



26 October 2018

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Tēnā korua

### Local Government - Māori representation

Northland Regional Council's Māori engagement working party, TTMAC (Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party), has requested the Northland Regional Council to consider hosting a national symposium on Māori Representation in Local Government.

Northland Regional Council has considered the request in a workshop and decided that if such a symposium were to be held, it would be more appropriate for it to be hosted by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).

The purpose of this letter is to request that LGNZ consider hosting such a symposium.

The Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party consists of up to 26 members from iwi and hapū of Taitokerau, four councillors (including the council Chair), and is co-chaired by Māori and council.

Like other regions, Northland has grappled with Māori representation and the Local Electoral Act 2002 (LEA). The recent reviews of Māori representation in Northland have resulted in all councils either resolving not to establish Māori constituencies, or in one case a poll was held which did not support Māori constituencies.

These results prompted the iwi and hapū members of TTMAC to request council host a national symposium on Māori representation. As a council, we see this as a role that LGNZ is best placed to lead as a national debate. This would also sit well with LGNZ given the open letter LGNZ sent to the leaders of Government earlier this year on this matter.

We look forward to your response.

Nāku noa,  
nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Shepherd'.

Bill Shepherd  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Nicolson'.

Malcolm Nicolson  
Chief Executive Officer

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