

## Anouska Greene

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**From:** Jennifer Amner  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 November 2023 11:34 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Anouska Greene; Jennifer Amner  
**Subject:** Official Information Request - Response - The creation of Maori Wards

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see the below response to your official information request. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1/ The costing,

The creation of Māori Wards is no cost, but it does trigger a full representation review that will consider the details of wards, names, and boundaries.

This would be contracted to Election Services in the order of \$13,000 + GST, plus any internal staff costs.

2/ The complete business case,

There is no business case as Council can make a decision to have Māori wards as of right (as prescribed in the Local Electoral Act 2001).

3/ The agenda item and discussion paper,

Representation review update on Māori wards

Attachment A - Comprehensive Report Representation Review Update on Māori Wards

4/ The benefits expected to be realised by increasing the size of each meeting,

We have sought clarification from you in regards to this point. However, it may be helpful to know that the number of wards, councillors etc will not be finalised until the rep review process is undertaken in 2024 – the number of councillors could go up or down depending on this process. The rep review process involves public consultation provisions on the detail but not the principle of Māori wards.

5/ What powers are proposed to be conferred upon these Officials i.e. voting rights etc., that Council unanimously voted on at the recent Council Meeting.

Māori ward representative have the same rights as any other Councillors. A Māori ward councillor is not an "Official" but an elected member of the Council. All elected members of the Council have the same voting rights, except for the mayor who may exercise a casting vote where voting is tied.

Ngā mihi | Regards

**Jen Amner**  
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