**Writing a Submission**

**Summary to the RDC (Representation Arrangements) Bill 2022**

Rotorua Lakes Council intends to progress Rotorua towards equal decision-making for Tangata/Mana Whenua and Non-Māori at Council.

In 1880, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Uenukukōpako and Ngāti Rangiwewehi gifted land to the Crown for the purpose of establishing the Township of Rotorua.

In 1993 the Crown acknowledged breaches to the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement in the settlement of Waitangi Tribunal Claim 94.

There are arguments in opposition of the Bill that state the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement has been fully and finally settled with the settlement of WAI 94. However, this settlement did not address breaches with respect to arrangements for decision-making.

Clause 7 of the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement, identifies the model for representation as, a Crown representative, a Native appointed by the committee of Iwi/Hapū and one other, a doctor. This demonstrates that each of the party’s to the Agreement have equal mana in decision-making.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 identifies that Native (Māori) representation[[1]](#footnote-1) is determined by population. Therefore the intention of the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement 1880 is effectively replaced by the Local Electoral Act 2001. Māori are a minority in Aotearoa, so the Local Electoral Role Act 2001 marginalises the Māori voice and establishes a disproportionate Māori to Non-Maori representation for national and local body elections.

An intention of the RDC (Representation Arrangements) Bill 2022 is to recognise the importance of the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement of 1880 in Rotorua Lakes Council’s representation arrangements of today.

**You can begin your submission with…**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ make a submission in support of the Rotorua District Council (Representation Arrangements) Bill for this/these reasons…

**Supplementary Information**

Here are some standard statements to help shape your submission. However, the more emotion you can convey to personalise it, the better.

1. *Why does Council need to acknowledge and give effect to the intentions of the* *Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement?*

**Answer prompts:**

* The WAI 94 agreement of 1993 acknowledged breaches to the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement of 1880. It settled some of the issues of the time but having equal Tangata/Whenua representation at the decision-making table has never been addressed… OR
* There has been no reciprocal (Utu) response by the Crown (Council) to ensure Mana/Tangata Whenua representation in Council to honour the original intention of Clause 7 of the 1880 Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement… OR
* For too long the Council has taken advantage of the generosity of Tangata/Mana Whenua that was expressed through the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement of 1880…. OR
* Addressing disproportionate Māori representation is long overdue in Rotorua. *Tangata/Mana Whenua/*Māori representation that has an equal voice at the decision-making table was one of the intentions/purposes of the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement. There is a clear breach that has not been addressed or resolved. This Bill seeks to resolve this longstanding issue.

*You may also want to include….*

* Te Arawa has been ready for equal decision-making since the signing of the Rotorua Township (Fenton) Agreement in 1880 … OR
* Equal partnership between Māori and Non-Māori is guaranteed under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

*There are some groups/organisations that have submitted against the Bill and are strongly opposed on the grounds that Tangata/Mana Whenua should not have shared decision making/co-governance. So* you might want to include….

* It is the right of Tangata/Mana Whenua to exercise Mana Motuhake/Tino Rangatiratanga as a Tiriti partner.
1. Local Electoral Act 2001, Section 2(1) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)