

22 May 2024

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon Hon Simeon Brown Hon Tama Potaka, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti Rt Hon Winston Peters, Leader, New Zealand First Hon David Seymour, Leader, ACT

Kia ora Prime Minister, Ministers, and party leaders

Changes to Māori ward and constituency poll provisions

Local Government New Zealand and the Mayors and Chairs that have signed this letter are opposed to the changes the Coalition Government is proposing to Māori ward and constituency poll provisions.

The Government's decision to remove decision-making from councils by mandating that polls be run on Māori wards and constituencies is an overreach on local decision-making when current legislation already requires councils to seek community views. We are disappointed this is in contrast with the commitments the Government made during the election campaign to empower local government to make decisions about its own communities.

Our position – a position that has been held by Local Government New Zealand since 2018 – is that Māori wards and constituencies should be treated like all other wards and that decisions should be made at the council level. Polls aren't required on any other wards or constituencies, and requiring them will add increased costs to councils.

We are concerned that the Government's decision is a distraction from the hard work that councils are doing to deliver infrastructure and keep costs down for their communities. It also undermines the important contributions that Māori are making to local government.

We urge the Government to reconsider its position and leave it to local councils to make decisions about appropriate representation arrangements in partnership with iwi and their communities.

Ngā mihi nui

Mayor Sam Broughton President

Local Government New Zealand

Selwyn District Council

Mayor Campbell Barry Vice-President

Local Government New Zealand

Hutt City Council



Mayor Grant Smith
Palmerston North City Council

Janah Aylahut

Mayor Moko Tenania

Mayor Moko Tepania Far North District Council

Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst Hastings District Council

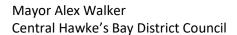
Mayor Toby Adams Hauraki District Council

Mayor Janet Holborow Kāpiti Coast District Council Mayor Neil Holdom New Plymouth District Council

Mayor Gary Caffell Masterton District Council Mayor Nadine Taylor Marlborough District Council

Mayor Tim Cadogan Central Otago District Council Mayor Monique Croon Chatham Islands Council





State

Mayor Rehette Stoltz Gisborne District Council

Man Fools

Chair Daran Ponter Greater Wellington Regional Council

Mayor Tim King Tasman District Council

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an Solu

Mayor Tory Whanau Wellington City Council

Mayor Len Salt
Thames-Coromandel District Council

Mayor Anita Baker Porirua City Council Mayor Andrew Tripe Whanganui District Council

Mayor Max Baxter Ōtorohanga District Council

Mayor David Moore Ōpōtiki District Council





Mayor Phil Nixon South Taranaki District Council



Mayor David Trewavas Taupō District Council



Clutha District Council

Mayor Bernie Wanden Horowhenua District Council

Mayor Jacqui Church Waikato District Council (pualise

Mayor Kirsten Wise Napier City Council

Krun.

Mayor Faylene Tunui Kawerau District Council

Mayor Gary Kircher Waitaki District Council

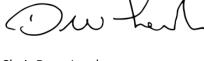
Mayor Ben Bell Gore District Council

Chair Nicol Horrell Environment Southland





Mayor Dr Victor Luca Whakatāne District Council



Chair Doug Leeder Bay of Plenty Regional Council



Mayor Neil Volzke Stratford District Council



Mayor Andy Watson Rangitīkei District Council



Mayor Craig Little Wairoa District Council

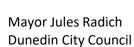




Acting Chair Craig Pauling Environment Canterbury



Chair Charlotte Littlewood Taranaki Regional Council



Mayor Rob Scott Southland District Council



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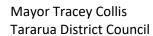
Chair Hinewai Ormsby Hawke's Bay Regional Council



Mayor Weston Kirton Ruapehu District Council

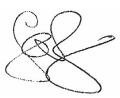
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Chair Rachel Keedwell Horizons Regional Council





Mayor Wayne Guppy Upper Hutt City Council



Mayor Susan O'Regan Waipā District Council

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Mayor Gary Petley South Waikato District Council



Mayor Martin Connelly
South Wairarapa District Council

Mayor Anne Munro
Mackenzie District Council

Chair Pamela Storey Waikato Regional Council



Cr Toni Boynton Co-Chair Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere Cr Iaean Cranwell Co-Chair Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere