



# The Māori Community Development Act – 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](mailto: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

When reading the full discussion paper, think about how the options could affect Māori community development.

## Why we are consulting

The Māori Community Development Act was passed in 1962, setting up three mechanisms to support Māori community development; the New Zealand Māori Council (supported by three levels of Māori Associations), Māori Wardens and Community Officers. An Inquiry into the Act in 2010 recommended that changes be made.

The Government wants to find out views on:

1. options for the future of the New Zealand Māori Council
2. options to improve arrangements for Māori Wardens
3. Community Officers.

Hui are being held to seek feedback from as many individuals and groups as possible. We would welcome your feedback on all of the listed areas, or on individual areas that interest you. More information on the options will be given at the hui or can be found in the full consultation discussion paper.

## Māori community development

The Act does not define Māori Community Development and New Zealand has changed significantly since the Act was passed. Changes include extensive urbanisation, Treaty settlements and the growing strength of Māori culture.

Māori community development is now seen to be about enhancing wellbeing by allowing Māori communities to make their own decisions while protecting and enhancing Māori cultural identity. Some of the issues raised in the Inquiry were:

- the importance of whānau, hapū and iwi and the connections between land and people
- recognising the role of marae as a cornerstone of cultural identity
- the need for communities to identify their own needs and priorities take an active role in the design and implementation of community development initiatives.



## VIEWS OF THE MĀORI COUNCIL AND MĀORI WARDENS

The Māori Council's draft Strategic Plan for 2012-2015 supports the retention of the status quo. Its draft Strategic Plan outlines an intention to renew and rebuild the Māori Committees. It has also committed to assisting with the formation of District Māori Councils.

Feedback from the Wardens' Association in 2012 indicated that the Association had concerns with current governance arrangements, and wanted to be removed from the Māori Council to a separate, autonomous association.



## YOUR VIEWS

Is there a need for a national pan Māori advocacy and leadership body such as the New Zealand Māori Council?

How can strong links with Māori communities and organisations be best maintained and developed?

How can any future organisation ensure they are relevant to the needs and priorities of Māori?

If the Council is streamlined or continues as now, does its structure need to be outlined in legislation?

## Options for the future of the New Zealand Māori Council

The Act gives the New Zealand Māori Council a wide range of roles and responsibilities and outlines the following Māori Associations:

- New Zealand Māori Council (national)
- District Māori Councils (regional)
- Māori Executive Committees and Māori Committees (community)

The New Zealand Māori Council has achieved many successes in its history and its role representing the interests of all Māori is unique. The Māori Affairs Committee Inquiry concluded that the New Zealand Māori Council is now struggling to fill its responsibilities:

- its role is extensive and outdated
- it has insufficient funding
- the structure is inefficient, and many District Māori Councils and Māori Committees no longer function.

The Inquiry recommended a comprehensive re-evaluation of the role and funding for the New Zealand Māori Council and those provisions in the Act relating to Māori Committees and Māori Executive Committees be repealed. Submitters to the Inquiry raised a number of issues to be taken into account when considering the future of the Council, including streamlining its functions to create an entity with a specifically national focus to offer leadership on pan-Māori issues with improved connections and accountability to Māoridom. They also highlighted the need for a kaupapa Māori approach and sufficient funding. Taking into account the issues raised, here are some options for discussion:\*

### Options for the ROLE of the Council:

1. A new refocused national Māori organisation – concentrates on social and economic issues that impact on community development for all Māori drawing on a community mandate with enhanced accountability measures; or
2. No change - New Zealand Māori Council continues.

### If the Council continues to represent Māori on national issues in some form, there are options for the STRUCTURE of the Council:

1. Streamlined national organisation – membership drawn from across Māoridom and accountable for delivering to Māori communities; or
2. No change – current structure maintained.

\*For more information see 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, unless delegated to another Māori Association, to nominate Māori Wardens for appointment by the Minister of Māori Affairs and reappointment by the Chief Executive of Te Puni Kōkiri.

### 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 Māori Affairs Committee 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 future 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.

### 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.

## 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 that the Association had concerns with current governance arrangements, and wanted to be removed from the Māori Council to a separate, autonomous association.



## 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?





## 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?



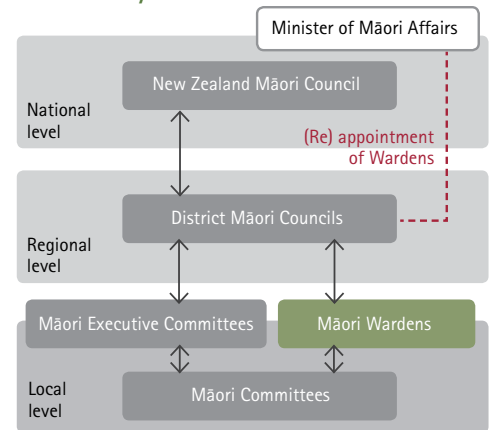
## YOUR VIEWS

Please tell us your views on Community Officers. Are they still needed or do you think the role is being adequately filled elsewhere?

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

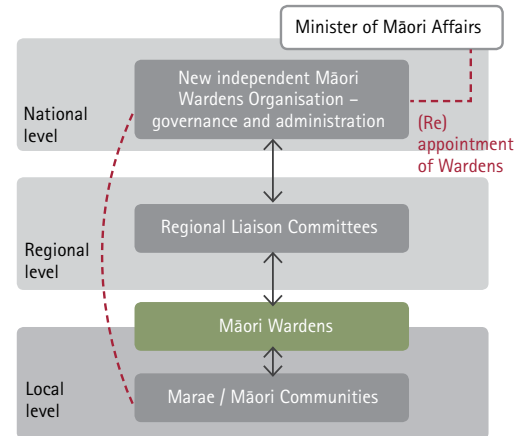
### Option A – Māori Wardens current statutory model

- 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.



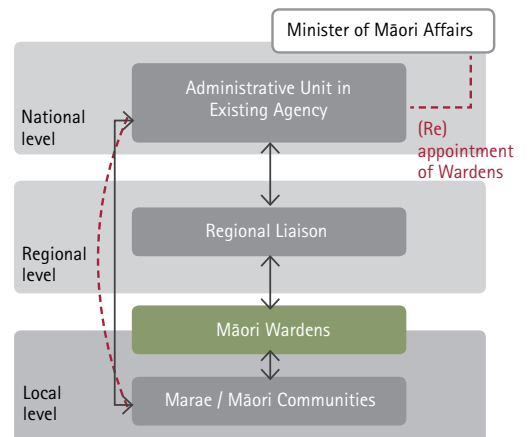
### Option B – New independent body responsible for Māori Wardens

- 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

## Community Officers

Community Officers are contained in the Act but have not existed since 1993. The Inquiry concluded that there is no longer any need for Community Officers – while there is an ongoing need for the role originally given to Community Officers, it is currently being filled or supported by a wide range of iwi, Māori urban authorities and community based groups. The Government also has a range of initiatives to promote Māori community development including Whānau Ora and Kaitoko Whānau.