



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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Broughton'.

Mayor Sam Broughton
President
Local Government New Zealand
Selwyn District Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C Barry'.

Mayor Campbell Barry
Vice-President
Local Government New Zealand
Hutt City Council



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Smith'.

Mayor Grant Smith
Palmerston North City Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Moko Tepania'.

Mayor Moko Tepania
Far North District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Hazlehurst'.

Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst
Hastings District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toby Adams'.

Mayor Toby Adams
Hauraki District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Holborow'.

Mayor Janet Holborow
Kāpiti Coast District Council

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Neil Holdom'.

Mayor Neil Holdom
New Plymouth District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Caffell'.

Mayor Gary Caffell
Masterton District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadine Taylor'.

Mayor Nadine Taylor
Marlborough District Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Cadogan'.

Mayor Tim Cadogan
Central Otago District Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Monique Croon'.

Mayor Monique Croon
Chatham Islands Council



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Walker".

Mayor Alex Walker
Central Hawke's Bay District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rehette Stoltz".

Mayor Rehette Stoltz
Gisborne District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daran Ponter".

Chair Daran Ponter
Greater Wellington Regional Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim King".

Mayor Tim King
Tasman District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tory Whanau".

Mayor Tory Whanau
Wellington City Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Len Salt".

Mayor Len Salt
Thames-Coromandel District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Baker".

Mayor Anita Baker
Porirua City Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Tripe".

Mayor Andrew Tripe
Whanganui District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Baxter".

Mayor Max Baxter
Ōtorohanga District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Moore".

Mayor David Moore
Ōpōtiki District Council



A black ink signature of Mayor Phil Nixon, consisting of a series of fluid, overlapping strokes.

Mayor Phil Nixon
South Taranaki District Council

A purple ink signature of Mayor Kirsten Wise, written in a cursive style.

Mayor Kirsten Wise
Napier City Council

A blue ink signature of Mayor David Trewavas, featuring a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Mayor David Trewavas
Taupō District Council

A blue ink signature of Mayor Faylene Tunui, written in a cursive style.

Mayor Faylene Tunui
Kawerau District Council

A blue ink signature of Mayor Bryan Cadogan, featuring a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Mayor Bryan Cadogan
Clutha District Council

A black ink signature of Mayor Gary Kircher, consisting of a series of fluid, overlapping strokes.

Mayor Gary Kircher
Waitaki District Council

A black ink signature of Mayor Bernie Wanden, featuring a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Mayor Bernie Wanden
Horowhenua District Council

A black ink signature of Mayor Ben Bell, featuring a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Mayor Ben Bell
Gore District Council

A black ink signature of Mayor Jacqui Church, featuring a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Mayor Jacqui Church
Waikato District Council

A black ink signature of Chair Nicol Horrell, featuring a large, stylized initial 'N'.

Chair Nicol Horrell
Environment Southland



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Mayor Dr Victor Luca
Whakatāne District Council

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Chair Doug Leeder
Bay of Plenty Regional Council

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Mayor Neil Volzke
Stratford District Council

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Mayor Andy Watson
Rangitikei District Council

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Mayor Craig Little
Wairoa District Council

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Chair Geoff Crawford
Northland Regional Council

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Acting Chair Craig Pauling
Environment Canterbury

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Chair Charlotte Littlewood
Taranaki Regional Council

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Mayor Jules Radich
Dunedin City Council

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Mayor Rob Scott
Southland District Council



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hinewai Ormsby".

Chair Hinewai Ormsby
Hawke's Bay Regional Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Weston Kirton".

Mayor Weston Kirton
Ruapehu District Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Keedwell".

Chair Rachel Keedwell
Horizons Regional Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Collis".

Mayor Tracey Collis
Tararua District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Guppy".

Mayor Wayne Guppy
Upper Hutt City Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan O'Regan".

Mayor Susan O'Regan
Waipā District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Petley".

Mayor Gary Petley
South Waikato District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Connelly".

Mayor Martin Connelly
South Wairarapa District Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Munro".

Mayor Anne Munro
Mackenzie District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Storey".

Mayor Pamela Storey
Waikato Regional Council



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rohan".

Deputy Mayor Rohan O'Neill-Stevens
Nelson City Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iaeen".

Cr Iaeen Cranwell
Co-Chair Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni Boynton".

Cr Toni Boynton
Co-Chair Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere