

## TIMELINE

### RESOURCE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

#### CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND 1993

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1835	Declaration of Independence	Colonial Office and British Government recognise NZ as sovereign state.
1840	Treaty of Waitangi	Treaty upheld Maori right to complete authority but was understood by Pakeha and the Crown as ceding sovereignty.
1840	Royal Charter	Division of country into three parts but never given political effect.
1840	Hobson's Declaration of Sovereignty	Declared sovereignty over the South island by right of discovery.
1846	Constitution Act	Authority to establish representative institutions locally. Never fully implemented.
1852	Constitution Act	2-chamber legislature established. Powers limited by the British Colonial office and the Governor. Also 6, one-chamber Provincial councils under the National Body, established.
1852	Male voting qualifications established	Males over 21 with some property are entitled to vote. As most Maori held land in common they failed to qualify.
1854	First General Assembly opened	Auckland
1856	Appointment of first Ministry	This was under "Responsible Government" with Sewell as Premier of Pakeha minority government.
1858	New Provinces Act	Provinces defined on basis of population.

1860	Kohimarama Conference	Gore Browne at this conference attempted to isolate Taranaki following the Waitara Purchase, in preparation for making war on Taranaki. On the Maori side it reasserted the primacy of the Treaty.
1862	Native Lands Act	Removed the Crown's right to pre-emption which had offered some protection to Maori land ownership.
1863	New Zealand Settlement Act	Provided for the confiscation of Maori land. Colonial Government also stated its intention to assume control of Maori Affairs. Beginning of Waikato Invasion.
1864	Native Reserves Act	Permitted long leases of Maori land for peppercorn rentals.
1865	Capital moved to Wellington	End of Waikato war
1865	Native Land Act	Set up the Maori Land Court to determine titles of Maori Land.
1867	Maori Representation Act	Creation of 4 Maori seats. Maori markedly unrepresented. 4 seats for a population of about 50,000 compared with 72 European seats for a population of approximately 170,000. All adult male Maori entitled to vote.

(This Act was made necessary because of the war and the fact that the Maori Land Court had, by 1867 made inroads to collective titles thus making by default, more Maori able to vote in the Pakeha electorates. To prevent an imbalance in Pakeha power, they established the 4 Maori seats, thus ensuring Maori were a permanent minority in the political system. 3 of the 4 were to be in the North to prevent giving the South Island more say, rather than having anything to do with population distribution.)

1876	Maori seats made permanent	The Maori seats had been a temporary creation.
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1879	Triennial Parliament Act	Adult male suffrage established. Now <u>all</u> adult males can vote, regardless of property ownership.
1889		Plural voting abolished.
1890	Elections	First election under one-man, one-vote system.
1893	Women get the vote	Maori women vote under the same conditions as Maori men. Abolition of the provision of 1867 which allowed Maori who met the property qualification to vote in both constituencies.
1919-1951	Maori Voting	Held the day before the election of European seats.
1937	Secret balloting for Maori begun	Until 1910 Voting in Maori seats had been by show of hands. Secret balloting for European seats established in 1870.
1949	Maori Electoral Roll established	European roll had been established in 1852.
1950	Legislative Council(Upper House) Abolished	
1956	Maori legally obliged to enrol	European enrolment made compulsory, 1924.
1967	Maori can stand in European electorates	Unable to do so prior to this date.
1975	Electoral Amendment Act	Provided for each Maori seat to be set after each census on the basis of the same population quota used to determine the number of general seats. Never came about because the National Government repealed it as soon as it was elected at the end of 1975.
1984		On average every general electorate population group of 32,000 was represented by an MP but for Maori there was only 1 MP for every 72,500 people.

1984	Ngaruawahia Conference	Considered constitutional questions relating to the Treaty. Sponsored by Te Runanga Whakawhanaunga and NZ Maori Council.
1985	Waitangi Conference	Follow-up to Ngaruawahia Conference. Sponsored by Te Runanga and Maori MPs.
1990	Runanga call to boycott the elections	Proposed a constitutional conference.