

## ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill amends the Electoral Act 1956 by fixing the number of European electorates in the South Island at 25, and by providing for the number of European electorates in the North Island to be ascertained by the Representation Commission after each census on the basis of the quota fixed for the South Island.

These changes will not take effect until electoral boundaries are required to be redrawn after the 1966 census. In practice, this means that any general election held before the second half of 1967 will not be affected.

*Clause 1* relates to the Short Title.

*Clause 2* substitutes a new section for section 11 of the principal Act, setting out the constitution of the House of Representatives. The only changes made are the omission of the reference to 80 members and the reference to 76 members elected for European electoral districts.

*Clause 3* amends section 16 of the principal Act by substituting a new subsection for subsection (1), which sets out the basis on which the Representation Commission is to divide New Zealand into European electorates. The new subsection will apply after the 1966 census and after every periodical census thereafter.

*Paragraphs (a) to (d)* of the new subsection take the place of the present paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 16 (1). The effect of the new paragraphs is as follows:

- (a) The South Island is to be divided into 25 electorates:
- (b) The European population of the South Island is to be divided by 25, and the quotient so obtained will be the quota for the South Island:
- (c) The European population of the North Island is to be divided by the quota for the South Island, and the quotient so obtained will be the number of electorates in the North Island. Where that quotient includes a fraction the fraction is to be disregarded unless it exceeds a half, in which case the number of electorates is to be the whole number next above the quotient:
- (d) The quota for the North Island is to be ascertained by dividing the European population of that Island by the number of North Island electorates.

*Paragraph (e)* of the new subsection re-enacts the present paragraph (c) of section 16 (1), except for minor drafting alterations.

*Paragraph (f)* re-enacts the present paragraph (d).

The amendments made by the Bill do not affect the five per cent allowance for any district, as provided for in section 17 of the principal Act.

*Hon. Mr Hanan*

## ELECTORAL AMENDMENT

### ANALYSIS

Title	
1. Short Title	3. Division of New Zealand into
2. Constitution of the House of Representatives	European electorates after each census

### A BILL INTITULED

#### An Act to amend the Electoral Act 1956

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same,  
5 as follows:

**1. Short Title**—This Act may be cited as the Electoral Amendment Act 1965, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Electoral Act 1956\* (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

10 **2. Constitution of the House of Representatives**—The principal Act is hereby amended by repealing section 11, and substituting the following section:

15 “11. The House of Representatives constituted as part of the General Assembly by section 32 of the New Zealand Constitution Act 1852 shall consist of—

“(a) The members elected for the European electoral districts constituted under this Part of this Act, being one member for each such district; and

\*1957 Reprint, Vol. 4, p. 341

Amendments: 1958, No. 64; 1959, No. 60; 1960, No. 4; 1963, No. 85

“(b) Four members elected respectively for the Maori electoral districts constituted under this Part of this Act.”

**3. Division of New Zealand into European electorates after each census**—Section 16 of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing subsection (1), and substituting the following subsection: 5

“(1) After the census taken in the year nineteen hundred and sixty-six, and after each periodical census thereafter, it shall be the duty of the Commission to divide New Zealand into European electoral districts according to the following basis, that is to say: 10

“(a) The South Island shall be divided into twenty-five European electoral districts: 15

“(b) The European population of the South Island shall be divided by twenty-five, and the quotient so obtained shall be the quota for the South Island: 20

“(c) The European population of the North Island shall be divided by the quota for the South Island, and the quotient so obtained shall be the number of European electoral districts in the North Island. Where that quotient includes a fraction the fraction shall be disregarded unless it exceeds a half, in which case the number of such districts shall be the whole number next above that quotient: 25

“(d) The quota for the North Island shall be ascertained by dividing the European population of that Island by the number of European electoral districts in that Island, as ascertained under paragraph (c) of this subsection: 30

“(e) The extent of each district in each Island shall be such that at the time of making the division the European population thereof shall, subject to the provisions of section 17 of this Act as to the allowance, be equal to the quota for that Island: 35

“(f) In forming the several districts due consideration shall be given to the existing boundaries of electoral districts, to community of interest, to facilities of communications, and to topographical features.”