

Report 12.305  
Date 25 June 2012  
File E/01/01/01

Committee Council  
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Community Engagement

## **Submission on the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill**

### **1. Purpose**

To seek the Council's agreement to a submission being made to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill.

### **2. The decision-making process and significance**

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

#### **2.1 Significance of the decision**

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

### **3. Background**

The Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill (the Bill) was introduced in the House on 5 May 2012 by the Honourable David Carter, Minister of Local Government. The Bill implements the first steps of policy reforms announced

in the 19 March 2012 *Better Local Government* announcement. A booklet which outlines the reforms is available at:

<http://www.dia.govt.nz/Pubforms.nsf/URL/Better-Local-Gvt-pr08.pdf/>

The Minister of Local Government has stated that the Bill intends to refocus the purpose of local government, introduce financial prudence requirements for local authorities, strengthen council governance provisions and streamline council reorganisation procedures.

The closing date for submissions is 26 July 2012. The draft submission and covering letter are attached as **Attachment 1**.

#### **4. Comment**

The submission is focused on specific provisions in the Bill which could be enhanced in terms of their purpose and application.

#### **5. Communication**

The approved submission will be sent to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee.

#### **6. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Notes** the content of the report.*
- 3. **Approves** the submission set out in Attachment 1 to this report.*
- 4. **Requests** that the approved submission be sent to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee.*
- 5. **Authorises** the Chair to sign the approved submission on the Council's behalf and appear before the Local Government and Environment Select Committee in support of Council's submission.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

**Jane Davis**  
General Manager, Strategy  
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**David Benham**  
Chief Executive

Attachment 1: Draft Submission and covering letter on the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill