

# Report

Subject: **Late Item - Government supports councils to increase Māori representation**

To: Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti

From: Carol Gordon

Date: 5 February 2021

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## **1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The information below is intended to provide members with early information on Central Government supporting councils to increase Māori representation.
- 1.2 The NZ Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), last week, informed councils that this will move extremely quickly with the Bill likely to receive a first reading on the week starting 8 February 2020. It's also been noted that the submission period will be days rather than the usual weeks or months. SOLGM have notified councils they will be submitting in support of the objective.
- 1.3 The Government is supporting councils working to increase representation for Māori in local government by putting in place the same rules to establish Māori wards as general wards for the 2022 local elections.
- 1.4 The first stage will make immediate changes to establish transitional measures for the 2022 local elections. The second stage will develop a permanent mechanism for local authorities to consider the establishment of Māori wards and constituencies.
- 1.5 A fact sheet on Changes to Māori Ward and Māori Constituency Processes is attached as appendix 1.
- 1.6 As this is new information and there is a need to move quickly if we want to provide any response it is proposed to have further discussion on TRAK's position at the meeting.

## **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the report on Government supports councils to increase Māori representation be received.

Carol Gordon  
Group Manager – Democracy & Planning