SUBMISSION: DO NOT ENTRENCH MAORI SEATS

MAORI SEATS ARE AN ANACHRONISM

MAORI SEATS CANNOT BE ABOLISHED ONCE THEY ARE ENTRENCHED

DO NOT ENTRENCH MAORI SEATS!

In New Zealand’s first election in 1853, only adult males owning land worth £25 or more could vote.

Disputed ownership of customary land meant many Maori could not satisfy the electoral requirement.

Legislation passed in 1867 addressed the issue by providing for election of four Maori MPs.

Once universal suffrage was introduced in 1893 there was no longer any need for particular Maori representation in Parliament.

The 1986 Royal Commission into the Electoral System said a change to MMP would bring more Maori MPs into Parliament.

The predicted increase in Maori representation came to pass.

13% of MPs identified as Maori in 1996, 22% in 2014, and 23% in 2017.

It's hard to argue for Maori seats to ensure Maoris are represented in Parliament.