

The background of the slide features a close-up of an olive branch with several green olives. The branch is positioned diagonally across the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light filtering through the leaves, creating a bokeh effect. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

# **ESTABLISHMENT OF A MĀORI WARD**

# **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Briefing - 2 November 2023

# Background

- The Local Government Act 2002 – Council's to provide for Māori participation in their decision-making.
- Considered last triennium as part of Representation Review process.
- Mana whenua - Māori ward not considered a priority.
- Revisit in the 2022 – 2025 triennium.
- Council considered alternatives – in June 2022, Council added mana whenua representation to the Governance Structure.

# Local Government Electoral Legislation Act

- The objectives of the Local Government Electoral Legislation Act were to improve Māori participation and representation.
- Under the Act, no longer required to consider establishing a Māori ward this triennium.
- Community engagement also not prescribed.
- **Councils can still consider Māori representation but aren't required to do so before the 2025 elections.**



# Scene-setting

- In August 2023 Council resolved to consult with mana whenua and wider community.
- Decision must be made by 23 November 2023.
- Decision to proceed would trigger a full Representation Review next year, ahead of the 2025 local body election.

# What is a Māori ward?

- Councils can decide representation arrangements
- Voters on the Māori electoral roll will vote for candidates for a Māori ward.
- Kāpiti Coast is divided into four general wards: Ōtaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, and Paekākāriki–Raumati.
- Voters on the Māori electoral roll will vote in the Māori ward. So, to clarify – this is an additional ward – not an additional vote.
- Establishing a Māori ward has low direct or ongoing costs.



# Māori Representation – Impacts on Māori Electoral Roll Voters

- If a Māori ward was established, everyone on the Māori electoral roll will vote in the Māori ward.
- Voters on the Māori electoral roll can still vote for the mayor, districtwide councillors, their community boards, and regional councillor.
- Māori ward candidates don't need to be enrolled on the Māori electoral roll.
- Voters can switch rolls up to three months prior the election.

# Māori Representation - Alternatives

- Māori wards are just one way to provide for Māori representation on Council.
- Māori wards and other representation arrangements can also exist concurrently and are not mutually exclusive.



# Māori Wards – a wider look

- In the 2019 Local Elections there were only 3 Māori wards.
- In 2022, 35 councils had Māori wards/consituencies – 29 territorial, 6 regional.
- 6 further councils recently voted to introduce Māori wards/consituencies for the next two local elections.
- 5 councils have recently voted against introducing them.



# Mana whenua views

- In May 2023 Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti were asked for mana whenua position.
- A.R.T. confederation advised establishing Māori ward was not currently considered a priority for the A.R.T. confederation.
- Further to community consultation, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki have provided statements of their iwi position.

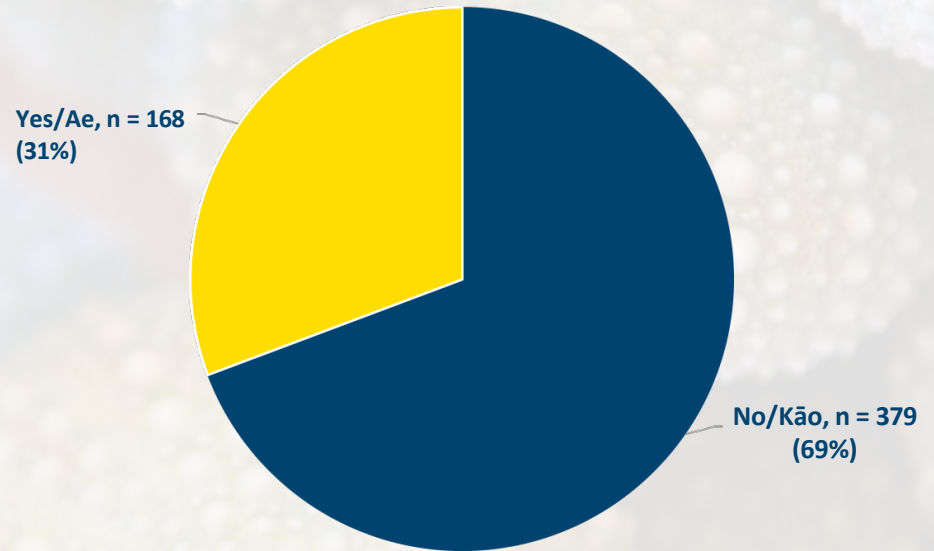
# Community Engagement

- Community feedback sought 12 September – 13 October 2023.
- One-way channels to inform the community and to avoid providing a platform for inappropriate or harmful commentary.
- Focussed on education, engaging with those directly affected, and also to gain wider feedback.
- Engagement included a combination of media releases, newspaper ads, and social media promotion. Also, through mana whenua.
- Have Your Say digital survey, paper survey forms and collection boxes placed in all district libraries.



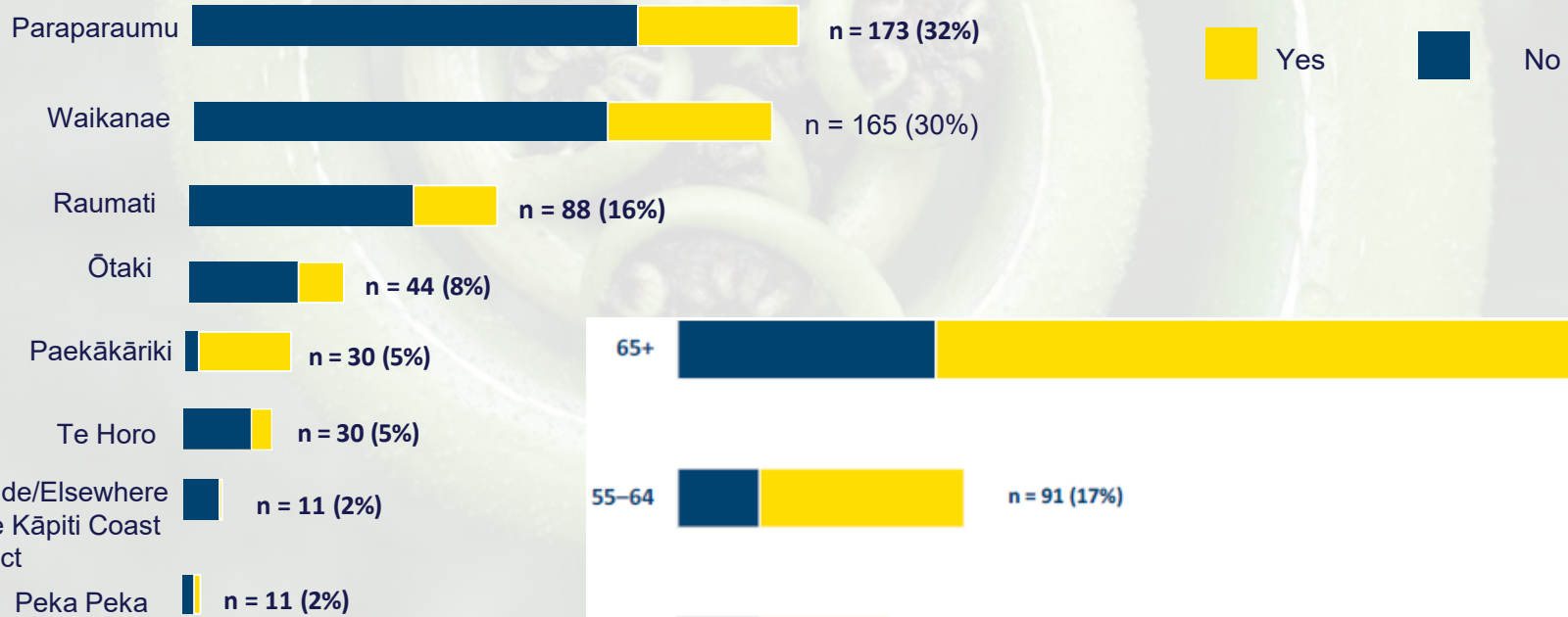
# Results

- Do you support Council establishing a Māori ward in Kāpiti?/  
Kei te tautoko koe i te whakatūnga o tētahi rohenga pōti  
Māori?
- 548 submissions received
- 1.27 percent of estimated eligible voters

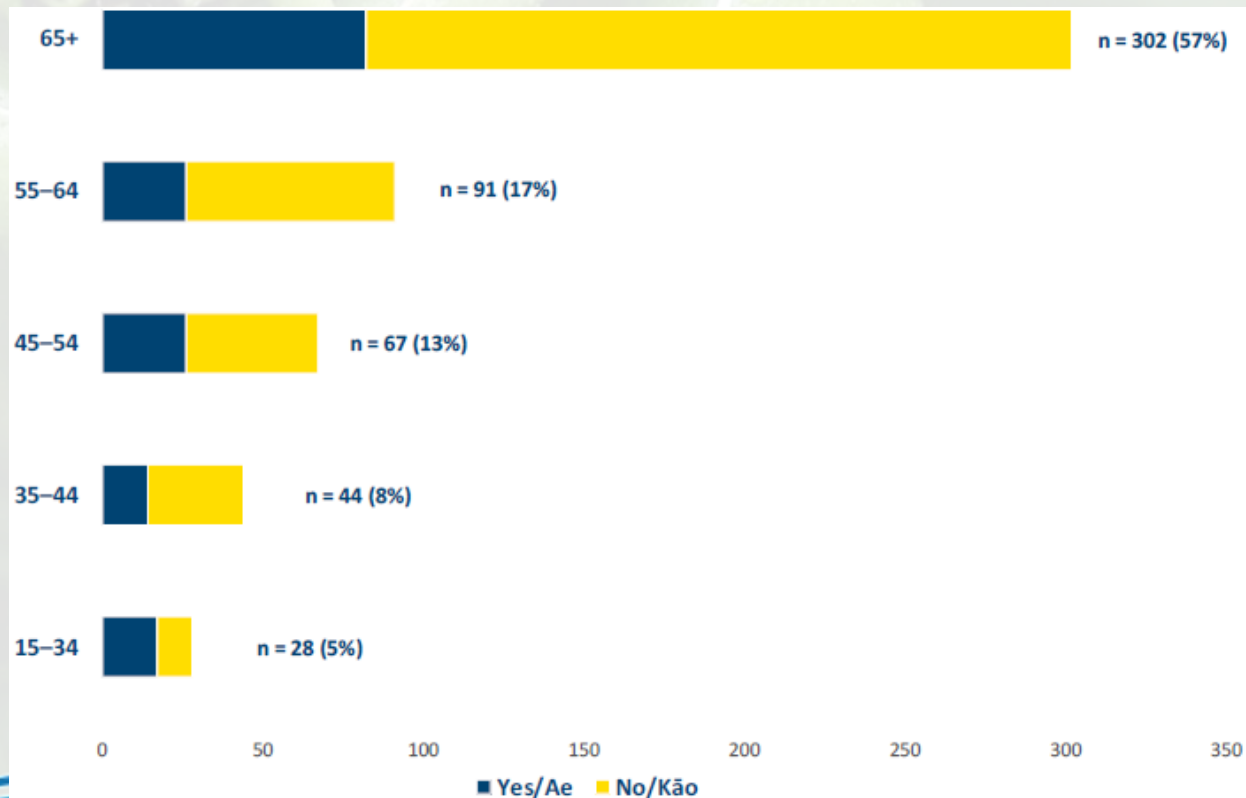


# Results – deep dive

## Location



## Age Group





# Comparative analysis by population distribution

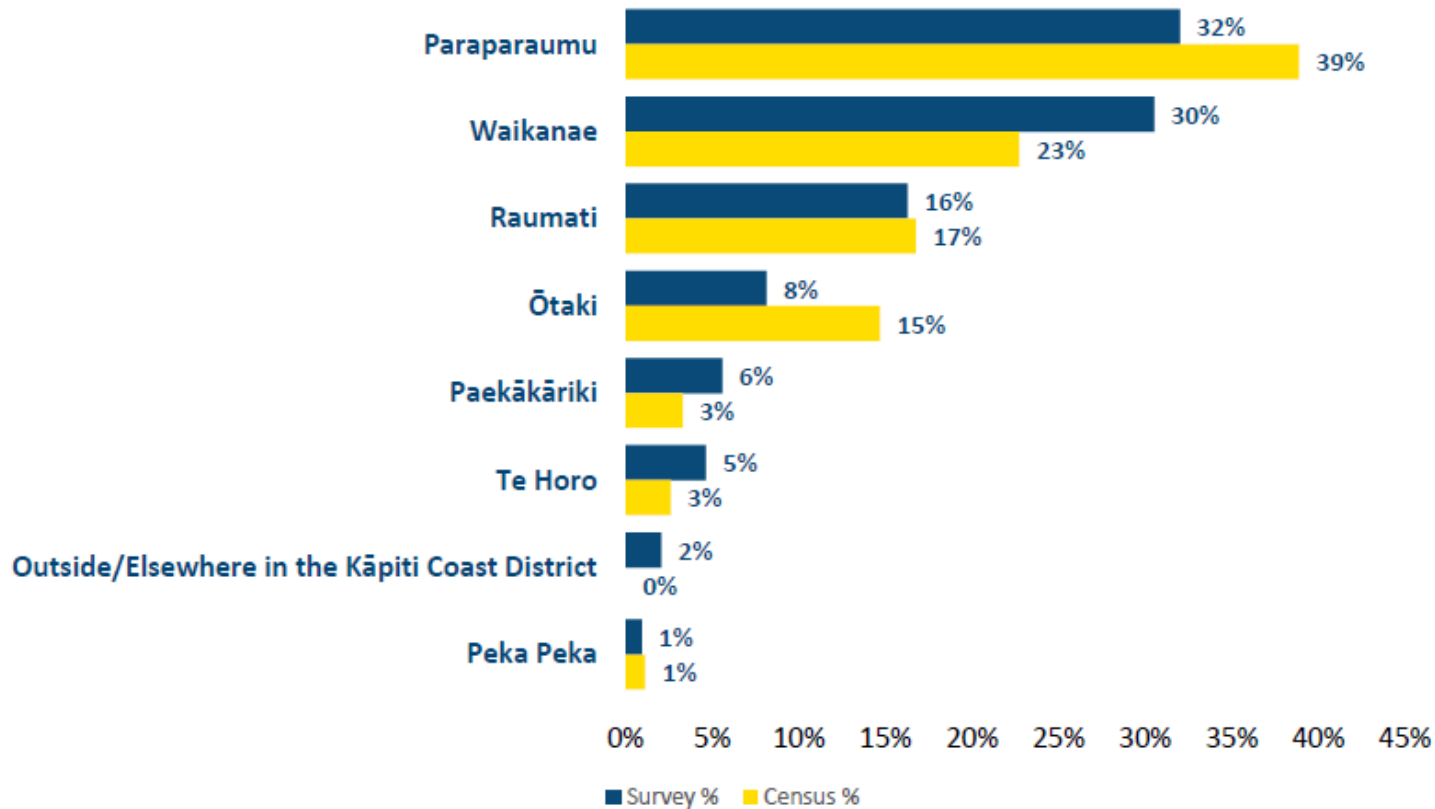


Figure 2: Where do you live?/ E noho ana koe ki whea? vs. population census data

# Results – key themes

**Support:** The most frequently cited reasons for supporting the establishment of a Māori ward were:

- Ensuring Māori representation in local governance (18%, n=96)
- Upholding the principles and obligations of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (7%, n=39)

**Do not support:** The most frequently cited reasons for opposing the establishment of a Māori ward were:

- Principles of equality and democracy (41%, n=226)
- Opposition to race-based representation (26%, n=144)
- Concerns of racial divisiveness (23%, n=128)

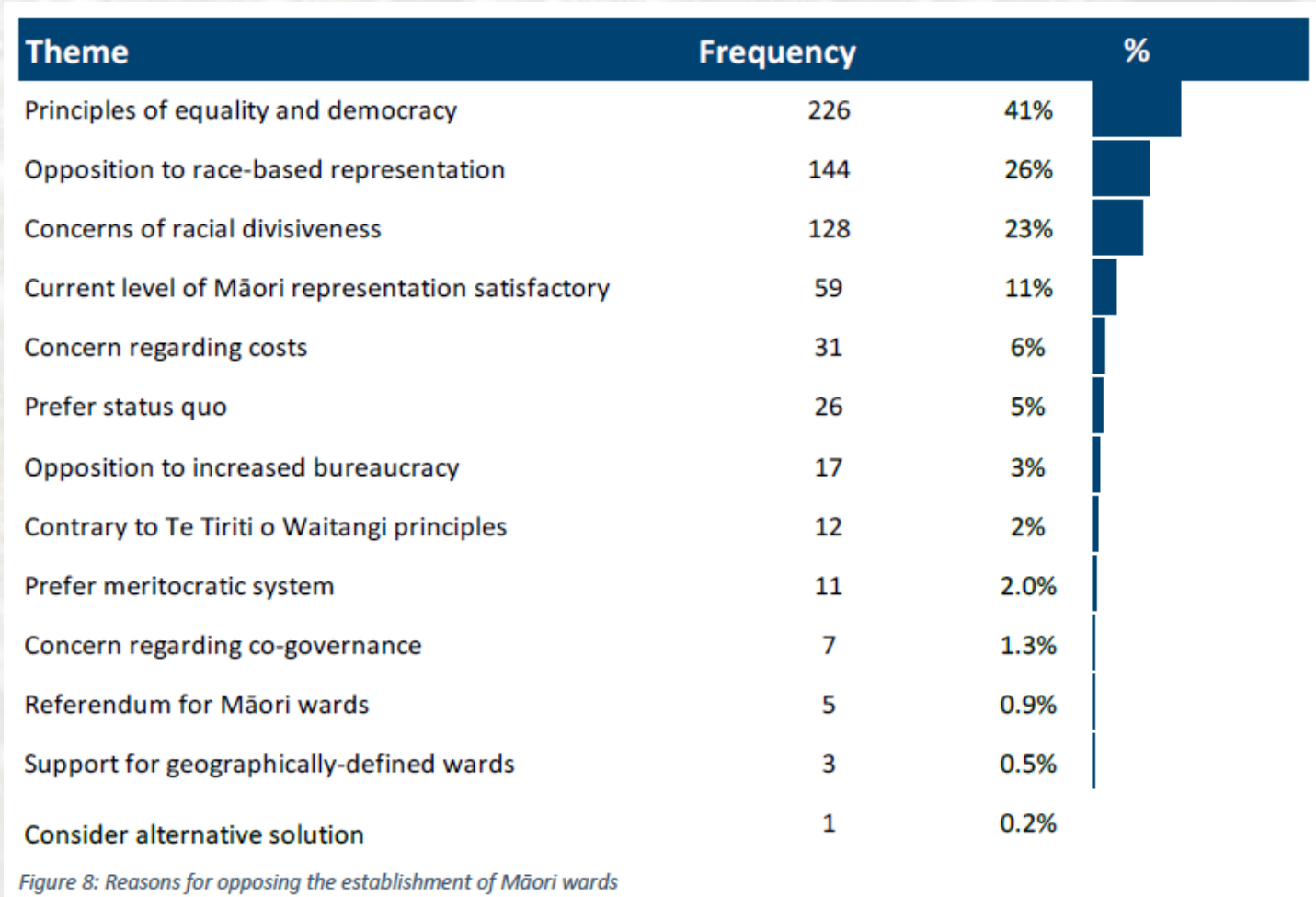


# Results – in support

Theme	Frequency	%
Ensures Māori representation	96	18%
Uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles	39	7%
Support if mana whenua support	16	3%
Diversity/Inclusion	13	2%
Ethical/moral obligation	5	1%
Redressing historical wrongs	4	1%
Kaitiakitanga and sustainable practices	3	1%
Redressing inequities	3	1%
Parallels with Māori electorates	2	0.4%
Support if current system removed	1	0.2%

Figure 7: Reasons for supporting the establishment of Māori wards

# Results – not in support





# Next Steps

- Council to consider feedback
- Report brought to Council 14 November 2023 meeting for a final decision.
- If a decision was made to establish a Māori ward, a Representation Review process would need to take place in 2024.

**Questions?**

