

New Zealand.

ANNO TRICESIMO PRIMO

V I C T O R I Æ R E G I N Æ .

No. 47.

AN ACT to provide for the better Representation of the Native Aboriginal Inhabitants of the Colony of New Zealand. Title.
[10th October 1867.]

WHEREAS owing to the peculiar nature of the tenure of Maori land and to other causes the Native Aboriginal inhabitants of this Colony of New Zealand have heretofore with few exceptions been unable to become registered as electors or to vote at the election of members of the House of Representatives or of the Provincial Councils of the said Colony and it is expedient for the better protection of the interests of Her Majesty's subjects of the Native race that temporary provision should be made for the special representation of such Her Majesty's Native subjects in the House of Representatives and the Provincial Councils of the said Colony Preamble.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows—

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be "The Maori Representation Act 1867." Short Title.

2. The term "Maori" in this Act shall mean a male aboriginal native inhabitant of New Zealand of the age of twenty-one years and upwards and shall include half-castes. Interpretation.

3. In addition to the number of members of which by any law for the time being in force it may be provided that the House of Representatives shall consist there shall be four members of the said House who shall be elected under the provisions of this Act to represent therein the inhabitants of the Colony of the Maori race. Four Maori members to be elected.

4. For the purpose of the election of such members of the said House the Colony shall be divided into four Maori electoral districts. Division of Colony into Maori electoral districts.

5. The names of such electoral districts and the numbers of the members to be returned by each such district respectively shall be as follows— Names of districts and numbers of members to be returned.

The Northern Maori Electoral District—One member.

The Eastern Maori Electoral District—One member.

The Western Maori Electoral District—One member.

The Southern Maori Electoral District—One member.

6. Such members shall be chosen respectively from amongst and by the votes of the Maoris inhabiting each of the said districts who shall not at any time theretofore have been attainted or convicted of any treason felony or infamous offence and shall be otherwise qualified as hereinafter provided. How chosen.

7. The Governor shall cause the first writs for the election of members of the House of Representatives for the electoral districts aforesaid Writs for election to be issued.

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to be issued at some time not later than six months next after the passing of this Act.

The Governor empowered to define boundaries of districts.

8. It shall be lawful for the Governor by proclamation to be published in the *New Zealand Gazette* to define and declare and from time to time to alter and vary the boundaries of the said several Maori electoral districts and such boundaries so from time to time defined and declared shall be taken and deemed to be the boundaries of the said Maori electoral districts as fully as if the same had been set forth in this Act.

The Governor may make provision for electoral lists and elections.

9. It shall be lawful for the Governor by proclamation to be published as aforesaid to make provision for the appointing of returning officers and for ascertaining and certifying the qualifications of persons claiming to vote and for issuing executing and returning the necessary writs for election of such members and for taking the poll thereat and otherwise for ensuring the orderly effective and impartial conduct of such elections.

Forms to be printed.

10. The Minister in whose department this Act shall for the time being be administered shall from time to time cause to be printed and distributed forms in accordance with the provisions of any such proclamation as aforesaid.

Members of Provincial Council.

11. It shall be lawful for the Superintendent and Provincial Council of any Province by any Act or Ordinance to be passed in that behalf to provide that one or more members of such Provincial Council shall be elected by the inhabitants of such Province who by virtue of this Act shall have become entitled to vote for a member of the House of Representatives and for such purpose to constitute such Maori electoral district within such Province as the Superintendent and Provincial Council thereof shall think fit.

Duration of Act.

12. This Act shall continue in force for five years after the passing thereof Provided that any person who shall have been duly elected under the authority hereof shall continue to be a member of the House of Representatives or of a Provincial Council as the case may be after the expiration of this Act until he shall resign his seat or until the then next dissolution of the House of Representatives or of the Provincial Council as the case may be of which he shall be a member Provided also that any Act or Ordinance of any Superintendent and Provincial Council passed under the authority of this Act shall continue in force notwithstanding the expiration of this Act for such time as shall in such Provincial Act or Ordinance be provided.

SCHEDULE.

The Northern Maori Electoral District shall comprise so much of the North Island of New Zealand as lies to the northward of the Manukau harbour and a line drawn from the nearest point on the Manukau harbour to the Tamaki stream and thence following the course of the Tamaki stream to the sea.

The Western Maori Electoral District shall comprise so much of the North Island of New Zealand as shall lie south of the southern boundary of the Northern Maori Electoral District being bounded on the east by a line commencing at Wairakei a stream in the Bay of Plenty thence by a line running southward along the boundary of the Arawa tribal territory to the summit of Titiraupunga thence to the nearest part of Lake Taupo thence to the middle of that lake and the Upper Waikato river to its source thence by a direct line to the summit of the Ruahine range of mountains thence by a line following the watershed to Turakirae a point in Cook Straits.

The Eastern Maori Electoral District shall comprise all that portion of the North Island of New Zealand not contained in the Northern and Western Maori Electoral Districts.

The Southern Electoral Maori District comprises the Middle Island Stewart's Island and the islands adjacent thereto.