
National Council terms of reference

Elections for National Council roles

National Council is LGNZ's Governing Board. It sets LGNZ's strategy and direction.

Elections for National Council members are held every three years, immediately after the local government elections. The President and Vice President are elected at the following year's AGM unless a vacancy is created.

National Council's composition

- Each of the six geographic zones elects one representative to National Council.
- The Metro sector elects three representatives (at least one from the South Island).
- The Regional sector elects two representatives.
- The Rural sector elects one representative.
- The Provincial sector elects one representative.
- Te Maruata's Chair, who is elected by Te Maruata, sits on National Council (the Chair can choose to delegate this seat).
- Young Elected Members elect one representative.

National Council members are officers under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022

As officers, National Council members have statutory duties similar those of to company directors. These duties include to:

- Act in good faith and in the best interests of LGNZ.
- Exercise reasonable care and diligence.
- Comply with relevant legislation and LGNZ's own rules.
- Avoid improper use of position or information.
- Disclose conflicts of interest.

Officers can be held personally liable for breaches of the Incorporated Societies Act.

LGNZ's objects

This summary draws from the list of objects in the [LGNZ Rules](#).

The purpose of LGNZ is to promote – and advocate for – the national interests of local government.

LGNZ promotes and facilitates regular dialogue with central government, opposition parties and government agencies on matters of national interest to local government, with a view to enhancing and ensuring a long-term commitment to partnership between central and local government.

LGNZ also investigates matters of interest to members, provides advice, and delivers training and professional development. It holds meetings and conferences to advance these objects.

National Council's scope

National Council sets LGNZ's strategy and direction, and monitors its performance.

National Council appoints the Chief Executive. It empowers the Chief Executive to identify how to achieve the strategic objectives and direction, and to put the relevant operational arrangements in place. National Council monitors the Chief Executive's performance and conducts annual performance reviews. It also provides guidance, direction and support.

National Council acts first as a collective. It represents local government as a whole – and collectively provides leadership for New Zealand local government. National Council does not speak for individual member councils but for all of local government. Members actively promote the work of National Council to their representative groups and gather their feedback and input, sharing this back with National Council.

National Council members participate in project groups or committees set up by National Council. They also provide local government perspective in working groups set up by central government.

National Council promotes good governance, both in its own processes and to local government.

Subject to LGNZ Rules, National Council specifies its own operating principles and practices, including performance expectations and the process of evaluating these. It creates clear delegations and guidelines for the Chief Executive.

Expectations of National Council members

National Council members commit to collective responsibility and any agreed code and/or charter.

Members engage with the group that they represent, bringing that perspective to National Council and gathering feedback from their group on National Council's work. Decisions nevertheless need to be in accordance with LGNZ's objects, which focus on the national interests of local government.

Members prepare for and attend all National Council meetings, along with other key events or meetings, including the Central Government-Local Government Forum, strategy day, the LGNZ Conference, and the LGNZ AGM. National Council meetings are a mix of one- and two-day meetings, with five usually held throughout the year. These may be in person or online.

Sometimes there are out-of-session meetings or matters for discussion or approval, usually online.



LGNZ is very cognisant of costs. We cover fair and reasonable travel costs for National Council members to attend in-person meetings, which are held in Wellington. Where possible, we try to minimise any overnight accommodation.