# New Zealand Flag project timetable - two postal referenda, to conclude April 2016

***Subject to legislative and parliamentary processes**

## Key groups/ work areas

**CABINET**
*Decisions as required*

**RESPONSIBLE MINISTER/S ("RM")**
*Oversight of and lead for process*
*Power to act in some areas*
*Supported and advised by officials*

**CROSS-PARTY MPS' GROUP ("CPG")**
*Important to have multi-party involvement*
*Members nominated by Party leaders*
***First: nominations to RM for FCP members***
***Second: advise on referenda process (legislation)***
*Supported and advised by officials*

**FLAG CONSIDERATION PANEL ("FCP")**
*Appointed by Cabinet on RMs' advice, informed by CPG's nominations*
***Engages with the public in the flag discussion***
***Reports on findings and alternative flag designs***
*Comms role continues in referenda lead-up*
*Supported by Project Secretariat*

**OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE**
*Support for RM and Cabinet as required*
*Policy advice to CPG*

**PROJECT SECRETARIAT (in DPMC)**
*Primary support role: the FCP*
*Support to Officials' Committee as required*

**PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION**
*High-level of public interest and participation required for process to be successful, enduring*
*Pre-referenda: led by FCP*
*Once referenda process decided: led by Electoral Commission, with support from FCP*

**REFERENDA PROCESS**
*CPG has ongoing role in advising on best referenda process (legislation)*
*Requires enabling legislation, and support from the Electoral Commission*

**LEGISLATION**
*Enables referenda, and provision for amendment to existing legislation (if required)*
*Requires support from CPG, RMs, Officials' Committee, PCO*

## 2014 — 2015 — 2016

OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

*Initial Cabinet paper (overall process, legislation underway)*

*CPG established mid-Nov, and make nominations for FCP members by Fri 12 Dec*

*CPG starts to consider advertising issues*

*Manager appointed and forms team; plans for support of the FCP*

*Decisions from initial Cabinet paper enable slot in legislation programme and drafting instructions to be issued*

*Cabinet appoints FCP by Mon 16 Feb*

*Leg approved by Mon 9 March*

APH

LEG

*Informed by CPG's suggestions, RM asks Cabinet to appoint FCP members by Mon 2 Feb*

*When House returns: CPG considers draft Bill*

*In Feb: CPG considers final draft Bill (before LEG)*

*Further drafting instructions (if required)*

*RM approves public engagement process by Mon 13 April*

*FCP holds first meeting by Mon 9 March, and plans public engagement process*

**FCP engagement process and reporting**

**Mon 4 May - Fri 21 Aug: (16 weeks)**

**publicise the flag consideration process*
****seek designs and suggestions from the public***
**seek input from flag and other design and tikanga Maori experts*
**seek expert due diligence on potential designs*

**Reporting**
** by Fri 21 Aug, report to RM*

***Bill - 5-6 months in house (incl 4 month select committee)***
***Introduced early March; Assent by Mon 24 Aug***

*RM puts designs to Cabinet by 31 Aug*

*Cabinet approves designs and ballot paper finalised by Order in Council by Mon 14 Sept*

**Fri 23 Oct : roll closes; Weds 28 Oct:** ballot paper printing begins *(3 wks)*

**Tues 15 Sept to end of voting period**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN**

**encourage people to enrol*
**advise how to vote*
** what the options mean*

*Electoral Commission and FCP - coordinated public communications*

**Mon 12 Oct - Fri 11 Dec *(6 weeks before, and during voting period)***

**REGULATED ADVERTISING PERIOD**

****standards and restrictions around promoter advertising***

Monitored by Electoral Commission

**REF 1**

***Fri 20 Nov - Fri 11 Dec:***

***3 week postal voting period***

***Final result: Tues 15 Dec***

*Xmas, New Year 2015/6*

*School holidays*

**Early Feb to end of voting period**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN**

**encourage people to enrol*
**advise how to vote*
**what the outcome means*

*Electoral Commission and FCP - coordinated public communications*

**Mon 22 Feb - Fri 22 April *(6 weeks before, and during voting period)***

**REGULATED ADVERTISING PERIOD**

****standards and restrictions around promoter advertising***

Monitored by Electoral Commission

**REF 2**

***Fri 1 April - Fri 22 April :***

***3 week postal voting period***

***Final result: Tues 26 Apr***

***IMPLEMENTATION***

*IF CHANGE IS AN OUTCOME OF THE PROCESS:*

*MID-LATE 2016*

OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC