

Māori Wardens – Options for change



YOUR VIEWS – HOW TO GIVE FEEDBACK

You can provide feedback during the consultation hui or by submitting written comments to: MCDA@tpk.govt.nz or Māori Community Development Act 1962 Consultation, Freepost 157031, PO Box 3943, Wellington 6140, no later than 5pm on Monday 30 September 2013.



YOUR VIEWS – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Do you think the roles and responsibilities of Māori Wardens should be determined locally; or mostly locally but within an overarching national framework; or, set on a consistent national basis?

Do you think that the roles and responsibilities of Māori Wardens should be set out in legislation?

Why we are consulting

The Māori Community Development Act provides for Māori Wardens. The Act was passed in 1962, and since that time New Zealand has undergone significant change. An Inquiry in 2010 recommended that changes be made to the Act.

The Government agreed with the Māori Affairs Committee's findings – that there are a number of important issues relating to Māori Wardens – and want further feedback on this. The issues relate to the governance, roles, administration and legislation for Māori Wardens.

Hui are being held to seek feedback from as many individuals and groups as possible. We would welcome your feedback on the issues relating to Māori Wardens. More information on the options will be given at the hui or can be found in the full discussion paper.

Options for the future of Māori Wardens

There are currently 883 warranted Māori Wardens, all based within their own communities. Māori Wardens are volunteers. Under the Act District Māori Councils have the authority to nominate Wardens for appointment by the Minister of Māori Affairs or reappointment by the Chief Executive of Te Puni Kōkiri. It also gives them the authority to control and supervise the activities of Māori Wardens carrying out duties within its district.

Roles and responsibilities

The Act sets out the functions and powers of Māori Wardens. Māori Wardens' roles today have evolved to reflect the modern needs of Māori communities, with Wardens providing practical support and liaison. Submissions to the Inquiry showed that Māori Wardens are highly regarded however their roles, as described in the Act, are seen as outdated, inappropriate and inconsistent with other legislation.

Options for the roles and responsibilities of Māori Wardens are:*

1. Local community determination – where local communities determine the roles and responsibilities of Māori Wardens;
2. Local community determination within an overarching national framework – roles and responsibilities of Māori Wardens are determined by local communities within an overarching national framework of common principles; or
3. National determination – roles and responsibilities are decided nationally and are consistent across the country.

*For more information see the full discussion paper



YOUR VIEWS – GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Which option for the governance and administration of Māori Wardens do you support?

Which of the options will best meet the practical needs of Māori Wardens and the development needs of local communities?

How should Māori Wardens be accountable to local communities and what should their relationship be to Māori communities, marae, hapū and iwi?

Does the governance and administration of Māori Wardens need to be set out in legislation?

VIEWS OF THE MĀORI COUNCIL AND MĀORI WARDENS

The renewal strategy outlined in the Māori Council's draft Strategic Plan for 2012-15 and associated papers signal plans to reclaim Māori Wardens, and to reassert the authority to manage and administer Māori Wardens.

Feedback previously provided by the Māori Wardens Association indicated a desire to be removed from the Māori Council to a separate, autonomous association.

Governance and administration

The Inquiry found that Māori Wardens need improved governance, administrative support, coordination and connection to Māori communities.

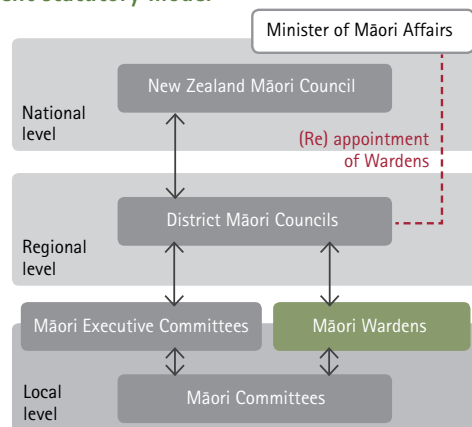
Key issues raised in submissions were:

- The structure Wardens operate in needs to be flexible;
- Wardens' work needs to be valued and supported;
- Funding needs to be effectively managed and accountable; and
- Access to training needs to be equitable and well resourced.

Options for the future governance and administration of Māori Wardens include:*

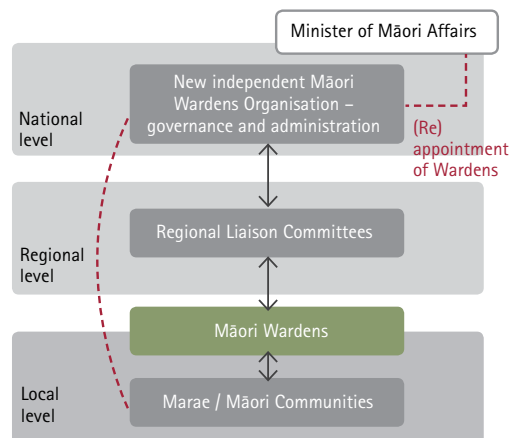
Option A – Māori Wardens current statutory model

- No change to the Act;
- District Māori Councils would retain administrative responsibility for Māori Wardens; and
- The capacity of District Māori Councils would need to be improved, significant commitment from Māori communities to the District Māori Council structures would be required, as well as significant resourcing.



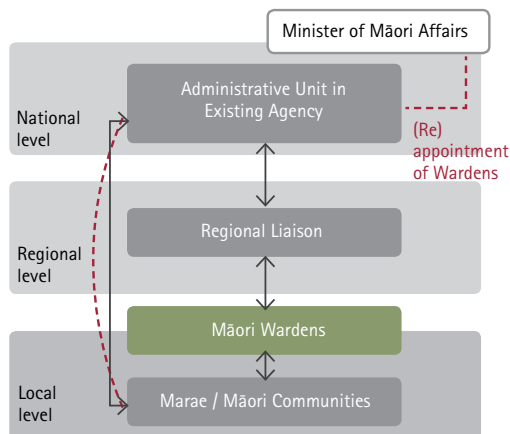
Option B – New independent body responsible for Māori Wardens

- Governance and administration centralised in a new organisation dedicated to Māori Wardens;
- Careful consideration needed of how membership of the new organisation would be determined; and
- Regional Liaison Committees could be created to maintain linkages between local communities and the new organisation.



Option C – Māori Wardens community centred leadership and accountability

- Governance and administration are separated.
- Administrative support is provided centrally, linked to communities through regionally located liaison, to ensure equity and consistency of administrative support across the country; and
- Governance is provided locally - local communities/marae would provide leadership, direction and determine the Wardens' range of services.



*For more information see the full discussion paper

