metafor.
- **Matamata-Piako District Council** - Under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi, the Local Government Act and other legislation, councils are required to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes, as well as other obligations. This is in recognition of Māori as tangata whenua (indigenous people) of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Crown's partner in Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi. This is why Council have made this decision, specific to Maori, and not other ethnic groups.
 

People of all ethnicities (and ages, and genders, and religions) are eligible to stand for Council in the other wards. In fact, we encourage this as we'd love to see greater diversity around the Council table.

  - **Irene Helen Hopper**- Matamata-Piako District Council so as a descent of Maori I can go straight in then.
  - **David G King** - Irene Helen Hopper Well, subject to a nomination signed by two people and the vote from those on the Māori roll.
- **Irene Helen Hopper** - David G King thanks for that.

**Heath Whaiapu** - About bloody time,don't you think???

**Kerrie Miles** - There should be more than 1 maori warden considering they represent the most number of people in the district

- **Kerrie Miles** - 4 counselors represent around 3000 people in matamata and morinsville each, 3 counselors represent just over 2500 people in te aroha, and your wanting 1 maori warden to represent just over 4000 people in all 3 areas, how is this fair?
- **David G King** - Kerrie Miles It's not totally fair, but I see it as a step in the right direction. That is, 1 Maori ward/councillor is better than none. And can be increased further later. I'm not trying to make excuses for MPDC's decisions, just trying to see the positive in it 😊
- **Matamata-Piako District Council** - Kerrie Miles the rules for fair representation are complicated. Under the current laws, we could only add a second Māori Ward seat once we reach a total of 14 Councillors (plus the Mayor). Based on numbers (like you're suggesting above) the option that would give Māori equal representation and still comply with the rules, would be 5 Councillors in Matamata, 5 in Morrinsville, 3 in Te Aroha, and 2 Māori. But this would be a total of 15 Councillors (plus the Mayor), which would be a very large Council for an area of our size/compared to other Councils around NZ.
 

If you think that's the best way to go though, make sure you share your thoughts with Councillors at <http://mpdc.nz/representations>
- **Jason McQuinn** - Matamata-Piako District Council equitable representation for Irish next?
 

How bout Dutch?  
Some boats just arrived earlier than others?  
Or are we not equals and divided by ethnicity and century of arrival?
- **Kerrie Miles** - Its got more to do with the fact te tiriti o Waitangi is not factored in the decision making of law, and its the councils that get the back lash because the are the front liners. Despite the laws and numbers etc the maori people are and will still be under-represented for many more years.
- Kerrie Miles - Matamata-Piako District Council the numbers I have used are the numbers you have given us in your video!
- **Matamata-Piako District Council** - Kerrie Miles yip, the numbers in the video and your comment are correct. And you're correct that the current proposal doesn't give Māori equal representation to others. The other scenario I outlined above is an option that would achieve equal/fair representation, but also has down sides (every option will have advantages and disadvantages).
 

The calculator at <http://mpdc.nz/representation> lets you play with different models to how they affect representation and whether or not the comply with the current rules/law

**Doug Griffin** - I,m still not sure just what Maori wards are and what is there purpose. If it is to represent Maori on the council and they are so essential, why do aspiring Maori ward representatives not just stand to be elected to council. Are they paid out of rates? If so, how much and just what do they hope to achieve.

- **Matamata-Piako District Council** - Hey Doug - these are all awesome questions.
 

What are Māori Wards and what are their purpose?  
Māori Wards are a dedicated seat/s for Māori representatives on Council - the equivalent of the Matamata/Morrinsville/Te Aroha General Wards.  
Representatives are elected to those seats by voters on the Māori Electoral Roll. Representatives to the General Ward seats are elected by voters on the General Electoral Roll.  
Creating a Māori Ward is about ensuring the whole community is represented on Council for councillors to be able to make good decisions that accurately reflect the views and needs of the community.

Establishing a Māori ward for the district will:

- help bring forward the views and aspirations of whānau, hapū and iwi on Council matters.
- ensure local decision-making is fairer and more inclusive.
- represent a sector of the community that is currently not represented at the Council table
- provide stronger Māori representation as Matamata-Piako continues to learn more about its heritage and history.

Why do aspiring Māori Ward representatives not just stand to be elected to Council?

They do - in recent elections we've had a number of strong Māori candidates stand in the general wards, but not be elected. This is because the Māori population base is smaller, particularly when people currently only have the option to vote in their own ward.

What this ends up looking like around the table, is that MPDC currently has no councillors that identify as Māori, despite people of Māori descent making up about 20 per cent of the district's population (2018 Census). In fact, since 1989 Māori representation on Council has been very limited and not proportionate to the Māori population of Matamata-Piako.

Are Māori Ward Councillors paid out of rates?

Yes. All Councillors are paid out of rates, but from salary pool set by the local government commission. This pool doesn't change based on the number of Councillors - so one additional Councillor means everyone will be paid slightly less (or if we had less Councillors everyone would be paid more).

You may also find the info at <http://mpdc.nz/maoriwards> helpful in understanding this change.

- **Irene Helen Hopper** - Doug Griffin I don't think they have explained well what you meant if the paid by rate payers rate payers should vote the ones in like they do for say you not just be given set. I'm of Maori descent so I should then stand for a opposition on the Maori ward . With Werahiko and TeMete descent ngapuhi .I should qualify.
  - **Matamata-Piako District Council** - Irene Helen Hopper if you are of Māori descent, you can choose which Electoral Roll you want to vote on. Māori currently have the option to switch between the Māori and General electoral rolls every 5 years. This is managed by Central Government and is called the Māori Electoral Option. It will next take place in 2024.
  - **Jason McQuinn** - Matamata-Piako District Council but anyone identifying as maori can stand right? Trans - ethnically diverse? Because this is where it's headed.
  - **Matamata-Piako District Council** - Jason McQuinn To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be:
    - a New Zealand citizen (by birth or citizenship ceremony)
    - enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand)
    - nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the respective area that a candidate is standing for (both nominators have to be on the Maori roll in the relevant Maori ward area).
    - As such, the actual ethnicity (or gender, or religion, or whatever) of any candidate does not matter. Anybody can stand to represent their community.
  - **Rod Bell** - Irene Helen Hopper it seems the Maori ward is there to ensure Maori will have a guaranteed seat at the table. If Maori on the general role chose to put candidates up for election as a general ward councillor and they get voted in then effectively Maori could control the entire ward/council. Non Maori are unable to completely dominate due to inclusion of a guaranteed Maori councillor/s.
  - **Mark Tapper** - Rod Bell Rod that's highly unlikely to happen + I'm sure you know that, but if it did happen that's how a democracy works.  
As far as the Maori seat is concerned - this covers for people who choose to be on the Maori roll, they don't get a vote on the general roll. Stop stirring, we don't need it.

**Vicki Black** - There are ward representatives for Te Aroha?

- **Matamata-Piako District Council** - Vicki Black there are currently three councillors for the Te Aroha Ward.
  - **Vicki Black** - Matamata-Piako District Council I know that but they are unapproachable unavalible and not visible in the district.
  - **David G King** - Vicki Black We have elections every 3 years where we can fire the non-performers and hire replacements. Unfortunately, many people don't bother taking that action.
  - **Vicki Black** - David G King watch this space..

**Dave Fogarty** - So why weren't the rate payers consulted on Maori wards, i suppose the same will happen with 3 waters??, no consultation.

- **Tane Gurnick** - Dave Fogarty because democracy gives little to no power to minorities. Hence a maori voice is silenced because they are a minority. The ToW meant partnership, not a dictatorship that is created through the issues of democracy.  
Partnership means parties who are equal in power and say.
- **Matamata-Piako District Council** - Council consulted the party who were most affected by the decision to establish Māori Wards - Māori. That decision has no negative impact on anyone else's representation i.e. we are still proposing exactly the same number of general ward Councillors, so if you're not on the Māori Roll, you'll still have exactly the same representation you've always had.  
Re water reform - Council doesn't have a stance on this yet. Our elected members are working through the information to form a view on the proposals. You can find out more about it here:  
<https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/.../all.../3660-three-waters-reform>
- **David G King** - Ash (our Mayor) has done an excellent video about 3 Waters on his page. I think he said there will be consultation on it after enough information arrives.

- **Vicki Black** - David G King what concerns me is that assets that have been paid for by past rate payers will be handed over to Central government and then privatised and we will then be paying top dollar for what was once ours.
- Also if 3 waters goes what then is the business of council
- **David G King** - Vicki Black One of the things I got from Ash's video was exactly those questions. Along with what pressure will be applied to force MPDC to sign up. And yes, if 3 waters happens, all councils around NZ will face huge changes.
- **Sue Gray** - Vicki Black Its all about He puapua. maori ownership of NZ water

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38 reactions, 205 comments, 5 shares

See below for all comments/discussion:

Person	Comments
'David Bradbury'	'Recent non mandated decision'
'Jason McQuinn'	'Who is eligible to vote for the maori ward candidate? All ratepayers?'
'David G King'	'If it's the same as central government, it will be those on the Maori Electoral Roll.'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'David G King is correct. Those on the Māori Electoral Roll will vote for Māori Ward candidates, and those on the General Electoral Roll will vote for candidates in the general wards (Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha)'
'Jason McQuinn'	'Its all ratepayers cookie jar...we all should vote on an unbiased representative to best represent the newly formed ward. To say any ward is specifically for a certain area or ethnicity opens a big can of worms...'
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'Jason McQuinn'	'Matamata-Piako District Council yep bring back first past the post. Too much central government trying to seep into local body politics with their disconnected ideals and petty 2.5billion offer for 120 billion worth of local water infrastructure '
'David G King'	'Jason McQuinn MPDC has been FPP for a very long time.'
'Wayne Eddy'	'Matamata-Piako District Council if you do have a maori ward councillor and only maori can vote, then that will be a blatant racial outcome'
'Kurl Harris'	'Wayne Eddy how so wouldn't the decision making process still remain the same way as it always has been? Hardly think 3 new Maori councillors would sway any vote if it's in the best interest of ALL concerned. '
'Jason McQuinn'	'Kurl Harris anyone can identify as maori to be placed on the maori role and vote accordingly so that maori receive equitable voting rights and outcomes according to te tiriti o Waitangi '
'Vanessa Kellie Thompson'	'Ok one Maori Warden that's a beginning. It should be someone that knows the area very well and the history.'
'David G King'	'Vanessa Kellie Thompson That will be up to those that nominate candidates and those that vote for them.'
'Irene Helen Hopper'	I have two questions I feel a fair 1) By having the Maori ward in our district be good for all cultures in Matamata-Piako District Council region? 2) Or is it there solely to represent Maori.?'
'David G King'	'Irene Helen Hopper That got me thinking about existing councillors and what requirements there are that they only serve their wards.'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'All Councillors, whether elected from General or Māori Wards, are charged with representing the entire district. By having a Māori seat at the Council table we are ensuring the Māori world view is considered in decision making - and bringing diversity in thought into decision making can only lead to more robust decisions for everybody.'
'Irene Helen Hopper'	'Interesting metafor.'
'Irene Helen Hopper'	'David G King agree cause at times the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing .'
'David G King'	'Matamata-Piako District Council Excellent answer. And on a side note, I really must figure out using a macron on my computer :)'

Person	Comments
'James Paterson'	'Go into keyboard settings and add Māori keyboard and switch to it. You can leave it on full-time as it does everything the English keyboard does. To create a macron hit the -/~ key (top left) then the letter you want.'
'Dennis Edward'	'Matamata-Piako District Council who represents our ever growing Asian population? Shouldn't they also have seats proportional to their community numbers. Local and national government.'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi, the Local Government Act and other legislation, councils are required to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes, as well as other obligations. This is in recognition of Māori as tangata whenua (indigenous people) of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Crown's partner in Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi. This is why Council have made this decision, specific to Maori, and not other ethnic groups.  People of all ethnicities (and ages, and genders, and religions) are eligible to stand for Council in the other wards. In fact, we encourage this as we'd love to see greater diversity around the Council table.'
'Irene Helen Hopper'	'Matamata-Piako District Council so as a descent of Maori I can go straight in then.'
'David G King'	'James Paterson I can use another way to get the macrons. My biggest issue is knowing where it should be used. A life time of reading the Māori language without macrons has left me ignorant. About 10 years ago a kaumatua from the BOP taught me that my pronunciation was wrong in some cases. I was only using short vowels rather than the long vowels that some words have.'
'David G King'	'Irene Helen Hopper Well, subject to a nomination signed by two people and the vote from those on the Māori roll.'
'Irene Helen Hopper'	'David G King thanks for that.'
'Heath Whaiapu'	'About bloody time,don't you think???'
'Kerrie Miles'	'There should be more than 1 maori warden considering they represent the most number of people in the district'
'Kerrie Miles'	'4 counselors represent around 3000 people in matamata and morinsville each, 3 counselors represent just over 2500 people in te aroha, and your wanting 1 maori warden to represent just over 4000 people in all 3 areas, how is this fair?'
'David G King'	'Kerrie Miles It's not totally fair, but I see it as a step in the right direction. That is, 1 Maori ward/councillor is better than none. And can be increased further later. I'm not trying to make excuses for MPDC's decisions, just trying to see the positive in it :)'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Kerrie Miles the rules for fair representation are complicated. Under the current laws, we could only add a second Māori Ward seat once we reach a total of 14 Councillors (plus the Mayor). Based on numbers (like you're suggesting above) the option that would give Māori equal representation and still comply with the rules, would be 5 Councillors in Matamata, 5 in Morrinsville, 3 in Te Aroha, and 2 Māori. But this would be a total of 15 Councillors (plus the Mayor), which would be a very large Council for an area of our size/compared to other Councils around NZ. If you think that's the best way to go though, make sure you share your thoughts with Councillors at <a href="http://mpdc.nz/representations">http://mpdc.nz/representations</a> '
'Jason McQuinn'	'Matamata-Piako District Council equitable representation for Irish next? How bout Dutch? Some boats just arrived earlier than others? Or are we not equals and divided by ethnicity and century of arrival?'
'Kerrie Miles'	'Its got more to do with the fact te tiriti o Waitangi is not factored in the decision making of law, and its the councils that get the back lash because the are the front liners. Despite the laws and numbers etc the maori people are and will still be under-represented for many more years.'
'Kerrie Miles'	'Matamata-Piako District Council the numbers I have used are the numbers you have given us in your video!'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Kerrie Miles yip, the numbers in the video and your comment are correct. And you're correct that the current proposal doesn't give Māori equal representation to others. The other scenario I outlined above is an option that would achieve equal/fair representation, but also has down sides (every option will have advantages and disadvantages). The calculator at <a href="http://mpdc.nz/representation">http://mpdc.nz/representation</a> lets you play with different models to how they affect representation and whether or not the comply with the current rules/law'
'Doug Griffin'	'I,m still not sure just what Maori wards are and what is there purpose. If it is to represent Maori on the council and they are so essential, why do aspiring Maori ward representatives not just stand to be elected to council. Are they paid out of rates? If so, how much and just what do they hope to achieve.'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Hey Doug - these are all awesome questions.  What are Māori Wards and what are their purpose? Māori Wards are a dedicated seat/s for Māori representatives on Council - the equivalent of the Matamata/Morrinsville/Te Aroha General Wards.  Representatives are elected to those seats by voters on the Māori Electoral Roll. Representatives to the General Ward seats are elected by voters on the General Electoral Roll.  Creating a Māori Ward is about ensuring the whole community is represented on Council for councillors to be able to make good decisions that accurately reflect the views and needs of the community.  Establishing a Māori ward for the district will: - help bring forward the views and aspirations of whanau and hapu and iwi on Council matters. - ensure local decision-making is fairer and more inclusive.'

Person	Comments
	<p>- represent a sector of the community that is currently not represented at the Council table</p> <p>- provide stronger Māori representation as Matamata-Piako continues to learn more about its heritage and history.</p> <p>Why do aspiring Māori Ward representatives not just stand to be elected to Council? They do - in recent elections we've had a number of strong Māori candidates stand in the general wards, but not be elected. This is because the Māori population base is smaller, particularly when people currently only have the option to vote in their own ward.</p> <p>What this ends up looking like around the table, is that MPDC currently has no councillors that identify as Māori, despite people of Māori descent making up about 20 per cent of the district's population (2018 Census). In fact, since 1989 Māori representation on Council has been very limited and not proportionate to the Māori population of Matamata-Piako.</p> <p>Are Māori Ward Councillors paid out of rates? Yes. All Councillors are paid out of rates, but from salary pool set by the local government commission. This pool doesn't change based on the number of Councillors - so one additional Councillor means everyone will be paid slightly less (or if we had less Councillors everyone would be paid more).</p> <p>You may also find the info at <a href="http://mpdc.nz/maoriwards">http://mpdc.nz/maoriwards</a> helpful in understanding this change.'</p>
'Irene Helen Hopper'	'Doug Griffin I don't think they have explained well what you meant if the paid by rate payers rate payers should vote the ones in like they do for say you not just be given set. I'm of Maori descent so I should then stand for a opposition on the Maori ward . With Werahiko and TeMete descent ngapuhi .I should qualify.'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Irene Helen Hopper if you are of Māori descent, you can choose which Electoral Roll you want to vote on. Māori currently have the option to switch between the Māori and General electoral rolls every 5 years. This is managed by Central Government and is called the Māori Electoral Option. It will next take place in 2024. '
'Jason McQuinn'	'Matamata-Piako District Council but anyone identifying as maori can stand right? Trans - ethnically diverse? Because this is where it's headed.'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	<p>'Jason McQuinn To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a New Zealand citizen (by birth or citizenship ceremony)</li> <li>- enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand)</li> <li>- nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the respective area that a candidate is standing for (both nominators have to be on the Maori roll in the relevant Maori ward area).</li> </ul> <p>As such, the actual ethnicity (or gender, or religion, or whatever) of any candidate does not matter. Anybody can stand to represent their community. '</p>
'Rod Bell'	'Irene Helen Hopper it seems the Maori ward is there to ensure Maori will have a guaranteed seat at the table. If Maori on the general role chose to put candidates up for election as a general ward councillor and they get voted in then effectively Maori could control the entire ward/council. Non Maori are unable to completely dominate due to inclusion of a guaranteed Maori councillor/s.'
'Mark Tapper'	'Rod Bell Rod that's highly unlikely to happen + I'm sure you know that, but if it did happen that's how a democracy works. As far as the Maori seat is concerned - this covers for people who choose to be on the Maori roll, they don't get a vote on the general roll. Stop stirring, we don't need it. '
'Vicki Black'	'There are ward representatives for Te Aroha?'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Vicki Black there are currently three councillors for the Te Aroha Ward. '
'Vicki Black'	'Matamata-Piako District Council I know that but they are unapproachable unavalible and not visible in the district.'
'David G King'	Vicki Black We have elections every 3 years where we can fire the non-performers and hire replacements. Unfortunately, many people don't bother taking that action.'
'Vicki Black'	'David G King watch this space...'
'Dave Fogarty'	'So why weren't the rate payers consulted on Maori wards, i suppose the same will happen with 3 waters??, no consultation.'
'Tane Gurnick'	<p>'Dave Fogarty because democracy gives little to no power to minorities. Hence a maori voice is silenced because they are a minority. The ToW meant partnership, not a dictatorship that is created through the issues of democracy.</p> <p>Partnership means parties who are equal in power and say.'</p>
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	<p>'Council consulted the party who were most affected by the decision to establish Māori Wards - Māori. That decision has no negative impact on anyone else's representation i.e. we are still proposing exactly the same number of general ward Councillors, so if you're not on the Māori Roll, you'll still have exactly the same representation you've always had.</p> <p>Re water reform - Council doesn't have a stance on this yet. Our elected members are working through the information to form a view on the proposals. You can find out more about it here: <a href="https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/news/all-news-and-public-notice/3660-three-waters-reform">https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/news/all-news-and-public-notice/3660-three-waters-reform</a></p>
'David G King'	'Ash (our Mayor) has done an excellent video about 3 Waters on his page. I think he said there will be consultation on it after enough information arrives.'

Person	Comments
'Vicki Black'	'David G King what concerns me is that assets that have been paid for by past rate payers will be handed over to Central government and then privatised and we will then be paying top dollar for what was once ours. Also if 3 waters goes what then is the business of Council?'
'David G King'	'Vicki Black One of the things I got from Ash's video was exactly those questions. Along with what pressure will be applied to force MPDC to sign up. And yes, if 3 waters happens, all councils around NZ will face huge changes.'
'Sue Gray'	'Vicki Black Its all about He puapua. maori ownership of NZ water'
'Barry Patching'	'Dave Fogarty heir Jacinda told them it was to happen and that was it '
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Council has not formed a position on the water reforms yet - although several of the individual councillors have made their views clear. We'll be working through the details of the proposal with Council over the coming weeks, so that they can go back to central government with questions/concerns.'
'Sue Gray'	'I hear Nania Mahuta said in parliament that councils will be forced to hand over. How is 3 waters not the most racist document out. Iwi will be Given the water rights. This is just part of He Puapua and if you believe government when they say its not then think again. There is lots going on behind closed doors down in Wellington and it is not in favour for the majority.'
'Tane Gurnick'	'Sue Gray democracy isn't working exactly is it, hence a 2 way partnership approach which may work. Who knows '
'K Alexander Walker'	'Sorry to see that our council believes we are two different races . What happened to the team of 5 million ? This is Just another left wing law that creates division .'
'Tane Gurnick'	'K Alexander Walker a team has a goal in common, not identical to your team mates, we all have our own positions and roles to play. If we are one race, whose race is that to be? A pakeha race? Because that is what our society is. It doesn't work for all of us. So let's try something new to see if it works aye?'
'Tane Gurnick'	'Jessica Allen ae, with a maori outlook
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Division is advocating for the separation of one group from the larger group. Māori representation in local government means working in partnership with Māori, not separate from them. It's about ensuring the Māori world view is included in our decision making processes - and bringing diversity of thought into decision making. That can only mean more robust decisions, which is better for everybody.'
'K Alexander Walker'	'Matamata-Piako District Council thankyou what is your name are you a Councillor '
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'K Alexander Walker this page is managed by Council's communications team. But if you make a submission on the proposal at <a href="http://mpdc.nz/representation">http://mpdc.nz/representation</a> it will be read by all the councillors. Or if you want to discuss the proposal directly with one of your ward councillors you can find all their details here: <a href="https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/our-council/councillors-mayor">https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/our-council/councillors-mayor</a> ^Jenni'
'David G King'	'Having the councils comms team here and on other pages is great in my opinion. They work some long hours to answer our questions. I would love to see elected members contribute in the same way as Ash does, but that seems to be a future thing.'
'Ngairie Young'	'David G King well said Dave.'
'Alan Harris'	'This post starts out saying that the council wants to hear what we think of their non consultation changes. Looks to me like the council or who ever is writing these replies here, don't want to hear what we think at all. You just want to tell us what the COUNCIL THINKS. We actually don't care what the council thinks but care about an all inclusive consultation process. Which didn't happen. '
'Jan Shoemark'	'Interesting the 3 main centres have there own counsellors but who actually represents the smaller towns and actually spends time in those smaller communities finding out there needs.'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'The are is divided into three 'Ward' areas, and they're named after the three main towns, but the elected members represent the smaller settlements within those wards as well. Several of the current elected members are farmers and strong advocates for our rural community. But if you disagree with the current ward structure, you could make a submission to let Council know this - for example, changing our existing structure to having rural and urban wards would be an alternative option. You can read more about the requirements and let us know your thoughts at <a href="http://mpdc.nz/representation">http://mpdc.nz/representation</a> '
'David G King'	'Jan Shoemark I would assume that Te Aroha councillors would represent your town. A map of the current ward boundaries is at <a href="https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/pdf/News/HaveYourSay/RepReview/WardMap.pdf">https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/pdf/News/HaveYourSay/RepReview/WardMap.pdf</a> '
'Jan Shoemark'	'David G King I have lived in Waitoa 17 years and have yet to see what the council has done for the town . Yes in conjunction with Fonterra they built the rest area seating but locals don't use it as locals don't cross the highway. The council did fix broken footpaths but only after I complained I've never met a councilor that has talked to the locals in Waitoa. I've tried submitting submissions in the past never any good. I just feel smaller communities are not supported '
'David G King'	'Jan Shoemark I've only ever seen Fonterra staff use that rest area. Kinda assumed locals just didn't find it attractive or useful. And with the amount of traffic that doesn't slow down to 70, I'm not surprised that noone wants to cross that road.'
'Jan Shoemark'	'David G King thats why locals don't use it. And the number of visitors that do use it also use the trees for a toilet stop. '
'Dave Cole'	'Shouldnt we unify the country rather than racially divide it.'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Division is advocating for the separation of one group from the larger group. Māori representation in local government means working in partnership with Māori, not separate from them. It's about ensuring the Māori world view is included in our decision making processes - and bringing diversity of thought into decision making. That can only mean more robust decisions, which is better for everybody.'
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Matamata-Piako District Council rubbish it is racist. No matter how you look at . Bloody disgraceful . Just like most decisions made by this council. '
'Tane Gurnick'	'Lindsay Goodwin why? Including maori world view in mainstream society is racist?? Don't you mean excluding maori world view from society is racist? I'm confused '

Person	Comments
'Te Mape Fred Haimona'	'Lindsay Goodwin you say it is racist and we should unify, what have you done to unify us? What have you done to give Maaori equality? Do you understand our history and culture our past injustice? Have you tried too? I doubt it. By your comments I see Your an ignorant fool. What harm is 1 councillor? Wippy woo! For Maaori that is still very little. But Thank You'
'Steve Grocott'	'Dave Cole having a seat at the table isn't dividing anyone.'
'Dave Cole'	'Then dont give it a specific name based on ethnic background. If you are fair you will create wards for Muslims, Irish and so on. We are one country and everybody has the democratic right to have their say. Just my opinion'
'Steve Grocott'	'Dave Cole but Muslim, Irish don't have a treaty guaranteeing representation and didn't cede sovereignty for that guarantee. A seat at the table isn't a offer or guarantee for equality m, just a voice.'
'John Roiall'	'Tane Gurnick No one is excluding them they can run for council or go through same procedure as any person applying, it's jumping the gate because government said they can it's wrong I'm all for more Maori councillors not sure this is the right way '
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Dave Cole Under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi, the Local Government Act and other legislation, councils are required to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes, as well as other obligations. This is in recognition of Māori as tangata whenua (indigenous people) of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Crown's partner in Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi. This is why Council have made this decision, specific to Maori, and not other ethnic groups.gg But you are absolutely correct that people of all ethnicities (and ages, and genders, and religions) are eligible to stand for Council in the other wards. In fact, we encourage this as we'd love to see greater diversity around the Council table.'
'David Bradbury'	'Matamata-Piako District Council. Nice job justifying racism
'David Bradbury'	'Tane Gurnick. Are you saying that all Maori agree on every issue? - if you are, that's racist.  If you think that all Maori might share different opinion on issues (which they do) then they are the same as everyone else in the electorate and do not need a separate, race-based vote '
'Margaret Osborne'	' Matamata-Piako District Council You refer to Maori being indigenous to N Z. At the northern tip of the North Island there is a plaque that states that this is where their spirits leave from to return to the place they came from. Also a Treaty is not a Partnership. They are completely different. Part Maori have always been able to have an opportunity to represent their Ward, but they haven't always been able to show that they are wanting to represent everyone.'
'Merle Gamble'	'Matamata-Piako District Council put a name to your answers stop hiding behind a logo MPDC '
'Gerome Bennett'	'Dave Cole The racial divide has been here for 200yrs its simply bridging the gap '
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Yet another bad joke . Selecting people on race. We are all New Zealanders. Totally racist.'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Creating ways that allow for a group's representation in decision making is not racism, it's equity. The premise of reverse racism is that social and economic gains by Māori cause disadvantages for white people. There would be no disadvantage having a Māori voice at the decision making table, in fact, it's our view that this benefits everyone.'
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Matamata-Piako District Council what rubbish you live in a fantasy land . There is no such thing as reverse racism. Do you people get any kind of education. Your decision making is appalling. So this so called Maori is decided how. 10% Maori DNA.? Make 90% none Maori . This is just racism no matter how you try to disguise it.'
'Rosepotato Rockmulan'	' Lindsay - it's nothing to do with racism Perhaps you are the one who needs an education?'
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Rosepotato Rockmulan don't think so. you people are just gullible to do this . It is a con . '
'Tane Gurnick'	'Lindsay Goodwin what does DNA have to do with anything?'
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Tane Gurnick if you don't know you are a little simple. If you are not a Maori you shouldn't be able to claim you are, to receive wealth an favors the rest of us can't get. If you have less than less than 50% DNA how can you claim to be a particular race.'
'Tane Gurnick'	'Lindsay Goodwin how did you become a Godwin? Through marriage?? So you got no Godwin blood in you but claim yourself a Godwin yet have the check to question others what there blood percentage is??  Wealth and favors? What exactly are these wealth and favours you speak of, that you think I'm entitled to? Name them so I can use them please??'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Hey team - we really like hearing people's views, but please keep it respectful and avoid personal attacks/insults, otherwise we will start deleting comments.'
'Amanda Hopkins'	'Matamata-Piako District Council you mean shut down free speech '
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Matamata-Piako District Council oh here we go again . Can't take the criticism. If you actually did a half decent job no one would have anything to criticize. If only you people new what you are doing. '
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Rosepotato Rockmulan race based selection is racist. Selected strictly on race . So what do you call it?'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Racism is not simply treating people differently based on race. Racism is tied up in systems of power. When a racial group is oppressed by systems of power and is discriminated against based on their race, that's racism.  Say, for example, a group of people have their land taken from them through physical and legal force, are punished for speaking their language, are imprisoned for practising their culture and protecting their land, and then must live under a system of governance built and operated by the people who did that to them as that's racism. Failure to acknowledge such a history of oppression and its resonating effects is

Person	Comments
	racism. Allowing that to endlessly continue is racism.  Creating mechanisms that allow for that group's representation in decision making is not racism, it's equity.'
'Maree Clark'	'There are two sides to all history then if only you would read the real history'
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Matamata-Piako District Council groups ? You are joking. So how do you choose which groups. You people are so naive. '
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Maree Clark read the real history? Who's version is the real one?'
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Matamata-Piako District Council wow you really believe that .? You really should not be doing a job for our council. That version has been invented in my lifetime. 60 years ago that was not our history. It is total rubbish. When my ancestors arrived in TeAroha and started developing farm land for the settlers . The were no Maori there . They came up the river later. And pillaged the settlers. Try and get at least some facts correct. . '
'Tane Gurnick'	'Lindsay Goodwin ngati hako??'
'Gerome Bennett'	'Lindsay Goodwin obviously not a joke your not laughing lmao,As Tangata whenua we identify with Maori we are not kiwi we are not NZer we are Maori . It wouldn't matter what the truth would be in history your arrogance wouldn't allow you to accept it lol'
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Gerome Bennett arrogance? Listen to yourself. That's arrogance '
'Gerome Bennett'	'Lindsay Goodwin arrogance ?why because I gave you some truths if you think I'm arrogant due to this,that's your opinion but that's all it is.Its hard to listen to myself when I'm simply typing lol.Come on lindsay acceptance is the key some may see your comment as racist ooh shit sorry I see the comment from Matamata-Piako District Council lmfao .As for the real history well we all know it even if you hate to admit it.'
'Raylene Beazley'	'Lindsay Goodwin That is because William Herries thought it would be such a delight to gift the paakehaa (upon their return from war) with some Maaori unused land. And the reason it was unused, is simply because they were sent alongside to fight. Only to return home, to nothing! Eat that! This is what Aotearoa History is about. Educate yourself please! Herries is your tupuna and a nasty peice of work he was! '
'Anita Inglis'	'Matamata-Piako District Council you are doing a great job of mediating this discussion. For the 'free speechers' out there, we don't actually have a mandate for free speech in NZ. In fact, we have laws that prohibit hate speech. Racist tropes are hate speech and so the council not only has every right to delete racist comments, but also an obligation.  Te Tiriti o Waitangi guarantees Maaori participation, protection, and partnership. Years of systemic racism has robbed Maaori of that and these new wards are a very small step towards restoring what has been lost.'
'Michael Lawrence'	'Sack them all - hopeless drop kicks '
'Stephanie OHara'	'Aren't all the councillors representing all the constituents in their areas! I'm sure they don't just represent certain races! Personally I don't see a need for a seperate race based councillor. '
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Stephanie OHara right now people who live in Morrinsville elect the Morrinsville Councillors, Te Aroha elect Te Aroha Councillors etc. The Māori Ward is an addition to this current ward based system. However, all councillors, including the Māori Ward Councillor are actually charged with representing and making good decisions for the entire district. The decision to establish the Māori Ward has already been made, and cant be reversed as part of the current review of the representation arrangements. '
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Matamata-Piako District Council oh very democratic . Decision already made and can't be reversed. Unbelievable. '
'John Roiall'	'Matamata-Piako District Council How are the Maori ward councillors chosen elected ? By every one in that district or just Maori people in that district?'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	' John Roiall Electors on the Māori electoral roll can vote for candidates standing for Māori ward seats. Electors on the General electoral roll can vote for candidates from the General wards. Everyone can vote for the Mayor.'
'Lindsay Goodwin'	'Matamata-Piako District Council still racist. '
'Daniel Fleming'	' one that required a rush law change at central Govt. This is BS of the highest order! '
'Janet Sheehan'	'Councilors should be elected on their merits and what they can bring to the community, not race,color or creed.'
'Tane Gurnick'	'Janet Sheehan well it looks like our ao is becoming a partnership based society rather than a democracy. And as such im all for it. Democracy isn't fixing our issues up is it. I mean you are complaining, so if you aren't happy, try a different approach ie, maori wards'
'Naomi Singh-Wickliffe'	'Well said Tane'
'Gerome Bennett'	'Janet Sheehan they have been elected on merit through the past lol and that has brought us to this stage, 'change' '
'Casey Douglas Jnr'	'Over 100 years and now you kind of start to use the treaty of waitangi, it is a 50/50 partnership not 90/10 read it and weep'
'Margaret Osborne'	'Casey Douglas Jnr The TOW is not a Partnership. It is a Treaty. Quite different.'
'Casey Douglas Jnr'	'It was also based on a partnership where pakeha governed pakeha and Maori governed Maori no more no less'
'Gerome Bennett'	'Margaret Osborne from your remark you haven't read Te Tiriti lmfao'
'Sue Gray'	'Casey Douglas Jnr The treaty does not say partnership anywhere. Its been twisted to suit the minority. The crown would never enter into a partnership'

Person	Comments
'Casey Douglas Jnr'	'Read the Maori version and you will see it say it is a partnership. That is why the UN has said the Maori version of the treaty is the only version we should use. However there is also this country's founding document given to Aotearoa by king William the 4 after the battle of the north sea it is called the declaration of the united tribes of Aotearoa otherwise known as he whakaputanga. And that is the parent document to the treaty of waitangi. if haven't heard of both documents you have been mis lead or mis informed if you can't read Maori that is your fault'
'Casey Douglas Jnr'	'Sue Gray the crown did 2times actually do some Maori history for once lady learn our history learn our reo learn our ways then you may end up belonging to something greater than yourself'
'Sue Gray'	'Casey Douglas Jnr ive read both of them. They differ from each other. explain that'
'Sue Gray'	'Casey Douglas Jnr exactly. The maori version. lol. that there explains everything. I'
'John Roiall'	'Ok more Maori councillors but all people in that district should be allowed to elect witch ones, not just people on the Maori role, that would be Fairer '
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'This isn't actually that different to how the system currently works. You vote for the people that represent you i.e. 1 Mayor, and 3 Councillors (if you're from Te Aroha), or 4 Councillors (if you're from Matamata and Morrinsville). That means there are already 7 or 8 people around the table who you don't get to vote for, making decisions that affect you. Every Councillor, including the Maori ward councillor, is elected to represent a specific group of people, however, ALL Councillors are obligated to represent the interests of all Matamata-Piako residents.'
'John Roiall'	'Matamata-Piako District Council Could you please tell me how many Maori are currently in the matamata-piako district council '
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'John Roiall None. In fact, since 1989 Māori representation on Council has been very limited and not proportionate to the Māori population of Matamata-Piako. Māori make up about 20% of the district's population and despite being an important part of our community they are not currently part of the decision making process.'
'John Roiall'	'Matamata-Piako District Council Have any actually applied '
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Yes. We've had several strong Māori candidates stand for Council, however, because Māori are a minority group, and currently have to vote based on their geographic ward (like everyone else), those Māori candidates have not been successful.'
'Merle Gamble'	'Matamata-Piako District Council you said the ones elected for the Maori roll do no have to be maori so what now they do this was last weej'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Still correct. Candidates in the Māori Ward do not have to be Māori. They must be an NZ citizen, enrolled as parliamentary elector (anywhere in NZ), and nominated by two people on the roll in the area they are standing for (so in this case, on the Māori roll, within the district)'
'Merle Gamble'	-- Comment deleted --
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Nope, I'm a real person, trying to helpfully answer questions on my Sunday night. I'm not sure quite sure what you're asking here, but if you clarify your question, I'll gladly try and answer it or point you in the direction of helpful info.'
'Merle Gamble'	'Matamata-Piako District Council ok so they were not successful because of the voting ??'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	'Merle Gamble correct. We have had a number of Māori candidates stand in the general wards, but not be elected. '
'David G King'	'Matamata-Piako District Council I was thinking. Which I'm told is always a bad sign But, using Te Aroha as an example, candidates for the Te Aroha ward don't have to live in Te Aroha, just have to be nominated by 2 Te Aroha residents. Yes, I realise race doesn't equal residence, but the general idea isn't really new.'
'David G King'	'Matamata-Piako District Council I hope the people from council who comment here are being paid for that time. Or are getting something for the time and effort.'
'David G King'	'Matamata-Piako District Council I realise that the MPDC Communications team works as a unit, as a team. While we may see things written by individuals within that team, they are taken as being from the entire team, and from the entire MPDC. So, if I disagree with something, I don't chase after the individual, I chase after my councillor, or use their websites Contact page.'
'Raylene Beazley'	'Matamata-Piako District Council is it possible because they are too Māori and perhaps educated Māori at that. Ya see this is what has been a bother. There are plenty of well educated, community driven, marae based Māori amongst us and the ones i know who havent had a look in are the ones who were turned down. So is that the reason? Does the council want a dumb Māori? One they can use as a mat? Cos that'll be a hard one!'
'Roxy Hart'	'This is great, way to go MPDC
'Fluerette Powell'	'If its going to be like that, then I want one National party member
'Shirley House'	'Did we vote for this, no!'
'Josie Anderson'	'Good for you MPDC for having the conversation. Maori representation is so overdue. Other councils could well do with being as brave as you.'
'Dave Mathews'	' Josie Anderson yeah it's awesome seeing favouritism forced against the voters '
'Josie Anderson'	'Dave Mathews It is awesome seeing all of our community being invited to have the conversation. Good on MPDC. '
'Mark Wilson'	'Another heap of rare payers money wasted '
'Merle Gamble'	'What about the water issue'
'Matamata-Piako District Council'	' Merle Gamble Council doesnt currently have a position on the water reforms. We'll be working through all of the information in the government proposals over the coming weeks, and will provide updates as Councillors work through this information. In the meantime, you can find a summary of information here: <a href="https://www.mpd.govt.nz/news/all-news-and-public-notice/3660-three-waters-reform">https://www.mpd.govt.nz/news/all-news-and-public-notice/3660-three-waters-reform</a> '
'Mark Tapper'	' Matamata-Piako District Council Merle will ratepayers have any say in the 'appointment' of members to the Regional Members group or does democracy for Ratepayers disappear. My understanding is Ratepayers by law have a say in what happens to their assets. We need to have a referendum on this decision. '

Person	Comments
'Casey Douglas Jnr'	'Merle Gamble that is a problem the water needs to stay a necessity and in council hands as I believe that is where my rates money goes. Fuck knows where my taxes go it's not to this country and it's infrastructure'
'Naomi Singh-Wickliffe'	'Awesome'

# Hearing Attendees - Wednesday 15 September

\* All submissions included in the following table are also included in the full list of submissions received.

*Do you agree with Council's proposal to have one Mayor and 12 Councillors (4 Matamata, 4 Morrinsville and 3 Te Aroha and 1 Māori) for the 2022 and 2025 elections?*

Sub #	Name/Organisation	Ward	Agree or disagree Y/N	Comments	Council decisions / notes
21	Jade lynn	Morrinsville	No	Two Maori councillors. You have one for the entire district. Looking after 4000 which is nearly 1000 above everyone else! You are making an exception for Te aroha who doesnt meet the criteria.	
33	Stephen James Lindsay, me	Morrinsville	Yes	Tweak the boundaries. Move Te Aroha westwards to State Highway 27 from Hauraki District to the Waitoa River bridge. Move Te Aroha southwards so that all of Manawaru Road is in Te Aroha. Possibly consider moving the boundary southwards to affect properties in the Alexandra and Waghorn Road areas. Possibly consider putting part of the Walton area in Morrinsville, out of Matamata to juggle the numbers.	

# All submissions received

*Do you agree with Council's proposal to have one Mayor and 12 Councillors (4 Matamata, 4 Morrinsville and 3 Te Aroha and 1 Māori) for the 2022 and 2025 elections?*

Sub #	Name/Organisation	Ward	Agree or disagree Y/N	Comments	Council decisions / notes
1	Wolfgang Faber	Te Aroha		Hello, the Community Boards must be reinstated ! A second layer of representation is always democratically needed. Community Boards are closer to the public and less formal. They should never have been abandoned! The existing remuneration for the mayor and councillors must be used to pay for the the new Maori ward, i.e. the mayor's pay must be shortened too. Te Aroha's three councillors should stay, and the rest of the councillors as well	
2	Gisela G. Ludtke-Fabaer	Te Aroha	Yes	The loss of Community Boards is still felt. Mayors salary is too high. Obviously, the extra work that community boards did, can n o t be done by councillors and mayor. Therefore their salary increase must be returned to the community. One single Maori ward is of course not enough, but it's a start. We ask that it be regarded as such, with the view of adding more. One extra part time position to aid the Maori ward councillor - that way every councillor would represent around 3 thousand. Imbursement taken from mayors salary would be regarded fairest.	
3	Margaret Osborne	Te Aroha	No	Maori are able to become Councilors in their own right, that is democracy. Having a Maori Ward is promoting racism. There are many ethnicities in our District who are contributing to the rate funds. Councilors must represent all ratepayers and I am not sure that this will happen with the Maori Councilor.	
4	Pamela Gambrill	Morrinsville	Yes		

Sub #	Name/Organisation	Ward	Agree or disagree Y/N	Comments	Council decisions / notes
5	Heath Tapper	Matamata	Yes		
6	Carol Findlay	Morrinsville	No	I dont agree with segregating people based on descent or race - we should not have a Maori ward. All other wards are based on location. Total number of councillors does not need increasing from 11 which would mean someone from Te Aroha Ward or Morrinsville Ward or Matamata Ward would have to move to the new Maori Ward if this racial segregation is set to happen in NZ despite the fact that racial segregation can amount to apartheid which is a crime in international law!	
7	Craig Johnson	Morrinsville	Yes		
8	John ring	Matamata	Yes		
9	Kevin Fisher	Te Aroha	Yes		
10	David G King	Te Aroha	Yes	A Maori ward would seem to be required under Te Tiriti. Which, for me, makes any other argument meaningless as I see Te Tiriti as being a fundamental part of NZ.	
11	Lyn McLoughlin	Te Aroha	No		
12	Debra Rodgerson	Morrinsville	Yes		
13	Dolly Varden-Chambers	Matamata		Since the agreement of a Maori ward, which cannot be changed according to your notes, there is little point in comment about that...but I am continuously unhappy about all these changes affecting the Maori race...when I first came to this country in 1967 we were all just New Zealanders...ideally I would like us all to just be New Zealanders again and stop this awful separation from getting any worse...another Councillor I guess is the best option...please don't change the boundaries, that would be ridiculous backward step.	
14	Raymond Leslie Mettam	Matamata	No	I would like to see two Maori Councillors. It would be a more even representation.	
15	Nicki Robb, Bayleys	Morrinsville	Yes	Only 1 Maori Ward councillor required.	
16	Daniel Scelly	Matamata	No	Absolutely disgusting that the local council voted to establish a ward that is a race based policy. Your poor decision to not consult your community is another __[word removed] you to the Matamata piako rate payers (your employer). Disappointed that mayor Ash and counselors think that anything race based is ok in today's world. All councilors who voted in favour for this should be ashamed and resign immediately before they are voted out!!	
17	Linda Kilgour	Matamata	No	We should not have seats based on racial boundaries. We should be looking for the best candidates to stand and be able to vote for who we believe to be the best candidate, no matter what ethnicity they are, or second guessing that they are only standing to fill a quota. All seats/candidates (no matter how many we have on the council) should be open to all people.	
18	Carol Finucane	Morrinsville	Yes	Great to see Maori Ward being established.	
19	Joe coughey	Te Aroha	Yes		
20	Susan Tesselaar	Te Aroha	Yes		
21	Jade lynn  <i>**Submission also under hearing attendees**</i>	Morrinsville	No	Two Maori councillors. You have one for the entire district. Looking after 4000 which is nearly 1000 above everyone else! You are making an exception for Te aroha who doesnt meet the criteria.	
22	Keith Alexander Walker	Matamata	No	One extra councillor in Matamata Ward Please . This would give better representation to matamata population	

Sub #	Name/Organisation	Ward	Agree or disagree Y/N	Comments	Council decisions / notes
23	A R Lyons	Matamata	Yes	It would be proper to have a representative to assist the Over 65's. Someone that is not restricted by colour, race or culture as that appears to be the only criteria to get elected. This is a growing section of the Matamata make-up with no voice on the council.	
24	Bryan Dove	Matamata	Yes	I'm satisfied with the representation balance of Council's proposal and it's reasons for it.	
25	Doug Griffin	Te Aroha	No	Why have Maori wards at all. All ratepayers are able (if not willing) to vote in councillors that they want to represent them. I have been paying rates in te aroha for five years and have never met or even seen a councilor. Councillors are voted in to represent everyone, just do what you were voted in to do.	
26	Kaye Ferguson	Morrinsville	Yes	This seems to be the fairest distribution.	
27	Louise Beer	Te Aroha	No	3 Matamata and Morrinsville, 2 Te Aroha and 1 Maori Ward. There are election years where there is no vote as not enough people are willing to stand as councillors. Reducing overall numbers and thereby increasing the split per councillor may encourage more people to stand	
28	David Brookes, ORGANISE	Matamata	Yes		
29	Richard Barnaby	Matamata	No	At this time apply the KISS principal. Keep changes simple. Add a Maori ward but provide that ward with two councillors. There will be a sharp learning curve for any new Maori representative[s] for which the interests of Maori will be better served across the district with two councillors.	
30	Callum Patton, Yungulla property trust	Matamata	No	Reduce the number of councillors to 3,3,2 and 1 for fairer representation with the Maori ward population Establish community boards so that the community has easier access to the councillors who represent them and that councillors can engage with the community on a more personal level	
31	Garry Peter Voogt	Te Aroha	Yes	Representation and diversity is important. I support the inclusion of a Maori ward and the structure of Mayor and 12 councillors.	
32	Sandy Barnes	Out of District	Yes		
33	Stephen James Lindsay, Me  <i>**Submission also under hearing attendees**</i>	Morrinsville	Yes	Tweak the boundaries. Move Te Aroha westwards to State Highway 27 from Hauraki District to the Waitoa River bridge. Move Te Aroha southwards so that all of Manawaru Road is in Te Aroha. Possibly consider moving the boundary southwards to affect properties in the Alexandra and Waghorn Road areas. Possibly consider putting part of the Walton area in Morrinsville, out of Matamata to juggle the numbers.	

Sub #	Name/Organisation	Ward	Agree or disagree Y/N	Comments	Council decisions / notes
34	Graham Keye	Out of District?	No	The voters of the district should hold a vote. If a good enough argument is put forward for Maori wards, then the people will vote for it won't they? By only a few at the top deciding, that is not democracy, that is dictatorial. By deciding on who should be on the Council based on race, is RACIST. That's what racism is. Deciding on who to choose based on the colour of their skin. Are you choosing based on race? In your own words "Despite Te Aroha not complying with the +/- 10% rule" you are looking at breaking them. So it will be alright for a ratepayer to break the rules if they decide that it is in community's best interest? Or will you go after them for 'not following the rules'. Can't be hypocrites can we now? Regards Graham Keye	
35	Elspeth Robinson	Te Aroha	No	I think overall it is an effective representation except perhaps there needs to be one more Maori rep when you look at the numbers	
36	David G King	Te Aroha	Yes	I think you are proposing the best option for adding direct representation as per The Treaty. I also think there will be a lot of learning going on by all councillors and constituents as to how this will work in practise. I fully support the idea of Maori Wards. And I say that with my zero knowledge of Te Reo, Maori Culture, and Maori issues.	
37	John Alfred Watson	Te Aroha	No	Given the recent announcement on rates that we will have to pay, the fact that a number of us ratepayers are on fixed incomes and rather than reduce the salaries paid to existing councillors, I suggest a more pragmatic approach by reducing the number of Matamata councillors to 3, Morrinsville to 3, Te Aroha councillors to 2 plus one new Maori Ward councillor. The world will not end as a result.	
38	Dot Veal	Te Aroha	Yes		
39	Virginia McMillan	Matamata	No	It would not be equitable to have only one Maori voice at the council table, with a ratio of 1:4130, when other ratios are much more favourable. It can be difficult to articulate as a member of an indigenous community when ALL around you are mainstream. I can see no logic in having just the one Maori councillor when that is not asked of any other "community of interest". Please agree to one more being added to the whole council, so there can be at least two Maori representatives. This is very important for progressing the district and its relationships. The council should reflect the people who live here but make particular effort to ensure Maori are properly represented now that it has the chance. Let's draw on all the knowledge and cultural perspectives we can, especially Maori, with whom the Crown has a special relationship. Thank you.	
40	Stephen Cope		No	I support having a Maori ward and Maori councillors. At a proposed rate of 1 councillor per 4.130 people they will be quite under represented. I suggest that for the first iteration of this plan we have 2 councillors for the Maori ward, yes, slightly over representing them, but lets give this a good honest try to make sure it works. Under resourcing will starve good ideas. As well the geography for the Maori ward is much larger which will mean more time driving to see constituents. Lets go a bit over the top this time around and maybe decrease it later.	