

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill amends the Electoral Act 1956.

Clause 1 relates to the Short Title.

Clause 2 re-enacts in an amended form section 23 of the principal Act, which at present provides that the Representation Commission is to divide New Zealand into Maori Electoral Districts, the number of such districts to be determined in accordance with a formula set out in subsection (2), which is based on total Maori population as determined under subsection (6).

The new section 23 restores the position to what it was before the passing of the Electoral Amendment Act 1975, and provides that there are to be 4 Maori Electoral Districts, to be known as the Northern, Eastern, Western, and Southern Maori Electoral Districts, respectively.

The provision that the Chatham Islands are to form part of the Western Maori Electoral District is re-enacted.

Hon. Mr Thomson

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

Title	1. Short Title
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	2. Maori representation
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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 1976, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Electoral Act 1956* (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

10 **2. Maori representation**—(1) The principal Act is hereby amended by repealing section 23 (as substituted by section 8 of the Electoral Amendment Act 1975), and substituting the following section:

15 “23. (1) For the purpose of the representation of the Maori people in the House of Representatives, New Zealand shall be divided into 4 Maori electoral districts, to be known as—

*Reprinted, 1975, Vol. 3, p. 1897

The Northern Maori Electoral District:
 The Eastern Maori Electoral District:
 The Western Maori Electoral District:
 The Southern Maori Electoral District.

“(2) The Governor-General may at any time, by Proclamation, redefine and declare, and from time to time alter, the boundaries of the several Maori electoral districts. 5

“(3) From the date of every Proclamation issued under this section, the boundaries of the Maori electoral districts as declared or altered by the Proclamation shall be the boundaries thereof for the purpose of the election of Maori members of Parliament after the dissolution or expiration of the then existing Parliament, and shall so continue until the next Proclamation under this section is issued and similarly takes effect.” 10 15

(2) Section 24 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) For the purposes of the election of Maori members of Parliament, the Chatham Islands shall be deemed to form part of the Western Maori Electoral District.” 20

(3) Section 8 of the Electoral Amendment Act 1975 is hereby consequentially repealed.