APPENDIX 4
LEGISLATION ON MAORI REPRESENTATION,
1867–1990

1. Maori Representation Act, 1867
Four Maori seats created representing the Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern Maori districts for a period of five years. In 1872, the system was given extension for a period of five years.
For the purposes of the Act, a Maori was defined as 'a male aboriginal native inhabitant of New Zealand of the age of twenty-one years and upwards and shall include half-castes.'

2. Maori Representation Act Continuance Act, 1876
The Maori Representation Act, 1867 as amended by The Maori Representation Act Amendment and Continuance Act, 1872 shall be and is hereby continued in operation, and shall remain in operation until expressly repealed by an Act of the General Assembly.

3. Electoral Act, 1879
Europeans accorded manhood suffrage; Maori could vote in a European electorate on the basis of a 25 pound freehold estate or as a ratepayer.

4. Electoral Act, 1893
Half-castes or Maori who had a freehold estate valued as above might still vote in European electorates but only at the expense of losing their votes in Maori electorates. Definition of Maori altered to 'an aboriginal inhabitant of New Zealand, and includes b castes and their descendants by Natives.'

5. Legislative Amendment Act, 1910
Voting by show of hands abandoned in favour of voting declaration.

6. Legislative Amendment Act, 1914
Maori rolls introduced.

7. Election Amendment Act, 1937
Maori granted the secret ballot, which had been introduced for Europeans in 1870.

8. Electoral Amendment Act, 1948
Gave statutory for the creation of Maori rolls, while at the same time providing for the retention of the Maori right to vote declaration. Provided for the preparation of Maori rolls to be centralised in the Chief Electoral Office.

9. Electoral Amendment Act, 1950
Maori and European voting to occur on the same day.
10. Electoral Act, 1956
Enrolment for Maori was made compulsory and the procedure for enrolling became the same for Maori as for European voters.

11. Electoral Amendment Act, 1967
Allowed Maori other than half-castes to stand as candidates for European electorates; Europeans allowed to stand for Maori electorates.

12. Electoral Amendment Act, 1975
Maori defined as a person of the Maori race of New Zealand, including any descendant of such a person who elected to be considered a Maori.

Application forms for enrolment to be distributed with the census questionnaire but separate from it. Electors to be asked whether they were Maori, and, if so, whether they wished to enrol on the Maori or General Roll. The results would determine the number and boundaries of the Maori seats, calculated by taking the total number of those wishing to enrol on Maori rolls together with their children under eighteen years and dividing that total by the New Zealand quota. The quotient obtained would determine the number of Maori seats.

13. Electoral Amendment Act, 1976
Repealed the section of the 1975 legislation relating to the number of Maori seats. Adjustment of the boundaries of the Maori electorates removed from the jurisdiction of the Representation Commission and returned to the Governor General.

Representation Commission to draw the boundaries for the four Maori electorates.

15. Electoral Amendment Act, 1990
Maori electoral population to mean the sum of (a) total number of persons registered as electors of the Maori electoral districts, and (b) a figure representing a proportion of the persons of Maori descent who have not registered in any electoral district. The mechanism for exercising the Maori option also changed.