



Te Rūnanga o Ngā Toa Āwhina o Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi submission

to the

Māori Affairs Select Committee

on the

Electoral (Entrenchment of Māori Seats) Amendment Bill

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Contact details

Primary contact:

Daniel Haines

PSA rūnanga delegate

E: daniel.haines@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

T: + 64 21 567 696

Contact for administration purposes:

Kirsten Windelov

Senior Advisor Policy and Strategy

PSA

E: Kirsten.windelov@psa.org.nz

T: 04 816 5065

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[the lack of entrenchment is] perhaps the most discriminatory measure of all in the application of the law to Māori representation.¹

Ranginui Walker

It was essential to have a full understanding of the history of Māori representation...unless decisions concerning Māori representation are made in the context of our history ... past misunderstandings are likely to continue.²

Justice Wallace

Māori should have 'equal rights, with all the privileges and rights of, Englishmen.'

Donald McLean (introduced the Māori seats).³

¹ Ranginui Walker, *The Māori People: Their Political Development*, in Hyam Gold (ed.), *New Zealand Politics in Perspective*, 1992, Longman Paul Ltd, Auckland, p. 383.

² Hon. Justice Wallace, 'A History of Māori Representation in Parliament', in Report of the Royal Commission on the Electoral System: Towards a Better Democracy, The Royal Commission on the Electoral System 19

³ New Zealand Parliamentary Debates, 1867, Vol. 1, p. 457-458.

Summary

1. Te Rūnanga o Ngā Toa Āwhina supports the intent of the Electoral (Entrenchment of Māori Seats) Amendment Bill.
2. The Māori seats have intrinsic value beyond their mechanism to elect Māori Members of Parliament (MPs) into government. The Māori electoral roll guarantees representation of the diverse interests of Māori.
3. The MPs elected on the Māori roll are directly accountable to Māori voters. Unlike Māori elected in general seats, MPs elected in Māori seats have a greater electoral incentive to promote kaupapa Māori.
4. Currently, the general seats are entrenched whereas the Māori seats are not. An implicit threat hangs over the Māori seats as it is easier to remove them than the general seats. This Bill, which proposes to entrench the Māori seats, will grant equal rights to both the general and Māori seats.
5. The Māori seats are considered an important symbol of the Treaty partnership between Māori and Pākehā. As the Treaty has a unique role in the constitutional framework of New Zealand, the seats should be protected and entrenched.
6. Māori use subjective and objective evidence to support their claim that there is a need for the Māori seats to be entrenched. Objectively, Māori continue to lag-behind their Pākehā Treaty partners in health, education, housing, and work. Subjectively, Māori continue to suffer from the historical and ongoing effects of colonisation. The emotional and spiritual hurt has irreconcilably changed the Māori way of life.
7. Individually, any of the points raised above would be sufficient to entrench the Māori seats, but taken together the evidence is overwhelming. The proposed Electoral (Entrenchment of Māori Seats) Amendment Bill is urgent and necessary, and we encourage this government to introduce it.
8. We want to speak before the committee in support of our submission.

What do we recommend?

9. That the Māori Affairs Select Committee (committee) support the entrenchment of Māori seats as proposed by the Electoral (Entrenchment of Māori Seats) Amendment Bill (the Bill).

10. That the committee insert a new section into the Bill to describe the history of the Māori seats.
11. That the committee oppose the use of any referendum of the general electoral population to determine the future of the Māori seats.
12. That the committee inserts a new section into the Bill to allow the Māori electoral population to vote in a referendum on the future of Māori seats before Government can consider removing the Māori seats.

Note: In principle, a majority population should not make decisions over minority populations. Also, as the indigenous population in New Zealand, Māori have constitutional and Treaty rights in New Zealand.

Note: In principle, Māori should decide the future of the Māori seats.

Who is the Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi?

13. Over 70,000 people are members of Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi, the Public Service Association (PSA). Just under 12,000 PSA members are Māori, working in the Public Service, the wider State services, District Health Boards, Local Government and contracted Community Public Services in all parts of Aotearoa. Founded in 1913, the PSA is the largest trade union in New Zealand and is an affiliate of Te Kauae Kaimahi The New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.
14. This submission has been prepared by the komiti of [Te Rūnanga o Ngā Toa Āwhina](#), the body that represents and coordinates Māori members within the structures of the PSA as part of advancing the Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles of partnership, protection and participation in activities to achieve the purpose and objects of the union as they relate to the working lives of PSA members.
15. In preparing this submission, we sought the views of members of Te Rūnanga o Ngā Toa Āwhina. The comments of members have shaped this submission, and a summary has been included as **Appendix A**.

Introduction

16. Today, the Māori seats provide a critical function in the electoral landscape of New Zealand. The seats guarantee Māori representation in Parliament and support the Government to meet the obligations flowing from the Treaty of Waitangi/Tiriti o Waitangi.
17. Māori have, through political discrimination, been marginalised from equal representation in the New Zealand electoral system. The Māori Representation Act 1867 established the franchise in New Zealand, but in reality, few Māori were able to vote – since land ownership was a prerequisite of voting and most of Māori land was held communally (rather than held by individuals) and held in customary title (unregistered). Later, the Native Land Act 1862 and 1865 abolished the Crown monopoly on the purchase of Māori land (as established under Article 2 of Tiriti o Waitangi) and enabled the Crown to issue certificates of title to individual Māori for blocks of land. It was common for up to ten Māori names to be recorded on the certificate for a Māori land block. The Crown, however, would allow one of the owners to sell the communal land without the consent of the other nine owners.
18. Between 1870-1900 Māori were exposed to:

A predatory horde of storekeepers, grog-sellers, surveyors, lawyers, land agents and money-lenders [who] made advances to rival groups of Māori claimants to land, pressed the claim of their faction in the Courts and recouped the costs in land. Rightful Māori owners could not avoid litigation and expensive surveys if false claims were put forward.⁴
19. If Māori wanted to participate in the political system they were required to obtain the franchise, and to do this, Māori were required to individualise their land – forcing Māori to choose between political participation and their customary land ownership.
20. While the Māori Representation Act established the four Māori seats, the number of seats was not reviewed until 1975. In the preceding years, a burgeoning Māori population was not proportionally represented in Parliament. A list of disparities between the rights enjoyed by Māori and Pākehā is listed **Appendix B**. Taken together, the discrimination has driven a wedge between Māori and the political system.

⁴ Ranginui Walker, *The Māori People: Their Political Development*, in Hyam Gold (ed.), *New Zealand Politics in Perspective*, 1992, Longman Paul Ltd, Auckland, p. 381.

21. To aggravate this injustice, in 1993, when electoral reform created MMP, the Māori seats were not entrenched alongside the general seats. The inequity has continued to disenfranchise and disempower Māori in comparison to their Pākehā Treaty partners.

Why the Māori seats are still relevant in an MMP electoral system

22. People enrolled on the Māori roll pay a higher cost for voting. There is a limited number of Māori staff, speakers of te reo Māori, and returning officers to help Māori voters. Historically, Māori voters have been required to travel long distances to get to voting booths or wait in long lines to cast special votes. Although minor, these cumulative effects have increased the barriers for Māori voters.

23. Some political theorists argue that the demographics of our MPs should reflect the communities they serve. The theorists argue, if the gap between our MPs and the communities they represent is closed, the MPs can better use empathy to connect to local issues. Commentators who criticise the Māori seats use this logic to say: under MMP, the number of Māori MPs exceed the proportion of the Māori population, and therefore, the Māori seats are no longer necessary.

24. This argument relies on the logic of proportional representation. Of course, proportionality cannot be guaranteed if the Māori seats are abolished. As the Māori seats have fewer protections than the general seats, there is a risk that the Māori seats could be abolished in the future.

25. Proportionality, however, is only one measure of equal and effective representation. People who support the removal of the Māori seats (after achieving proportional representation in Parliament) believe it is possible for Māori MPs to fairly and accurately represent the interests of the entire Māori population. The assumption erases the rich diversity contained within the Māori population, and treats a heterogeneous collection of aspirations and interests as something that is mono-dimensional.

26. Entrenching the Māori seats will ensure that Māori MPs can represent the diverse interests of the Māori community.

Why it important to have Māori MPs accountable to a Māori constituency

27. Electoral accountability is important to ensure Māori representatives continue to champion kaupapa Māori and raise Māori interests. Often, minorities are expected to talk as an authority on their culture. Just as a woman cannot automatically represent all the interests of women, without a mechanism to ensure accountability, a Māori MP cannot automatically represent all Māori. It is

harmful to conceptualise Māori as a homogenous group. To observe Māori through only a racial lens ignores other social divisions and sub-divisions within the Māori community.

28. Entrenching the Māori seats will protect and retain a mechanism to ensure Māori elect MPs on the Māori roll. It is as important *how* MPs are elected as *who* is elected. This Bill will protect the mechanism for electing Māori MPs.

Why separate representation for Māori is not reverse discrimination

29. Some commentators have said the Māori seats are a form of reverse discrimination. We make two points in response to this assertion: first, as an indigenous group Māori have a special place in the constitutional framework of New Zealand, which is separate from other minority groups; and second, treating Māori equally to Pākehā is an erasure of the historical and ongoing effects of colonisation in New Zealand.

30. Entrenching the Māori seats will not create a slippery slope where other minority groups may seek separate political representation. In 1840, when the Treaty of Waitangi/Tiriti o Waitangi was signed 200,000 Māori and 2,000 Pākehā lived in New Zealand. At the time Māori did not believe they were ceding their sovereignty to the Crown. Māori believe the Treaty protected their right to self-determination. Since 1840, however, Māori have become a minority group in New Zealand because of warfare, disease, and other nefarious means. These historical circumstances cannot be forgotten, to do so is to absolve Pākehā of their actions. In other words, to draw a line under the sand and ignore historical grievances, is to become complicit in the past deeds. If we believe it is irrelevant *how* we arrived at the status quo, then we reward those who benefit from the current existing power relations.

31. It is not discrimination to implement affirmative action to ensure Māori are at the same starting line as their Treaty partners. The government has made a deliberate attempt to assimilate and alienate Māori from the political system. Since 1840, the government has effectively used the tools of the State to assimilate Māori (think: Native Land Act 1873, land confiscation, Tohunga Suppression Act 1907, pepper-potting, caning children for speaking Māori in school). This *mamae* [hurt] has happened within living memory, and to soften the hurt, this government needs to entrench the mechanism to elect Māori representatives.

32. Entrenching the Māori seats extends the same protections to the Māori seats as the general seats. Also, the decision to entrench is not a zero-sum decision, extending the same protections to the Māori seats does not take away the protections already possessed by the general seats.

For Māori, the Māori seats are symbolic of the Treaty of Waitangi/Tiriti o Waitangi

33. Many Māori consider the Māori seats an important symbol of the Treaty partnership between Māori and Pākehā. The seats are a mechanism for Māori to exercise their tino rangatiratanga protected by the Treaty of Waitangi/Tiriti o Waitangi. Furthermore, the annual commemoration of the Treaty of Waitangi/Tiriti o Waitangi at Waitangi is a further symbol of the commitments made by the Crown to Māori. Especially as an MMP electoral system has delivered a high number of Māori MPs, the seats exist less because of need, and more because of their symbolic importance.
34. The seats should be entrenched because they are an important symbol of the Treaty of Waitangi/Tiriti o Waitangi.

There is a moral obligation to support entrenching the Māori seats

35. There is a moral obligation to entrench the Māori seats – even if the number of elected Māori MPs is proportional to size of the Māori population. As a marginalised group, Māori continue to suffer from contemporary inequalities and disparities. Māori continue to lag behind their Pākehā colleagues in health, education, work, and housing.
36. The historical domination of Māori by Pākehā has created barriers and prejudices that make it difficult for Māori to effectively participate in the political process. To remedy this, different treatment for Māori, by way of entrenching the Māori seats, is appropriate.
37. Pākehā culture is the dominant hegemony in New Zealand. As a minority group, Māori suffer various kinds of disadvantages. Māori are cloaked in the korowai of their culture, and Māori view and interpret the world through a Māori lens. Mātauranga Māori provides the infrastructure for individual Māori to make intelligent choices. Māori pay a higher cost to navigate both the Māori and Pākehā worlds. It is, therefore, justified that Māori receive differential treatment to accommodate their different needs.

Why it is fair that Māori have the option to access separate political representation

38. New Zealand should support the entrenchment of the Māori seats because of *objective* and *subjective* claims on behalf of Māori.
39. First, there is *objective* evidence that Māori have suffered from state-sanctioned oppression. The effects of which, continue to alienate Māori and prohibit their full participation in society. Some of this evidence has already been discussed in this submission. The, for example, continued underachievement of Māori in education, or the overrepresentation of Māori in the justice system.

40. Second, there is *subjective* evidence that colonisation – both contemporary and ongoing – has caused Māori to experience shared emotional trauma. For example, negative stereotypes have caused self-fulfilling prophecies, the deconstruction of traditional Māori life (think: a communal society organised around the epicentre of the marae) has undermined social relationships, uncontrolled urbanisation has caused many Māori to lose their tūrangawaewae, the spiritual guidance provided by tohunga has been suppressed, Māori ways of governing their lives and the environment has been eclipsed by individual property rights, and Māori mana and self-worth has been lost. The culmination of all these factors has caused many Māori to be without hope, dispossessed, and without the tools necessary to effectively navigate the world today.
41. Contemporary Māori claims of tino rangatiratanga show a collective self-awareness of past discrimination.
42. If Māori suffer the ongoing effects of colonisation, and lag-behind their Pākehā Treaty partners, it is justifiable to entrench the Māori seats to guarantee Māori representation.

Appendix A: comments on the Bill from individual members of the PSA

PSA member responses to a survey about the Bill.

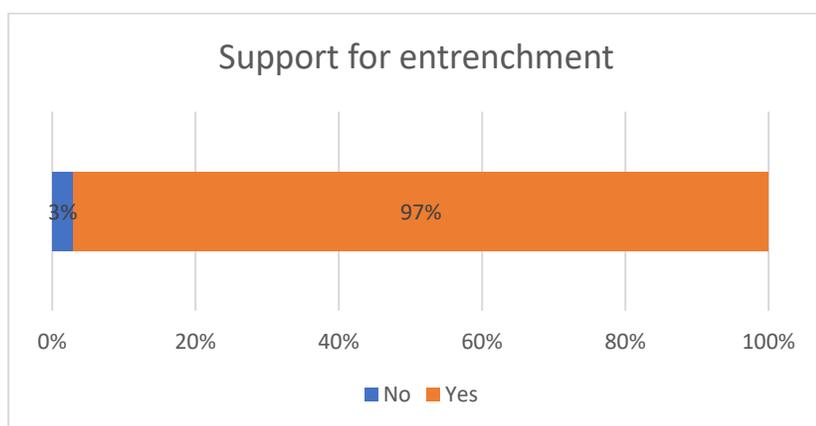
Methodology

In November 2018, all Public Service Association (PSA) members who identify as Māori responded to a PSA submission on the Electoral (Entrenchment of Māori seats) Act Amendment Bill. Of the respondents, 919 members responded to the survey representing 13 per cent of the total Māori membership of the PSA.

Of the 919 members who responded to the PSA submission on the Bill, 386 provided a personal comment. The comments from members have been reproduced verbatim in **Table 2** below.

Summary of responses

Of the respondents, 97 per cent supported the entrenchment of the Māori seats.



Although 28 members voted against the entrenchment of Māori seats, 26 of those members provided comments that did support the entrenchment of the Māori seats.

Summary of the issues raised by PSA members

Table 1: a summary of the issues raised by PSA members on the Bill.

The issues raised by the PSA member	The number of times the issues were raised
Equity and fairness	99
Voice and representation	80
Tiriti o Waitangi or its principles	73
Discrimination or colonisation	52
The general and Māori seats should be treated the same	38
Statement of general support	37
The Māori seats enable cultural practices	18
The Māori seats enable te Ao Māori	13
The lack of entrenchment was racist	12
Tino Rangatiratanga	11

The disparity between the seats contribute to poor outcomes for Māori	10
Democracy	5
Accountability	4

Note: some comments by members raised more than one issue, so the number of issues raised do not equal the total number of submitters.

Pie graph 1: The summary data is represented in a pie graph.

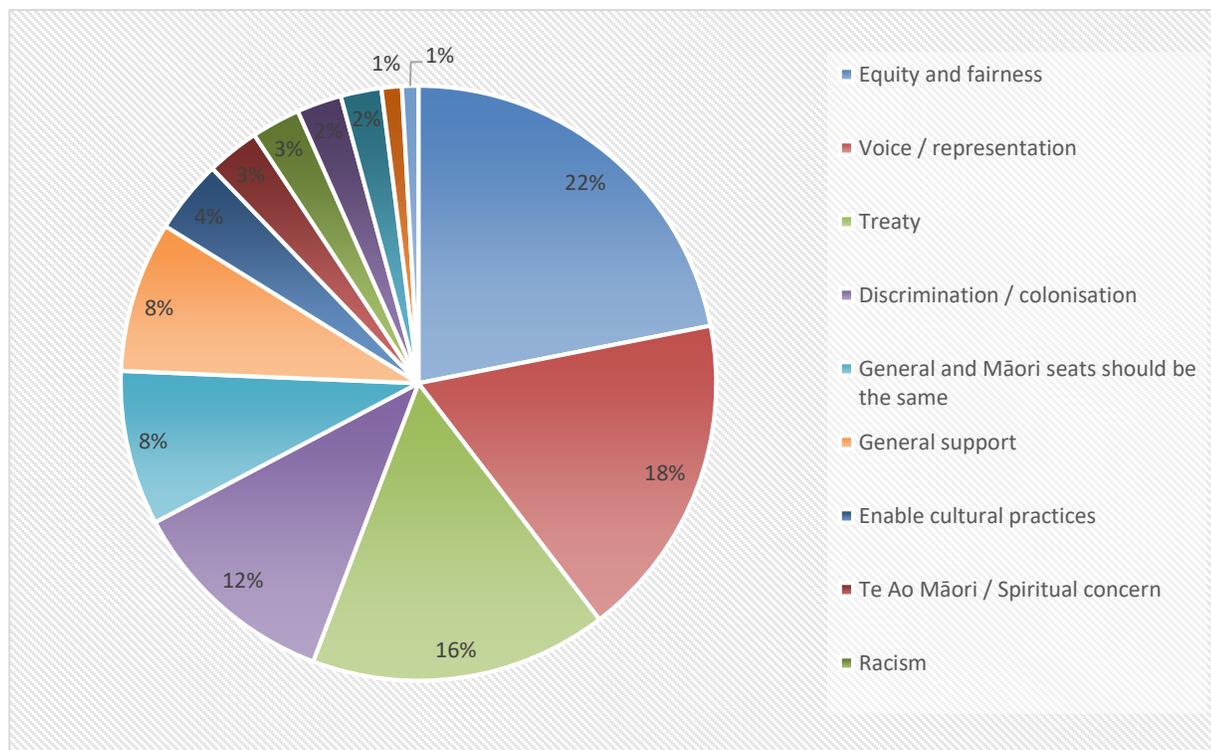


Diagram 1: the text of the PSA members is represented in the word cloud below. High-frequency words are shown in a larger font.



Table 2: comments from members in support of the Bill

#	Comments from members in support of the Bill
1	2018 and still trying to get an even playing field. One rightly perceives this as political marginalisation at its core is democracy.
2	Equality under the law - meaning the same rational should be applied to all seats 75% vote to remove both the general seats and the Māori seats
3	Currently, a 75 per cent vote is needed to remove the general seats, but 50 per cent vote is needed to remove the Māori seats.' This statement says it all! The Māori seats were created to address inequities for Māori, and here we have yet another example of suppression of Māori.
4	For the most, Māori does have the culture of looking after our land ocean and especially te tangata. We need in an ever-changing society to protect all that is NZ. We need the voice of our whakapapa to enhance our generations to come, to further protect and advance our values as we integrate our future society with our multi-cultures. Our voice NEEDS to be HEARD and RECOGNISED with everyday issues. OUR MĀORI voice heralds many caring voices. Māori have been and are still striving up the ladders after being oppressed in all areas of society for far too long. Let us grow equally. NZ can hold the answer to how we all live happily together only by recognising Māori as equal. Hence 75% vote to remove Māori seats is the only way to go!
5	It's important that Māori are sitting at these hui. The Treaty provides the right for all members being elected by Māori to represent their Iwi and community at the Government level. We must have the right to have a say and ensure that we get heard. We must also get the same rights and protection as non-Māori.
6	The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori.
7	Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of Aotearoa. The Treaty expectation is of Biculturalism, partnership, lifespan <u>etc.</u> Please increase the Māori seats to 75% for increased equity.
8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discriminatory measures need to <u>be outlawed and</u> that should start at Government level – 2. Equal co-existence should be present with same percentage vote for Māori and Pākehā – 3. The Treaty principles relating to protection, partnership, participation need to <u>be upheld</u> for Māori representation and Māori voice in government – 4. What is creating the 'lag' for Māori? – 5. Māori representation needs to be at an equal level with Pākehā counter-parts <u>in order for</u> effective change for Māori to eventuate – 6. Equality over governance should prevail
9	2018 and oppression still exists.
10	'a 75% vote is needed to remove the general seats; but a 50% vote is needed to remove the Māori seats' - That says it all, why would the seats not have the same protection...
11	A little aroha
12	A Māori voice in parliament is important. As the indigenous ethnicity dominant before the arrival of other races they hold a view and story of Aotearoa particular to this country. <u>This</u> is evident at international ceremonies and is the point of difference to the global audience. It is tokenistic to trot the brownie out when the Queen comes, however, think the issues and views of this particular ethnic group <u>is</u> of no importance to the country. -
13	A wonderful kaupapa and it should be fought with vigour as Māori are always on the back foot. - Surely the rule for the general seats (Pākehā) must surely be applied for the Māori seats (Māori). - It's amazing how people need to <u>be reminded</u> of the Treaty.

14	about time
15	<u>Absolutely</u> protect the Māori voice in government!
16	AE TAUTOKO! TU MAI NGA TANGATA WHENUA ME TE IWI MĀORI, - KIA U KI TO TATOU MANA MOTUHAKE ME NGA TINO RANGATIRATANGA. - KIA U KIA MAU, KIA MATAARA.
17	Ae! Tautoko tenei kaupapa. Karawhiua!!
18	Ae, tautoko the entrancement of Māori seats, to provide Whanau, Hapū & Iwi to be represented accordingly not only by the <u>2</u> major Tauwiwi Parties who may have Māori representatives <u>however, they are</u> dictated to by the Party Line.
19	Agree <u>that that the</u> seats are a Treaty right and should <u>be protected</u> . It's also a mechanism where Māori representation in parliament is an accurate reflection of <u>who</u> Māori want to represent them.
20	agree with all of the above! Māori should have just as much right if not more to be protected!
21	All bullet points above are important. Māori are diverse, in NZ we recognise ourselves as Māori, it would be so discriminatory to start recognising ourselves as a percentage of our ethnic iwi lineage which would be possible without guaranteed representation of Māori seats in Parliament. More Māori are standing for seats in Parliament however this is not a guarantee for protection of Māori issues and representation.
22	All New Zealanders are not in the same boat and Māori are over represented in prisons, welfare and unemployment; tamariki in care. People in these seats advocate for the rights and interests of Māori. - Māori seats provide a guaranteed voice for Māori; representation; equity and are a symbol of the Treaty and indigeneity. -
23	All of the above submission I totally agree with Māori are significantly underrepresented in many areas why should we even be fighting for a right that should be equally ours.
24	All of the above.
25	An equitable process for both general and Māori seat must be the minimum expectation.
26	An important and long overdue change.
27	As a Māori and one who is registered on the Māori Electoral roll I believe it is only right that our seats (representation) have the same protection as the General seats. If this Bill is not supported by government it would be sending a clear message that the democratic rights of our indigenous peoples are of less value and this is absurd in this day and age.
28	As a Māori I believe that it is essential that the Māori seats are given the best protection possible and not swamped by 'well meaning' Europeans lumping us with Polynesians who were not native to Aotearoa New Zealand. I am also of European descent.
29	As a Māori I have high expectations that Māori MPs will support this change and thank the PSA for supporting this. - We are a long way off despite progress over the years from delivering on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and we only need to consider the overrepresentation of Māori in every negative statistic in Aotearoa to recognise that reducing inequalities let alone removing them and improving disparities simply is not occurring at a decent pace.
30	As a Māori I think we deserve the same rights as general Pākeha population (Seats).
31	As a New Zealander Māori the I support equity and the change for the threshold to change the number of Māori seats being set the same as that required for a change to the general seats.
32	As a public service provider implementing Māori framework practices and delivering service around Māori values and principles it is imperative that Māori seats are provided for the opportunities that lie ahead within the PSA sector.

33	As a Treaty partner, the same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats.
34	as per the reasons states above
35	As tangata whenua and a statutory social worker I see on a daily basis racial discrimination and cultural misunderstandings. We need these Māori seats so that the perspective and mana of Māori is upheld. Māori seats should be given the same opportunity as their counter party and therefore I support the entrenchment of Māori seats.
36	As tangata whenua it should be a given right to be represented in the leading capacity of Aotearoa. Māori representatives are able to provide a holistic perspective of Aotearoa that is unique to Māori cultural heritage. Māori provide insight into Te Ao Hurihuri which incorporates but is not limited to taha wairua, mana whenua and mana atua perceptions. This is something of distinct value to Aotearoa and the people that are privileged to live here.
37	As tangata whenua Māori definitely should have a voice in the way it's colonial partner runs the country.
38	As tangata whenua Māori have the right to have representation.
39	As tangata whenua of Aotearoa please remember you have a Treaty partner.
40	As tangata whenua we should have a seat and I did not realise the 50% vote could remove this.
41	As tangata whenua it is our right to have a say in the running of the country and not something the colonials (Pākehā) have given to keep the natives quiet.
42	As the indigenous culture of NZ it is important that we embrace all that Māori have to share with us, to do this Māori must have a voice at the highest levels. - It is not enough to just take the best parts of a culture and ignore the day to day needs of Māori.
43	As Te Tiriti o Waitangi is a founding document this is in line with the intention of our agreement
44	As Treaty partner and under the ToW I think that the Māori seats should be at 75% just like the general seats.
45	at present Māori representation is not reflecting the need
46	Because Māori should have equality within a system that had taken a lot away from them including land and language, culture and identity. A person who knows and understand their past will know their future and be content with their life and pass on to the next generation.
47	By entrenching the Māori representation ensures ongoing representation of Māori, outside of the whims of voters (who may or may not vote for Māori) at a party level. - Ongoing support to Māori representation and seats in the house of parliament obligates the crown to protect and facilitate Māori representation. - Equity and equality are important. It is clear by the number of negative statistics about Māori that we are neither equitable or equal to others. Ensuring an ongoing voice for Māori at the highest political level will contribute to highlighting the discrepancies and failings of the existing system. - I also support entrenchment of Māori seats and providing the same level of requirement to remove them as other seats. If the threshold to change other seats is at 75% to ratify a change, then the same level of mandate should be afforded Māori seats.
48	clear disparity to rid Māori seats. There needs to be consistency across parliament. You can't have it one way with Māori seats and one way for the other. This discrepancy is blatantly bias and unfair and shows how much the Crown values Māori.
49	Clear racism here
50	Consistency in rules if 75% is required for general seats same should apply to Māori seats.
51	consistency with other seats

52	Currently, a 75 per cent vote is needed to remove the general seats, but 50 per cent vote is needed to remove the Māori seats. - It's unbelievable that in 2018 we still have inequality issues. Entrench!
53	Currently, a 75 per cent vote is needed to remove the general seats, but 50 per cent vote is needed to remove the Māori seats. This should be the same.
54	Drugs, alcohol, too much easy benefit hand-outs to people who don't want to get off the back sides and work is our key destroyer of too many Māori. - I hope extra seats will help change this. - Kia Kaha
55	E tautoko ana ahau mō; tēnei kaupapa.
56	E tautoko ana te tū; a te PSA, me whai i te taura o Te Tiriti o Waitangi me ō; rite te pai heneti kia whakakore ngā; tū, ranga Māori.
57	E tino tautoko ana ahau i tēnei kaupapa! Nī; te Māori tēnei whenua, The same protection should definitely exist for Māori as well!! Māori deserve to have a voice in parliament and equal rights as every other person!
58	Ensure Māori representation
59	Ensure that the Māori seats are entrenched - kia kaha ngā mema o tenei roopu - let's all make a difference by standing up and be counted.
60	Entrenching Māori seats will ensure Māori have a say in both who represents their views and how those representatives are chosen. Successive governments have deliberately attempted to alienate and assimilate Māori from the political system. Since Te Tiriti o Waitangi was signed successive governments have utilised the tools of State to assimilate Māori e.g. Native Land Act 1873 - land confiscation, Tohunga Suppression Act 1907, pepper potting - housing and caring children for speaking Te Reo - education. To soften this mamae for Māori some who can still feel the mamae from these actual events this government needs to entrench a process which elects Māori MP's.
61	Equal opportunity, is that what NZ - Aotearoa promotes. Please allow the same rule for Māori Seats as is required for general.
62	Equal partnership should mean equal rules of removal.
63	Equality for all.
64	Equality is the basis for all things good in the world. Please be consistent and fair in all aspects of voting
65	Equity and entrenchment is the only way to eliminate discrimination and provide fairer governance. Ko whai whai tonu matou, ake ake ake!
66	Equity and meet Treaty obligation do not do anything that creates more barriers and increases the inequities
67	Equity must be observed through change
68	Equity should be utilised
69	Equity should prevail considering general require 75% so should Māori!
70	Every seat should be treated evenly/the same. Further differences between Māori & Pākehā only furthers the idea of being unequal or lesser.
71	Fair is fair
72	Fair is fair 75% to remove general seats and 75% to remove Māori seats. - Honour the treaty and stop making us second rate citizens especially in today's world!
73	Fairness, aint we all the same, separatism at its best.
74	I support equality of rights in consideration to seats in parliament therefore i support either having the same 75% vote needed for removing Māori seats or lowering the General seats down to 50%.
75	For all MP's elected into Parliament, Participation, Partnership, and Protection should be adhered to and equal for all who are representing us in Governance as stated in the Treaty.
76	For all the reasons listed.

77	For the general seats to enjoy a greater level of protection than the Māori seats reinforces that Māori seats are less important and less valued. This in turn perpetuates the stigma that Māori are less important and less valued. In order to be compliant with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, either Māori seats need to be entrenched or the Electoral Act 1993 needs to be amended so that general seats can be disestablished with a simple majority. To do anything else goes against provisions 3 and 19 in parts 1 and 2 respectively in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, provision 20I in part 1A of the Human Rights Act 1993, and the spirit of the New Zealand Constitution.
78	For the same sentiments voiced by Ranginui Walker
79	For too long Māori has suffered under the protection of every government this country has ever had. It's like 1+1=2, well Pākeha and Māori don't = Pākeha only. And we talk about partnership in this lovely country of ours. WAKE UP.
80	Fully support this endeavour
81	Fully support this proposal
82	Government needs to be reminded about the Tiriti, that it is the Māori version that has precedence over all else. Māori must continue to make their stand. Time has come to reclaim what is rightfully Māori's'. It is time Māori made a stand to protect what little they still have. Māori have been humble for too long and allowed everyone to walk all over them. It is time to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and regain the mana that Māori so deserve.
83	Government needs to get it right! Inequity and inequality exists because a system was implemented many years ago to benefit those with privilege - Pākeha. You have continued to breach 'Te Tiriti o Waitangi' and this is another (of many) example of that. Government deliberately creates policy that continues to increase the gap between Pākeha and Māori. If you are serious about closing this gap and addressing the social determinants of health and various other issues that exist within our country (mainly for Māori might I add) then ensure that Māori get equal rights and better quality of life. We are not asking for a hand out. We are asking for a fair chance at life after Pākeha built theirs by killing many Māori and stealing our land and rights as tangata whenua to this country.
84	Grant the same protections already afforded to the general seats.
85	Great idea
86	Having Māori representation is key to a strong voice and support for Māori nationwide.
87	Having Māori seats allows for more of cultural perspective more inclusion more than one way giving a different outlook on our country with all its many culture it gives a voice to the unseen
88	He aha te mea nui, he tangata he tangata, he tangata.
89	Higher Māori representation at government level can increase better outcomes for all Māori in the community.
90	Honour the Treaty.
91	Honour the Treaty.
92	How about removing the inequality of this process so that all votes needed to remove general or Māori seats is an equal percentage.
93	How can this be fair? If we are talking about equity, where is the equity for Māori? This inequity filters down through every organisation and institute. Parliament is perpetuating inequity and privilege. - - Māori still lag behind. Pākēha; are privileged. Pākeha; voice is allowed and expected to be dominant. Māori whakaaro, voice, tikanga is marginalised.
94	How can we be equal when we don't have equal rights?
95	How it is now is institutional racism.

96	I 100% agree with everything stated above. Māori rights are very important in Aotearoa therefore more Māori representation will help these rights be heard.
97	I agree ... the same protections already enjoyed by the general seats should be applied to the Māori seats. Ranginui Walker said the lack of entrenchment was 'the most discriminatory measure of all in the application of the law to Māori representation.' and I agree with this statement also!!
98	I agree and strongly support to the submission the Entrenchment of Māori Seats. The Entrenchment of Māori Seats should have been enacted upon 160 years ago. '[the lack of entrenchment is] perhaps the most discriminatory measure of all in the application of the law to Māori representation.' - Ranginui Walker - - It was essential to have a full understanding of the history of Māori representation...unless decisions concerning Māori representation are made in the context of our history ... past misunderstandings are likely to continue. - Justice Wallace - - Māori should have 'equal rights, with all the privileges and rights of, Englishmen.' - Donald McLean (introduced the Māori seats).
99	I agree and support with the above.
100	I agree that Māori seats should have the same protections already enjoyed by the general seats. I agree with Ranginui Walker who quoted 'the lack of entrenchment was 'the most discriminatory measure of all in the application of the law to Māori representation'.
101	I agree wholeheartedly with this kaupapa.
102	I agree with all of the above as I am of Māori decent and consider it to be of extreme importance.
103	I agree with all the above statements. Māori are Treaty partners, therefore the vote % should be the same.
104	I agree with all the points raised in this submission. I am shocked to learn that there is currently only a 50% vote requirement to remove the Māori seats compared to a 75% vote requirement for the general seats. In my opinion, this is not in keeping with the spirit of the Treaty of Waitangi and our bi-cultural principles regarding the establishment of nationhood.
105	I agree with RINO TIRIKATENE (Labour—Te Tai Tonga): 'The general seats, under the Electoral Act of this Parliament, can be overturned or abolished only by a special majority of this House—that's a 75 percent or more majority of this House—but the Māori seats can be abolished by a simple majority. So there is a discrepancy. There is an imbalance there, and my bill seeks to raise us to an equal standard with the general seats. That's what this bill is all about. It's a constitutional issue. We want to ensure that Māori seats are given the same protection as general seats.'
106	I agree with the proposal. - The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori - - Māori interests are diverse and need guaranteed representation - - The same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats - - Māori MPs should be directly accountable to Māori voters - - Māori still lag-behind their Pākeha Treaty partners, and it's important to protect a Māori voice in government. -
107	I agree with the PSA Submission on this matter. Māori interests are diverse and need guaranteed representation with the same protection provided to general seats to ensure that our Māori voice is heard.
108	I agree with what is contained within the PSA submission.
109	I am a little confused by the question but I support the increase to the threshold needed to remove the Māori seats from 50 per cent to 75 per cent. - I also believe that Māori have a right to fair representation in government.
110	I am a living Treaty (Tiriti) as such I support this as one measure to address the inequalities that exist for Tangata Whenua. Our tauwi whanau may not understand the spiritual connection either to these seats. Anything that will support cultural humility between the partners supports a better and stronger future for all of our all children in Aotearoa

111	I am against oppression. This is not good at all. We need to protect the Māori seats.
112	I am against removing any of the Māori seats.
113	I am all for the Māori seats remaining and should be the same as general role of 75% to remove the seat.
114	I am from Māori blood line and feel it is important to have seats in government
115	I am in Support of the Māori seats, they must remain as representation is needed, or our voices are lost. - I vote we keep them.
116	I am in total agreement that the Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori
117	I am Māori, proud to be Māori and we are tangata whenua of Aotearoa. Māori are a minority and becoming even more so due to our multiculturally diverse population continually increasing every year. So, it is important now, more than ever, that Māori have a voice in the future of our country. I am on the Māori Electoral Role and I will remain on the Māori Role until the day I die, because once we lose our voice in Parliament, it will be gone forever. Māori are Kaitiaki, we have a strong connection to the land which becomes stronger as we get older because we can see all the damage that is happening and continues to be done, to the land, sea and air over the years. It has to stop. We have to stop the damage being caused now. We have to help heal the land, sea and air, and look after what we have for future generations to come. There is an old saying, 'If you look after the land, it will look after you.' Entrenchment of Māori seats is vital for the future of Aotearoa.
118	I am on the Māori Electorate roll and I have nurtured and encouraged my daughter to register on the Māori Electorate roll. This will never change because it is important to us that the Māori World view is acknowledged as well as any wrongs and breaches in the past. So, therefore we will always need the Māori seats in the governance of this country as per the Treaty of Waitangi in PARTNERSHIP with PARTICIPATION and PROTECTION.
119	I am unhappy being discriminated against. - I believe we should be at least the same as the general seats, or higher.
120	I believe in Māori seats and Māori rights! I am against discriminatory and illegal practices that acts against that belief.
121	I believe it is absolutely vital to entrench the Māori seats to at least be on a par with the general seats. After all the Treaty of Waitangi is about partnership and without the Treaty of Waitangi there would not have been a mandate to form a government in New Zealand.
122	I believe it is important for the Pākehā Treaty partner to remember the 'key' word 'Partner'. While it may be 'symbolic' it is 'significant' for Māori to have a 'voice', the faith and belief that they are equitable partners who will be heard. So in the 'spirit' of 'partnership' the seats should not only be entrenched but equitable at 75% and in line with the general seats.
123	I believe it is important to democracy and to honour our treaty agreement to entrench the Māori seats.
124	I believe that entrenching the Māori seats will grant the Māori seats the same protections already enjoyed by the general seats. Ranginui Walker said the lack of entrenchment was 'the most discriminatory measure of all in the application of the law to Māori representation.'
125	I believe that Māori seats should have the same protection as general seats.
126	I believe the Māori seats need protection. I have been registered on the Māori Electoral role for years and feel these seats are an integral part of the Treaty right for all Māori.
127	I believe they are an important safe guard to enforce Treaty rights
128	I believe in protecting our Māori voice in Government
129	I cannot believe we are in the year of 2018 and there continues to be institutional biases. Come on NZ we are better than that as a Nation.

130	I commend the work you're doing as urgent and necessary. Please pass this Bill.
131	I don't understand why it is not equal. How is that fair?
132	I don't understand why we are still having these conversations in this day and age. We are and should be equal to Pākehā and this just shows we still live in a racist world unfortunately. Let's make a change for our people, kia kaha.
133	I fully support the Electoral Act to entrench the Māori seats into Parliament for our people today and for the future. To ensure we have a voice as 'Te Tangata Whenua o Aotearoa', while we continue to embrace more people from all around the world to Niu Tirenī.
134	I have been a Māori voter for many years. Māori seats should not be removed at all. Māori ARE the Tangata Whenua after all.
135	I have NEVER & NEVER will be on the general roll. It is important to me that the Māori Seats in parliament remain. My tipuna fought a hard & long battle for them. I don't want to be assimilated because that is likely to happen if our Māori seats were taken away
136	I have ticked 'yes' on the understanding that this means the threshold to remove the Māori seats need to increase from the current 50% to 75% - the wording of the question (to me) is not clear.
137	I hope I understood what 'entrench' the Māori seats meant. I want to increase 50% to 75%, but I am not sure I understood the question, and I fear others also may not understand this. Maybe consider rewriting or adding a description to the question to avoid confusion from people that do not have an understanding of this jargon/language.
138	I kii ai a Kapene Hopihana i muri o te Hainatanga o te Tiriti o Waitangi ki te Iwi 1840 'He iwi kotahi tātau' aue kei te kimi tonu tātau te tikanga o taua korero ra. No reira kei te tautoko au i ta koutou take tuhinga korero ki te Kawanatanga e pa ana ki te piira kei mua te aroaro o Paremata. - - Kei whea he korero i tū atu i te, 'me o rite tahi Māori mai Pākeha mai'.
139	I support all the above comments
140	I support any Māori kaupapa to awhi our people
141	I support for all the reasons mentioned. Despite the wheels turning slowly, it is an organisation such as ours that is starting to increase the momentum.
142	I support the entrenchment of the Māori seats.
143	I support the PSA's kaupapa on this matter. Māori seats should be on equal footing as the general seats or bring the general vote down to 50%, either way it is equal and fair.
144	I support the reasons highlighted above as to why I believe Māori seats are important to retain and protect a Māori voice in government.
145	I support the Submission compiled by the PSA
146	I support this change due to Māori are the indigenous people of New Zealand it is only fair that the vote percentage is the same as General voters
147	I tautoko ahau i tēnei kaupapa hohonu
148	I tautoko all of the pints to be made in the submission to have a fair and transparent process which is the same for all seats.
149	I tautoko Ranginui Walkers comments on this matter.
150	I think that Māori seats should have more rights than the general role
151	I thought Te Tiriti was a 'Partnership'. 75% for all!!
152	I totally agree.
153	I totally support the Māori seats, they have been with us since my parents' time. They are an important reminder of Treaty rights for Māori people, & they need the same protection that exists for the general seats. - Māori interests are diverse & need guaranteed representation in Govt. - Māori MPs should be directly accountable to the

	Māori voters. - Māori still lag behind our Treaty partners, it's important to protect a Māori voice in Govt.
154	I totally support the submissions recorded above. Too long have we as Māori been treated unfairly. It is so important to protect our rights as Māori and our voice to be heard in government and throughout the MOTU. I TAUTOKO each initiative our people have listed to entrench Māori seats. Don't let us be another statistic we should be key decision makers.
155	I vote in support of entrenching the Māori seats in order for the Māori seats to enjoy the same protection and 'liberty' as non-Māori seats.
156	I vote that the Māori seats be changed to 75% equal to the general seats.
157	I will not support anything that oppresses or continues to oppress Māori.
158	I would like to see the same vote of 75% to remove Māori seats
159	If a Māori voice is not heard in government, then a Māori member of the public cannot live their life the way their culture intended. If the Māori voice is not heard in parliament, then a Māori culture will not exist on the world stage.
160	If it's 75% of votes required to remove general seats, then it should be 75% of votes to remove Māori seats. -
161	If they stop it at the top, it will trickle down to the Govt depts.
162	if we are one nation then let's be fair and equal - the world is multi-coloured
163	In 1998 the Department of Social Welfare released Te Puaio te Atatu, a Ministerial Advisory Committee report on a Māori perspective for that Department. - - One of the perspectives that came out of that report was that the Government was considered to be institutionally racist, this was defined as the outcome of monocultural institutions which simply ignore and freeze out the cultures of those who do not belong to the majority. Participation by minorities is conditional on their subjugating their own values and systems to those of 'the system' of the power culture. - - Māori seats should be beyond review as they are a vehicle to ensure that Māori views are considered in cabinet. - - It is embarrassing that the Empire's paternalistic, misogynistic and racist tactics are still a part of our identity as a nation and that that power system is again dictating Māori representation. - - The Don Brash speech and Trump administration provide clear warnings that there are strong undertones of colonial entitlement in our societies and by design the voting systems are constructed by that system to support that system and are woeful at securing the disenfranchised youth vote. - - Should there be guaranteed youth seats in Parliament as well? - - We also need to consider the rising populations of non-NZ Pākehā, Māori and Pacific peoples and how those cultures will impact in the future. We cannot allow the Māori seats to be placed in a vulnerable position whereby the existence of those seats is dependent on other people or cultures. - - Anei aku whakaaro.
164	In accordance with the principle of Partnership within the Treaty of Waitangi and on the account of the sovereignty of all Māori who in accordance with the principles of The Declaration of Independence and on the account of Te Tiriti O Waitangi their rights to stand in Parliament should be in equal measure to that of any other member of Parliament. It is shocking to know that in general seats the rights of foreign people are put before those of tangata whenua.
165	In my opinion there should always be 50% seats reserved for Māori and this should be the standard always no matter the votes. This is NZ and the land of Māori who should not need to fight for a place in their country. Any other ethnicity should fight for the other 50% this includes European. - If a person can prove they have Māori blood, no matter how little then they should be able to be considered for a Māori seat
166	in order for the government to fulfil their obligations from the Treaty there must be congruency for both Māori and non-Māori seats
167	In simplistic terms this is about equity

168	Increase the vote to 75% to at least match the vote for removal of general seats. Kia mau ki te ture, te whakaponono me te aroha!
169	institutionalize racism is hospitals, schools, police etc. not being sorted by majority in power. That is why we need to entrench Māori seats so Māori voices is heard.
170	Is there any clearer example of how quietly unnecessary legal racial discrimination happens than this?
171	It amazes me that still after 240 odd years the government off the day are still trying to take away our rights as Māori or try to make some excuse let alone being fair i.e. same as general votes 75%.
172	It is a violation of our societal rights and should be an equal share amongst the general and Māori seats. This is a leftover ruling of the English patriarchal system form days gone by. They are now honouring the Treaty of Waitangi so this should be reflected in our parliamentary standing as well.
173	It is imperative that we (Māori) have equal thresholds for removal of our parliamentary seats just like the general seats. Full equality is our right according to the treaty, not an inconvenience to the majority.
174	It is imperative that we keep the Māori seats - we need to have a voice at the table
175	It is important for this protection mechanism, and a right to have the Māori seats and voice, for indigenous recognition being the 1st people of the land, bi- cultural partnership, cultural awareness and significance to / for others. The door has been shut to Māori people for more than a century too long. Māori are not to be grouped along with immigrant minorities and other ethnicities to New Zealand as being given special rights and advantages.
176	It is important that the Māori seats are entrenched so that Māori have a voice in this changing world.
177	It is important to have Māori bodies that represent Māori and the rest of Aotearoa. It is in justice and in humane to take away Māori rights to speak for the people 'He Tangata He Tangata'. Māori need to have a voice with in Parliament to support those who are still being marginalised by the very system that is supposed to protect them; written in the Ti Tiriti O Waitangi.
178	It is our right as tangata whenua to be determined decision makers in our own country.
179	It is time to get rid of the racist and marginalised behaviour and thinking toward Māori from the past and set the scene for the here and now and future
180	It is truly important to me that there is a voice for Māori in government. Support this 100 percent.
181	It is typical that Māori are under represented by the general public (Pākehā), therefore I support to change the Electoral Act from 50% to 75%. We should be seen and heard in the same respect as our Pākehā counterparts.
182	It is vital to our survival as Tangata Whenua to have Māori representatives or voice at the table in Parliament to speak in the best interest of our people
183	It should be allocated the same protections as the General seats
184	It should be even. Why are Māori always put at a disadvantage? I live, breath Māori. I AM MĀORI.
185	It should be the same for both.
186	It would be a travesty not to have Māori seats.
187	It's disgusting that there's a double standard here.
188	It's not right, to give the Māori seats, and then remove them. We need to have some representation in parliament, as this also upholds the Treaty of Waitangi.
189	its the right thing to do towards rectifying the devastating ongoing effects on Māori of historic and modern colonisation
190	It's time to treat Māori equal to our Pākehā partners of the Treaty. It is so WRONG to say "we are treated equal" when it is not practised totally in the Government sector.

191	Ka whawahi tonu matou
192	Kei te tautoko ahau i tēnei kaupapa.
193	Kei te tino tautoko au i tēnei kaupapa. He whainga tonu ma enei turanga mo te whakatairanga ake i ngā take Māori. Me pumau tonu to tatou Paremata ki nga turu Māori!
194	Kia kaha
195	Kia kaha
196	Kia kaha
197	Kia kaha Entrench the Māori seats
198	Kia Kaha Koutou! This is for the betterment of our people and the future of the generations to follow.
199	Kia kaha nga iwi Māori. Kauga e wareware ngā kupu o a mātou tupuna. Ka whawhai tonu mātou.
200	Kia kaha tatou - There are huge benefits of the Māori World View for all people residing in Aotearoa.
201	Kia Ora - I totally support the entrenchment of the Māori seats and believe the same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats. Māori need to have their voices at the table and given that Māori are marginalised and show in the statistics in high numbers then we need to enhance the mana of Māori and having them at the table. They need to represent their rohe and further the interests of Māori. Colonisation has decimated Māori in all areas of life for health, housing, Te Reo Māori, land confiscation, the bias of institutional racism in the Police and Justice systems and the racism inherent in all areas of New Zealand's governance. Kia Kaha! Tihei Mauri Ora.
202	Let's not forget the Treaty was signed by Māori and European people to ensure their survival and place in history - not to be confined simply to myth and legend and lost to the annals of time.
203	Level the playing field and I support Māori and pacific people's place in parliament Nga mihi
204	Long Overdue!!
205	Māori citizens are high on statistics when it comes to poor education outcomes, health, employment and every other socio-economic issue in the country and this deficit continues to grow. - This signifies that the people native to this land have not been treated the same as the 'British subjects' and that is far less likely to happen if the Māori seats are removed. -
206	Māori need equal rights, we still face too much racism at the hands of our Crown Partners
207	Māori need a voice that is culturally safe, acceptable and is morally right to ensure Māori retain and maintain their cultural identity, cultural practices and tangata whenua status.
208	Make it the same for all seats
209	Māori are disproportionately represented in a wide range of statistics, a shameful indictment on our country. Aotearoa leads or features in a lot of OECD statistics for ALL the WRONG reasons. - Honour the treaty of Waitangi. Allow Māori to mitigate the adverse effects of the past. This will be a step forward by having stronger Māori representation in the house. To build our country, we need to build our people. Our people, not introduce migrants, BUILD OUR PEOPLE!!!!
210	Māori are supposed to be a Treaty Partner, therefore Māori interests need to be represented AT ALL TIMES!
211	Māori are Tangata Whenua therefore Māori should be above our Pākehā.
212	Māori had fought so hard for these seats in the first place - need to ensure they are kept.

213	Māori interests, needs and views are best represented by Māori who are also accountable to Māori. I have read the PSA submission and support what it says. Guaranteed representation is needed, and the Māori seats should not be able to be removed with a lesser percentage vote required than the general seats.
214	Māori MPs should be directly accountable to Māori voters - The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori - The same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats -
215	Māori need a strong voice in Parliament, especially when discussing Policies around the well-being of Māori and around dealing with the Social issues facing Māori today. If we lose the Māori seats then will lose our voice, or the voice that speaks on behalf may not carry the same weight/influence as a collective. Given the huge social issues that face Māori, which seem to be increasing, then the existing created gap can only get wider. We deserve to be heard as we are recognised as Tangata Whenua or the first people of Aotearoa.
216	Māori need a voice and their rights should be inclusive
217	Māori need representation at the highest level and should be on par with general seats.
218	Māori need to be represented in parliament, how could this vote even exist??
219	Māori representation in government is important.
220	Māori rights and by extension Māori representation in Parliament must have equivalent or better status
221	Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori - Māori still lag-behind their Pākeha Treaty partners, and it's important to protect a Māori voice in government.
222	Māori seats are as important as the general seats and should be treated the same.
223	Māori seats are important and they should have the same protection as general seats
224	Māori seats are important. I tautoko this kaupapa
225	Māori seats are often seen as anachronistic and not fit for purpose in this day of inclusiveness- there is a desire to see everyone valued the same. However, symbolically they are seen as part of Māori rights and as such, I support their retention and think the threshold should be the same 75% as non-Māori seats for the removal of them.
226	Māori seats have the fundamental right to the same protection as general seats. - Māori must have the voice in Parliament
227	Māori seats in parliament are an integral part to the partnership of the Treaty. - Māori expect to be treated as such, and not discriminated definitely in any way. - The point that Māori seats only have 50% threshold to be removed compared to Pākeha needing 75%, tells me that we are not yet equal. - Māori have a right to be in parliament to enable a voice for Māori. - We expect and deserve the same protection as non-Māori in parliament.
228	Māori seats in Parliament should have the same protection as general seats. - - Every election and enrolment period requires all enrolled voters to declare whether they want to be registered on the general roll or the Māori roll. Surely then the volume of choice made by New Zealanders is sufficient indication to the NZ Government of the need for Māori Seats. In 2014 there were 248,178 NZ voters registered on the Māori roll. - - These voters have made the choice to be represented in Parliament as Māori voters and deserve a proportionate number of Māori seats to represent them; just as those registered on the general roll would expect to be represented. - - While there are voters on the Māori roll then there should be a proportionate number of Māori seats in Parliament to represent them. - - To say that the Māori electorates have failed to deliver what Māori really need and the electorates should be abolished is a mis-direction of blame. It is up to the elected member of Parliament to deliver what Māori need, not the seat. If any blame is to be apportioned then it should be to the politician and it is up to registered voters to determine, by

	how they vote in the next election, their success or failure to represent. The same can be said for any electoral seat in Parliament.
229	Māori seats provide for guaranteed representation for the Māori voice in Parliament in line with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. My view is that these seats deserve the same protection as the general seats have - which is not currently the case.
230	Māori seats should be removable at all. As tangata whenua long deprived a voice of influence Māori seats should be entrenched as unmovable and fixed!
231	Māori seats should enjoy exactly the same protections as any other seats in parliament. Equitable representation in parliament and in government is a right under Te Tiriti o Waitangi
232	Māori should be equal partners in the political process
233	Māori still lag-behind their Pākehā Treaty partners. This needs to change, as soon as possible. -
234	Mauri ora!
235	Mauri ora, mauri tū
236	Members of parliament raise issues about equality for all, if that's the case then they need to lead by example by applying the same rule for Māori Seats as they have for general seats!
237	More Māori seats are needed and Māori's need a voice in parliament
238	More people want to speak Māori, especially in the military, more Māori want to marry Māori, and so why not keep the Māori seats. I am proud to be Māori and on the Māori roll and same with my children.
239	My biggest grievance is the anomaly in the 75% / 50% threshold
240	My concerns are as follows; - - The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori - - Māori interests are diverse and need guaranteed representation - - The same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats - - Māori MPs should be directly accountable to Māori voters - - Māori still lag-behind their Pākehā Treaty partners, and it's important to protect a Māori voice in government. - -
241	Needs to be the same percentage if not more than the general seats. This would show a committee to Te Tiriti and indicate the Crown is acting as a responsible Treaty partner.
242	Nga mihi kia koutou, ka pai tō mahi.
243	Ngā mihi kia rātou - It is my belief that Māori people/voters have the right as Tangata Whenua to have the current Māori seats kept as status quo. - Māori need to ensure that they have a representative in Parliament whose role and responsibility is to the Māori voters who put them in that seat, and they act/advocate for the best outcomes for Māori which would also reflect the best outcome for all people of Aotearoa. -
244	Ngati Wai ki Aotearoa & Te Rarawa - - Please ensure that we maintain these seats. - We have lost our political voice as Māori. - This my right as a person of the above descent as per the Treaty of Waitangi - I need representation of my interests, and the diversity of my iwi. - The same protection should exist for the Māori Seats as for the General Seats - Māori Seat MP's need to be accountable to their electorate. - My voice needs to be counted.
245	Not sure why the difference between the general and Māori seats, definitely change to 50% to 75%.
246	Once again, the Māori will be missing out again or unfairly represented... It's like the past is still haunting our present
247	One of my tribal ancestors is Sir Apirana Ngata. He was a particularly amazing person who not only made his way through a minefield of European culture, he became the first educated Māori Lawyer as well as first holder of one of these seats. He is a role model for modern Māori who have lost what he held so dear. He kept as best he could Ngati Porou together during two wars, and assimilation by European culture. To lose these seats, I would lose a part of my modern reconstructed Māori identity. Levelling

	the playing field does not mean the same starting point but a fair step process where everyone has the same access.
248	Only Māori knows what works for Māori so we need a voice in government to reflect the needs of our whanau.
249	Only Māori should have the right to vote for anything pertaining to the Māori seats in Parliament. Given Māori are a minority in comparison to the rest of the population it would be unfair to entertain anything less.
250	Our Māori people are the Indigenous people of Aotearoa and have a special and unique place in Aotearoa/NZ history. It's important that the Māori voice is heard and not lost, we are not just another ethnic race of people in this country, we have our identity and turangawaewae our marae. The last bastion of everything unique and natural about Aotearoa/NZ where we preserve and celebrate our true cultural identity.
251	Partnership is about Treaty of Waitangi equality in all facets of government depts. and seats
252	Partnership!
253	People are free in this country to enter parliament anyway irrespective of race, so therefore it should be up to the individual to make it happen.
254	My vote is relevant to the Living Document of Te Tiriti O Waitangi - Tēna koe - Ti hei Mauri ora
255	Please meet your obligations as treaty partners. Māori need to have a voice in parliament.
256	Politicians 'talk' about Māori not being treated differently from Treaty partners yet the statistics and the use of percentages clearly shows there is a lack of diversity (being the new 'buzz' word in Government organisations) when considering Māori issues and the future of the tangata whenua. I am all for diversity but can only support multiculturalism when N.Z society improves their bi-cultural obligations shows more understanding and empathy to N.Z history. One statement, on Facebook, regarding the Xmas parade was that Māori got all their Christmas's at once when they were colonised. If the writer was referring to the degradation of Māori rights and financial stability being similar to the financial struggles many feel over the festive season, I would have to agree. Unfortunately, the context this writer was referring to was that Māori are 'better off' and Māori should be grateful to Pākehā as Pākehā know what is best for us and we should suck up the continuing racism Pākehā have towards a people who can only claim New Zealand as their homeland. One would think Australian treatment of New Zealanders would demonstrate how important belonging to a country actually is and spend more effort on being diverse to all.
257	Preserving Māori voices within a fundamental part of our constitution. Entrenching Māori seats shouldn't need to be an ask.
258	Protection, Partnership and Participation! Tiriti o Waitangi was put in place for a reason, Pākehā do not have the right to change the rules to suit themselves so the same rules should apply to both races.
259	Racial equality we are all human
260	Racist much?
261	Ranginui Walker said the lack of entrenchment was 'the most discriminatory measure of all in the application of the law to Māori representation.'
262	Ranginui Walker said the lack of entrenchment was 'the most DISCRIMINATORY measure of all in the application of the law to Māori representation.' We still lag behind our no-called treaty partner, it is SO IMPORTANT TO ALWAYS HAVE A VOICE AND CONTINUE TO DO SO.
263	Same % needs to be applied to both general and Māori seats for a fair and equitable society
264	Same vote for everyone.
265	Should be consistent as per the general seats

266	Should be same the as the general
267	Should be similar as General seats. 75% vote needed. - Equal. Working in partnership as per principles of TOW.
268	Should be the sage as Pākeha
269	Some argue that Māori are well represented in Parliament, because under MMP there are many Māori MPs, and therefore we do not need Māori seats. However, not all of these Māori MPs are there to represent Māori. It's one thing to be a Māori MP, but quite another thing to be a Māori MP representing Māori. These Māori seats are intended to ensure that the voice of Māori (a Tiriti partner) is heard.
270	Stop this form of discrimination, which is based on outdated colonial attitudes. It's well past time for Māori voices to receive the same protections as Pākeha, in order to provide guaranteed, equitable representation for their many interests.
271	Strongly agree with all of the above, especially as we are a minority in our own country.
272	Tangata Whenua!!
273	Tautoko
274	Tautoko all the reasons you have outlined above. - Also that the Māori seats should remain until such time as Māori(not anyone else) decide they are no longer needed. This added protection is needed to address the vulnerability that the seats have to political attack. - Ngāmihi nui!
275	Tautoko ana.
276	Tautoko for consistency. Should be the same as general seats.
277	Tautoko ke ki te mau tonu ki tēnei tono na mātou ngā mema o PSA. - Kei te mihi ki ngā take tuhituhi kei runga nei ki te reo o Ngā Māori Whanau Hapu Iwi I te Whare Miere. - I waenganui te kawanatanga o te motu Aotearoa.
278	Tautoko this kaupapa
279	Tautoko!
280	Te Tiriti is not being upheld if the threshold is different for Māori seats compared to general seats.
281	Tena koutou katoa, I support the Entrenchment of Māori seats. I believe it is unfair for the general seats to have a 75% vote and Māori seats at 50%. It goes against Te Tiriti o Waitangi to honour the special relationship that exists between the Crown and Māori. It leaves Māori at a disadvantage of losing representation with less chance of our voice being heard. The Māori seats offer a form of protection for tangata whenua who are a minority in their own country. Māori are underrepresented in all areas from businesses to public services yet overrepresented in detrimental statistics. Maintaining the Māori seats with 75% vote is the least the Crown can do to represent Māori at a national level. Ngā mihi
282	Tena koutou katoa, I support all of the above reasons given for increasing the 50% vote to a 75% vote to entrench the Māori seats in Parliament. - By increasing the Māori vote to match the General vote it aligns and balances the Treaty partnership.
283	Tena koutou. - tēnei te Mihi ki ngā kaimahi o PSA ki te Tautoko te Kaupapa kei mua ia koutou. Nei ra te Mihi nunui ki o koutou mahi tuturu. - - Totally support this bill as we need our korero to be heard and that's what our Māori MPs do for us each and every day of the week of the month of the years passed and future. Kia ora tatou
284	Thank you for all your hard work and putting the submission together.
285	Thank you for bringing this to my attention
286	Thank you for bringing this vote to whanau
287	Thanks for this information. I did not realise that there was a % difference of general and Māori seat removal. Absolute agreement of all of the above.
288	That is so unfair that the general get 75% and Māori 50%.

289	The % vote to remove seats should be the same. We should not be treated differently.
290	The Bill should be the same percentage as General for Māori
291	The Crown is not a friend of Māori - never has been
292	The Electoral Act requires changing. Currently it is an example of 'white privilege', an attempt at reducing and minimising the voice of tangata whenua, of Māori. I have two questions: - (i) Have we returned to the times of the Tohunga Suppression Act 1907, the Native Schools Act 1867 and many other so-called legislative changes that were designed to assimilate Māori, when the Settler government realised they were not going to be able to annihilate them? - (ii) What is fair or equitable with 75% general votes, yet only 50% Māori votes being required for the entrenchment of Māori seats?
293	The fact that only a 50% vote is needed to remove Māori seats, as opposed to 75% for general seats, is a blatant example of inequality. - entrench the Māori seats.
294	The loss of Māori seats will further marginalize our people, we must keep them in order to maintain genuine Māori voice in Parliament. Great for other Māori to pick up general seats, but the integrity of iwi Māori can be lost over time if they Māori seats are no longer there.
295	The Māori seats are the only mechanism that provides constitutional recognition of Māori as equal treaty partners in the government of Aotearoa New Zealand; therefore should NEVER be removed.
296	The Māori people, tangata whenua, will end up having no say of anything if seats are being reduced more or taken away.
297	The Māori seats are already limited in number and each electorate covers a greater area than at least 10 'general seats' combined. Why should the threshold be lower than the general seats? Let's have an even playing field for all.
298	The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori - Māori interests are diverse and need guaranteed representation - The same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats - Māori MPs should be directly accountable to Māori voters - Māori still lag-behind their Pākehā Treaty partners, and it's important to protect a Māori voice in government. - -
299	The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori. Māori interests are diverse and need guaranteed representation. The same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats. Māori MPs should be directly accountable to Māori voters. Māori still lag-behind their Pākehā Treaty partners, and it's important to protect a Māori voice in government.
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301	The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori - Māori interests are diverse and need guaranteed representation. The same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats. Māori MPs should be directly accountable to Māori voters. Māori still lag-behind their Pākehā Treaty partners, and it's important to protect a Māori voice in government. -
302	The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori - Māori interests are diverse and need guaranteed representation. The same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats.
303	The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori - Māori seats should have the same requirement as general seats of 75%. - Māori MPs should be directly accountable to Māori voters

304	The Māori seats are an important Treaty right for Māori. The Treaty needs to be honoured. Māori still lag-behind their Pākehā Treaty partners, and it's important to protect a Māori voice in government.
305	The Māori seats are important and the same protection should exist for Māori I am a proud Māori on the Māori electoral roll Kia Kaha.
306	The Māori seats must be increased in number to reflect the current customers within the electorates. - Egalitarian principles and treaty partnership rights must be imposed and upheld.
307	The Māori seats should be 75 per cent and not 50 per cent.
308	The Māori seats should be compulsory, therefore unable to be removed. I don't give a stuff about the general seats. Why are people so 'afraid of Māori' to treat us the way they do. Why are people so hell bent on trying to get rid of us? This was our land before the European people came along but we are always treated like 2nd class citizens. I will be very disappointed with Jacinda if this is allowed to go through.
309	The more representation we have the better. Bring it on. We are lacking in good strong leadership for Māori in parliament.
310	The origin of the dedicated seats in Parliament were to contain the level of Māori Representation. What dedicated seats ensures in our present context is ability of Māori to be represented on an explicit kaupapa Māori agenda; rather than having to submerge Māori interest within the broader overall majority population demands of various non-Māori seats.
311	The same protection should be the same as the general seats. A lesser protection is unfair to Māori representation.
312	The same protection should exist for the Māori seats as for the general seats
313	The seats are called 'Māori' seats in parliament. Therefore, I believe, is that Māori only possesses the constitutional right to change this. I support to entrench the Māori seats because not to do so, leads us into an unpredictable position leading to the belief that the majority of voters would support a Māori cause. Just look at the health and social determinants, Māori are the greatest sufferers in our society right across the spectrum of determinants. If non-Māori could use their superiority of numbers to change these facts, then you would think that they would, but as we can see, they haven't, and we continue to suffer at every level. Entrenchment of the Māori seats supports our population growth into the future. We should wait until the discussion on the constitutional status of Māori in New Zealand society is considered so that Māori can make a decision based on the evidence. If the 'Crown' can be identified instead of a shape shifting fiction, then trusting the Crown that they will do us well is a myth.
314	The seats were put in place to minimise the Māori voice - so they/we never had a majority. Lets honour our past by keeping them safe and turn them into a positive legacy of colonisation.
315	The threshold should be the same regardless of race
316	The Treaty of Waitangi says it all.
317	The Treaty of Waitangi refers to the word partnership between Māori and Pākehā which means the crown is obligated to retain Māori seats within the present and future Governments.
318	The wording needs correction to Māori -
319	I support that the Māori seats stay as they are, and not be removed.
320	The World is here in Aotearoa but we are the people of this Land and what we say should count
321	There is an imbalance of power here!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
322	There is something incredibly fundamentally wrong with this. You like to show the world that we are a beautifully blended, fair and just society when in reality, you want only what gives you power and what keeps you on top. - - I am deeply disappointed and hurt that it takes so little effort for the Māori seats to be taken out. Don't you

	think you have taken enough from us? If the Māori people are not represented fairly in places where words can literally make or break a country, will we be safe walking down the streets? Will officers of the law take one look at the hands in our pockets and assume we are harbouring weapons? Will we be treated the same way that African Americans are treated whenever they walk outside of their homes? - - Very extreme, I know but it starts with something small, something that is seemingly insignificant then suddenly our young people are dying and our elders are left for dead without the support they need. - - Think about how this will impact the MĀORI PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND and NOT JUST YOUR WALLETS.
323	There is still so much ignorance and sadly, racism in our country, therefore moves like this, supported in Government are important to help change the culture in our country.
324	There should be no difference in protection between the Māori seats and the general seats. This should be a basic right as per the rights and obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
325	There should be no discrepancy in process.
326	These seats should be seen as a fundamental foundation of our democracy. Obviously, I am concerned that this bill will see the issue gain politicised and potentially undermine the coalition government it is another important step to 'normalising' the value of Māori both as an anchor stone of New Zealand/Aotearoa identity and as a true Te Tiriti partner. As a union we must be strong in supporting the government to rethink its role with a culture that has suffered so much yet is prepared to find solutions together. This maanakitanga must be given the protection of proper and considered respect that it deserves.
327	They should be entrenched already as a matter of principle. This is not about Māori privilege, there is no such thing. This is about the master of the house getting the due respect he/she deserves. I'm not a radical but I do know the most basic of human rights and the moral and ethical obligations New Zealanders should have towards Tangata Whenua.
328	This disparity is an example of racism
329	This imbalance needs to be addressed. 75% for Māori and Pākehā or drop Pākehā to 50% . to equal Māori.
330	This is discrimination against us as Māori to have a lower threshold
331	This is important and necessary to uphold the values of Te Tiriti.
332	This is straight out racist based. An equal opportunity to all is required. 75% for both general and Māori.
333	This is very important.
334	This is yet another injustice that Māori experience. So disappointing and embarrassing. I don't know much about how the Parliament seats works but how can this be allowed as it is blatantly unfair.
335	This lack is both discriminatory and another example of continued colonial racism.
336	This seems like double standards, or double takahi mana. Also, why is the Māori electoral option (and ability to change) a fixed term, and yet the general option isn't - like I've heard said 'one rule for all' (or is that unless you're Māori?!) - The same 'EVERYTHING' for Māori and general seats
337	This simply giving some degree of balance to an imbalanced system. Kia kaha ra.
338	Tika tera ngākorero o Dr Ranginui Walker
339	Time Māori stopped lagging and became the head instead. Let's not be the tail. - Kia kaha tatou.
340	Tino Rangatiratanga!
341	Tino rangatiratanga - give it before the people take it.

342	To be fair and equal across government we need to show that Māori seats are just as important as standard seats.
343	To ensure equality
344	To me having the Māori seats is a must under our Treaty Agreement.
345	To remove will lessen our empowerment (which is little as it is now!) and Tino Rangatiratanga
346	To secure our whanaungatanga for now and the future. - We should be celebrating our differences not painting them all the same.
347	To uphold representation of Māori and ensure Te Tiriti O Waitangi values are respected and recognised in all aspects
348	Toi te kupu - kia kaha tātou ki te tū; hei tangata, hei tangata whenua, hei Māori.
349	Totally agree Māori seats should only be removed if there is a 75% vote.
350	Totally agree with this. Māori should have same protection as general seats at a minimum.
351	Totally support the entrenchment of the Māori seats in Parliament. Let's move on from the past racist mistakes and fully integrate the treaty.
352	Totally support this - treat Māori seats the same as general seats
353	Totally support this kaupapa. It should have been 75% from the start. What was the rationale for it to be any less? None!!
354	Treaty of Waitangi was partnership agreement. So, if it's 75% for general seats then it's 75% for Māori seats. - Just plain makes since that kaupapa.
355	Until there is a true Tiriti based democratic system in New Zealand, the Māori seats, while far from perfect, are an important reflection of the partnership between the Crown and tangata whenua. As such they should be protected and at the very least, given the same protection as the general seats.
356	Until there is equality these seats are still required.
357	Uphold TTW principles - partnership, participation and protection
358	Very valuable and important that we as Māori are heard and to protect a voice in government, guaranteed representation and treaty rights.
359	We are all equal.
360	we are not less important so therefore should have the same respect and measures in place as those of our counterparts
361	we are now the minority in our own land and the Pākehā government need to hear and acknowledge our kōrero reo, mana whenua, mana wairua, mana mauri o te ao through these seats or we ALL become kēhua o AOTEAROA
362	We can make change, we need to make change
363	We must acknowledge the past and let it inform our future decisions. We have a responsibility to progress towards equity in all areas of life in Aotearoa.
364	We need a voice in Parliament. Totally support Kaupapa.
365	we need fair, diverse and equality treatment and having these seats I believe will retain this.
366	We need more of a voice. If we have a lower number of seats then all of our views cannot be pushed through, also
367	We need to make sure that we do not lose our representation in Parliament as our goals are too easy to override. Our voice will be drowned out and we need to stop this happening.
368	We supposedly live in a democracy, therefore it should be the same for both Pākehā and Māori. If our Pākehā Treaty partners talk the talk, then demonstrate how they can walk the walk.
369	Why 75% and not 100% to stop Māori haters pushing Māori into the ground and handing out scraps.
370	Why are the Māori seats given a lower threshold?

371	Why has this come about? Is it because of mistreatment of funds? which there has been in the past with Māori. However - There should ALWAYS BE MĀORI REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT- after all - governments change and so do the members of parliament. If Māori representation is phased out - who will you put in there to govern our country? will they be kiwi's? or will they be plastic kiwi's .. ones who have NZ citizenship but whose interests are in OVERSEAS BUYERS AND TAKING OVER OUR COUNTRY! sneak in all these deals without the public knowing then next thing we are wondering why the country is selling off our water!!! and land and god knows what else. Keep Māori representation - We have to have presentation of the whenua and our tūpuna.
372	With the government of the day whether it is Labour, National, NZ First, Greens, Act etc they all know Māori are marginalised, have the highest across the board for all things wrong/bad/negative in all areas of government legislation i.e. health, justice, employment etc, etc. And National started this pathway to marginalise Māori further by removing the Māori seats in parliament and further marginalise our Māori MP's by only having a voting system of 50%. All governments that have been in term have opened their big fat mouths and said 'We must work together to blah, blah, blah for Māori' and yet here in parliament they themselves are marginalising their Māori colleagues. I go with the saying what's happening at the top filters down to us in other words no wonder the community pursue racism when the government are perpetuating racism in the corridors of parliament.
373	Yes I do support changing the Electoral Act to entrench the Māori seats, because of the important role they play in ensuring that we Māori as the tangata whenua continue to have a legalised say within our own country. Don't let negative effects of colonisation continue on in 21st century Aotearoa by removing yet another method of retaining power and control over ourselves.
374	Yes I would love to see more Māori seats
375	Yes Māori definitely have the right to have exactly the same as the Pākehā government, equal rights that's what Te Tiriti o Waitangi says.
376	Yes we do need to entrench the seats so that we have an equity say in things for us as Māori. Typical the bar for Māori things is never equal
377	Yes, as to honour the commitment made Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
378	Yet again another example of colonialism at work and Māori having to work twice as hard as 'others' to uphold their 'mana'.

Table 3: comments from members in opposition to the Bill

#	Comments from members in opposition to the Bill
1	Discrimination on the basis of race is called racial discrimination and the presence, persistence and preservation of racially discriminatory laws is an anathema to the principles of justice and fairness as embodied by government, that legislative body that is charged with upholding and maintaining those principles for all New Zealanders. The law is not there just for the benefit of non-Māori New Zealanders.

Appendix B: disparity between Māori and Pākehā electoral systems

Table 4: Disparities between Māori and European electoral systems in New Zealand 1853 – 2009.

Electoral System Feature	Date adopted for European / General seats	Date adopted for Māori seats
Voting method		
Show of hands	1853-1890	1853-1910
Declaration vote	Not adopted	1910-1937
Secret Ballot (SB) compulsory	1890	1937
Same Polling day for European / Māori seats	1881	1951
The Second Ballot Act	1908-1913	Not adopted
Voting rights		
Voting in National Licensing referenda	1911	1949
Māori (half or more) able to vote in European electorates	1975	
Māori (half or less) able to vote in Māori electorates		1975
Enrolment		

Electoral System Feature	Date adopted for European / General seats	Date adopted for Māori seats
Electoral roll prepared	1879	1948
Compulsory enrolment / registration of voters	1924	1956
Candidate rights		
Māori able to stand for European seats	1967	
Europeans able to stand for Māori seats		1967
Electorate determinations		
Electorate boundary review every five years	1887	1981
General population replaced adult population as basis of electoral population	1950	1975
Māori children included in the definition of general European population to calculate number of European seats	1950-1975	
Adjustment to seat numbers based on population	1950	1975 (repealed) 1993
Constitutional status		
General electoral system provisions entrenched	1956/1993	

Electoral System Feature	Date adopted for European / General seats	Date adopted for Māori seats
Māori electoral system provisions entrenched		Not adopted

Source: Department of Justice, 'The Electoral Law of New Zealand: A Brief History', in The Royal Commission on the Electoral System, *Report of the Royal Commission on the Electoral System: Towards a Better Democracy*, 1986, Appendix A, pp. A4-A6.