



# LESSON TWO WEB CONTENT: Co-governance and our relationship with Māori

## *Akoranga tuarua: Whakahaere takinga-ā-rua me te hononga ki a ngāi Māori*

In this section you'll find out how Māori are represented at Auckland Council, see examples of co-governance in action, learn about Houkura (the Independent Māori Statutory Board), the Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum and explore the idea of Māori wards.

## How we honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi

### Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

After signing the Treaty of Waitangi, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Crown (the British government) did not always do what they had said that they would.

Land that Māori had believed would still be theirs after signing was mostly either confiscated in the New Zealand Wars or purchased for an unfair price.

Without the land they depended on, Māori had lost their ability to feed their whanau. Losing the land also meant that Māori had fewer opportunities to earn an income.

Over the years, Māori protested their loss of land and the breaking of promises set out in te Tiriti.

The Māori Land Hikoi in 1975 was a significant step forward for Māori and the obligations of the treaty becoming recognised.

Dame Whina Cooper led a group of protesters on a hikoi (march) from the far north of the country to Wellington. She famously called for 'not one acre more' of Māori land to be taken.

This protesting led to the government passing the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 and setting up the Waitangi Tribunal.



## Tūpuna Maunga Authority

The Tūpuna Maunga agreement is a treaty-based approach and an example of co-governance between local government (Auckland Council) and their Treaty partners, Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (also known as the Tāmaki collective).

Find out more on the [Tūpuna Maunga website](#).

## The Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014

This act made a law that:

- transferred ownership of 14 maunga from the Crown to the iwi/hapū of Tāmaki Makaurau
- created the Tūpuna Maunga Authority to oversee all decisions relating to their maunga
- Auckland Council is responsible for looking after the maunga and is directed by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority.

This was a very important settlement because *maunga* are particularly significant sites for Māori.

The health and wellbeing of the maunga are the most important consideration in each decision made by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority.

## Spiritual sites of significance

Read the [OurAuckland](#) article ‘Protecting our maunga’ and watch the video, linked below, from the Tūpuna Maunga Authority, to find out more about why maunga are so important to Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the Māori tribes of Auckland).

## [Protecting our maunga](#)

### Our maunga on the map

Have a look at the map of Tāmaki Makaurau's 14 maunga that are co-governed by us and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority.

Māngere Mountain and Maungakiekie / One Tree Hill are still owned by the Crown but are administered through the Tūpuna Maunga Authority.

See how many you recognise, and which one is closest to you.



# Māori representation in Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

Māori participation in decision-making occurs in a number of ways. Houkura may appoint to some of the committees of the Governing Body. Auckland Council takes part in co-governance bodies such as the Maunga Authority. The Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum is a body comprising representatives of the 19 iwi and hapū in Tāmaki Makaurau. Auckland Council is considering establishing a Māori ward for the 2025 local government elections.

## Houkura (The Independent Māori Statutory Board)

Houkura is independent to Auckland Council.

Their role is to make sure that the Auckland Council meets all legislative requirements with regards to the Treaty, as well as to promote important issues for Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland.

### The Māori Plan for Tāmaki Makaurau

[Watch this video](#) about the Māori Plan for Tāmaki Makaurau to build your understanding of Houkura and their mahi.

## Committees of the Governing Body

At Auckland Council there are several committees of the Governing Body (mayor and councillors).

These committees make sure that the right amount of attention can be paid to each important area of decision making.

[See a full list of committees and what they do.](#)

## Shared decision-making

Houkura appoints up to two members to specified committees to sit alongside members of the Governing Body. This means that they are involved in decision-making and have voting rights on the issues covered by these committees.

The only decision-making body that Houkura do not appoint members to is the Governing Body itself.

Members of the Governing Body, including the mayor, are elected through local elections every three years.

## The Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum

### Looking after the land

Mana whenua means a group who have ancestral ties to the land and rights over the land. This is an important role, as mana whenua have been looking after the land for hundreds of years.

The Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum is where 19 hapū-iwi governance representatives meet to consider matters of regional significance collectively. We work with the Mana Whenua Forum when seeking mana whenua views on issues or opportunities.

### Did you know?

The customary Māori name for Auckland is Tāmaki Makaurau.

Meaning ‘Tāmaki, loved by hundreds’, Tāmaki Makaurau refers to the strategic importance of the location with easy accessways (via portages) between harbours to east and west coasts. The fertile volcanic soils and favourable climate allowed for crops to flourish, and the waterways teemed with fish and shellfish to support growing populations.

### Different roles to play

You might be wondering how Houkura and the Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum are different, so let’s look at that now.

It is important to understand the different roles that these two organisations play, because each is important for Māori representation in Tāmaki Makaurau

#### Houkura (IMSB)

- Statutory entity.
- Has some voting power.
- Members are appointed.
- Promotes the interests of mana whenua and mataawaka.
- Makes sure we are upholding treaty obligations.

#### Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum

- Non-statutory entity.
- Has no voting power.
- Membership is appointed by iwi.
- Promotes iwi interests in Tāmaki Makaurau.

#### You may find this interesting

Hold on - what is the difference between mana whenua and mataawaka?

Mana whenua are Māori with ancestral connection to and customary rights over areas within Tāmaki Makaurau

Mataawaka are Māori living in Tāmaki Makaurau with ancestral ties outside of the region.

### About Māori wards

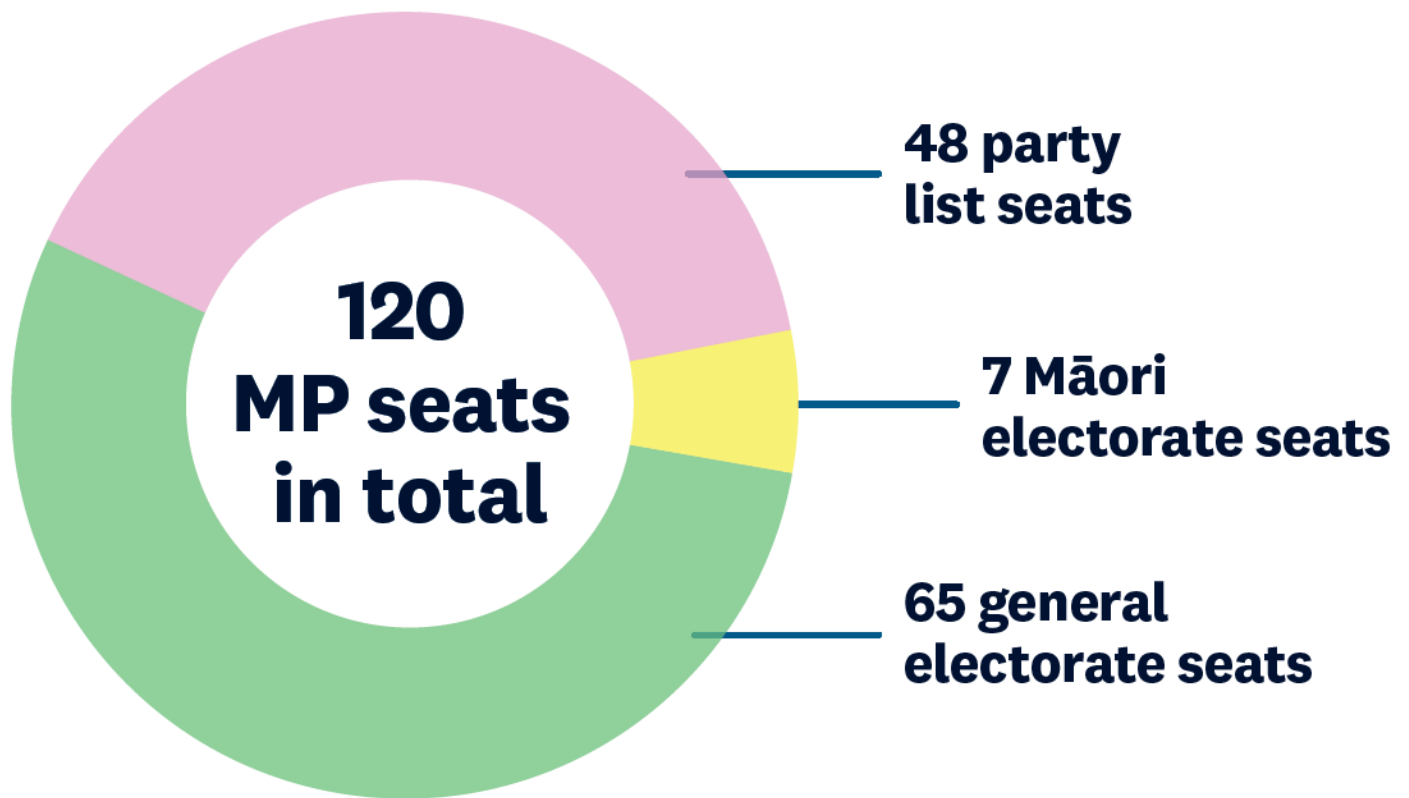
In Parliament, there are seven seats that are reserved for Māori Members of Parliament (MPs). The Māori MPs are elected by people that are on the Māori electoral roll.

This means that if you are of Māori descent, you can choose to be on either the general electoral roll, or on the Māori electoral roll.

There are seven Māori electorates (regions where a person can stand for election) in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Each electorate equals one seat in Parliament.

See how the 120 MP seats are divided.



Since 2002, local governments in Aotearoa, New Zealand have also had the opportunity to introduce something similar at the local level.

In 2024 the central government passed a law that allows councils to adopt Māori wards if a binding poll is decided in the affirmative.

#### How Māori wards would work

Māori wards in local government would work the same as they do for Parliament. There would be a certain number of seats that are reserved for Māori electorates that only those who are on the Māori electoral roll can vote for.



# Glossary

- **Hapū:** A **hapū** is a subtribe, or a group of Māori smaller than an iwi that share common ancestors and connections to land.
- **Iwi:** An **iwi** is a tribe of Māori who share common ancestors and common connections to land.
- **Kāinga:** **Kāinga** describes someone’s home, village or settlement.
- **Mana whenua:** **Mana whenua** are Hapū and iwi with ancestral relationships to certain areas in Tāmaki Makaurau where they exercise customary authority.
- **Mataawaka:** **Mataawaka** are Māori who live in Auckland and are not in a manawhenua group.
- **Maunga:** **Maunga** means mountain, mount or peak. Also refers to volcanic cones.
- **Mayor:** The **Mayor** develops Auckland Council’s goals, leads the Governing Body and ensures Council properly engages with Aucklanders.
- **Member of Parliament (MP):** A **Member of Parliament (MP)** is a person elected to the House of Representatives who has been elected or appointed from a list.
- **Parliament:** **Parliament** is made of two parts, the Queen and the House of Representatives. The Queen is represented by the Governor-General. The House of Representatives makes the laws in New Zealand.
- **Subdivision:** Auckland is divided into 21 local boards. Some of these local boards are divided into subdivisions for electing board members.
- **Tūpuna:** **Tūpuna** means ancestor or elder.
- **Waitangi Tribunal:** The **Waitangi Tribunal** is a body that investigates and reports on historic claims about the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It makes recommendations to the courts or to government.
- **Ward:** Auckland is divided into 13 wards for electing 20 councillors.