

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

Mener

Mayor Moko Tepania Far North District Council

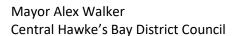
Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst Hastings District Council Mayor Toby Adams Hauraki District Council

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

Chair Daran Ponter

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Van Forks

Mayor Tim King Tasman District Council

Mayor Tory Whanau Wellington City Council

an Solu

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



Mayor Bernie Wanden Horowhenua District Council



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Mayor Kirsten Wise Napier City Council



Mayor Faylene Tunui Kawerau District Council



Mayor Gary Kircher Waitaki District Council



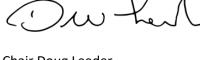
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Chair Nicol Horrell Environment Southland





Mayor Dr Victor Luca Whakatāne District Council



Chair Doug Leeder Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Masso

Mayor Neil Volzke Stratford District Council



Mayor Andy Watson Rangitīkei District Council

Challe

Mayor Craig Little Wairoa District Council

Chair Geoff Crawford Northland Regional Council



Chalote Inthewood

Chair Charlotte Littlewood Taranaki Regional Council

Mayor Jules Radich Dunedin City Council

Mayor Rob Scott
Southland District Council



Normsby

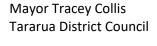
Chair Hinewai Ormsby Hawke's Bay Regional Council



Ruapehu District Council

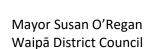
Placomer.

Chair Rachel Keedwell Horizons Regional Council



Nayne Guffy

Mayor Wayne Guppy Upper Hutt City Council



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Mayor Gary Petley South Waikato District Council



South Wairarapa District Council

Mayor Anne Munro Mackenzie District Council

Mayor Pamela Storey Waikato Regional Council



Deputy Mayor Rohan O'Neill-Stevens Nelson City Council

Cr Iaean Cranwell

Co-Chair Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere

Cr Toni Boynton

Co-Chair Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere