

REPORT 1
(1215/11/IM)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – REMIT PROPOSAL: LOCAL GOVERNMENT – A PLACE IN OUR CONSTITUTION

1. Purpose of report

This report seeks agreement to lodge a remit proposed to the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting seeking a place for local government in the Constitution Act.

New Zealanders are currently engaging in a conversation about the future of our constitution. This is the appropriate time to fully have reflected the structures that support and protect our democratic traditions.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to submit a remit proposal (as attached at Appendix One) for consideration by delegates at the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting to be held on 21-23 July 2013.*

3. Background

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) will hold its annual conference in Hamilton on 21 – 23 July. As part of the conference agenda, remits may be considered by member organisations and a call has been made for the submission of remits for consideration.

The *Local Government – A place in our Constitution* paper presents for discussion a proposal to amend the Constitution Act to give local government a place in New Zealand's democratic governance arrangements. The paper proposes that regardless of the extent to which local government is responsible for delivering services and activities, the nature of local government as a crucial part of our constitutional framework is undeniable and should be reflected in the legislation.

This approach leaves open the opportunity to have the essential nature and significance of local government reflected in any future written constitution for New Zealand. It provides the basis for a broader conversation that could take place as part of the current Constitution Conversation (see below).

3.1 Remits

Submission of proposed remits for consideration must be received no later than Monday 12 May 2013. The criteria for considering remits were reviewed in March 1999 and National Council adopted the following Remits Screening Policy:

- Remits must be relevant to local government as a whole rather than exclusively relevant to a single zone or sector group (or an individual council.)
- Remits should be of a major policy nature (constitutional and substantive policy) rather than matters that can be dealt with by administrative action.
- Remits must have formal support from at least one zone or sector group meeting, or five Councils, prior to their being submitted, in order for the proposer to assess support, clarity of the proposal etc.
- Remits defeated at the AGM in two successive years will not be permitted to go forward.
- Remits will be assessed to determine whether the matters raised can be actioned by alternative, and equally valid, means to achieve the desired outcome.
- Remits that deal with issues or matters currently being actioned by LGNZ may also be declined on the grounds that the matters raised are “in-hand.” This does not include remits that deal with the same issue but from a different point of view.
- Remits must be accompanied by background information and research to show that the matter warrants consideration by delegates. Such background should show:
 - i. the nature of the issue
 - ii. the background to its being raised
 - iii. the issue’s relationship, if any, to the current Work Programme and its objectives
 - iv. the level of work, if any, already undertaken on the issue by the proposer, and outcomes to date
 - v. the outcomes of any zone or sector meetings which have discussed the issue
 - vi. suggested actions that could be taken by LGNZ should the remit be adopted.

The proposed remit is consistent with this criteria (noting that support will be sought from other councils).

3.2 Development

A White Paper has been developed that outlines the proposal (attached as Appendix One). While the remit will eventually be considered by all LGNZ members, we also propose to work with a range of councils throughout the region and New Zealand to obtain sufficient support.

That support for the remit could be obtained prior to 13 May 2013 and we would hope to receive letters of support from a greater number of councils than the policy requires in order to give it the greatest chance of success at the AGM.

4. Discussion

While significant reform is being undertaken throughout the local government sector such as in Auckland, legislative change and the *Better Local Government* package, the constitutional importance of local government to the nature of New Zealand's democratic arrangements remains largely unstated.

The local government sector is predominantly guided by the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA). In addition to its primary legislation, the sector must also have regard to and be consistent with the Resource Management Act, the Local Electoral Act amongst others.

As is the case with all legislation in New Zealand, the LGA and other legislation are neither superior nor entrenched; it is a piece of legislation that remains open to reform by a simple majority in New Zealand.

The manner in how local government works, the systems and structures that support it, the mechanisms drawn upon to ensure the necessary transparency and accountability are arguably important and necessarily open to change by Parliament.

With that being said, there is an important and lingering question about the place of local government in New Zealand and whether local government as a fundamental aspect of New Zealand's democratic arrangements should be more clearly defined as part of our constitutional arrangements.

The Constitution Act 1986 does not currently include a reference to there being local government in New Zealand. While the Constitution Act, like other significant Acts considered to be part of New Zealand's constitutional arrangements is not entrenched or considered superior law, they are Acts to which our courts and Parliament pay deference to.

The proposal seeks to give constitutional expression to local government as a reflection of our values of enabling local decision-making through locally and democratically elected representatives.

Seeking amendment to the Constitution Act is seen as an effective reflection of these values. It leaves open future debates for the form and shape of local government but ensures its place is recognised. The approach is similar to one that is currently being considered in Australia. The current 'constitution conversation' provides another avenue for discussion on the importance of local democracy and this proposal can be added into that discussion.

4.1 Proposal

This paper recommends that the Council sponsor the development of, and seek support for, the adoption by Local Government New Zealand, of a remit stating:

- i. *That Local Government New Zealand will seek to promote an amendment to the Constitution Act 1986 that gives constitutional expression to local government within New Zealand's democratic governance arrangements.*
- ii. *That local government – its essential place and significance – be reflected in any future constitutional arrangements for New Zealand that may emerge out of the current constitutional review process.*

The detail for how this remit may be translated through our constitutional arrangements can then be developed following successful adoption by the AGM. In addition, this remit will form the basis of future work to that will allow the local government sector to engage with the *Constitutional Conversation*.

4.2 Constitution Conversation

A remit such as this is a timely initiative. The government has established the Constitutional Advisory Panel (the Panel) to consider the potential opportunities for constitutional reform in New Zealand.

The Panel is comprised of a diverse range of notable New Zealanders:

- a. Emeritus Professor John Burrows QC (Co-Chair)
- b. Sir Tipene O'Regan (Co-Chair)
- c. Hon Dr Sir Michael Cullen
- d. Hon Joun Luxton
- e. Dr Leonie Pihama
- f. Professor Dr Ranginui Walker
- g. Emeritus Professor Linda Smith
- h. Peter Chin
- i. Peter Tennent
- j. Hinurewa Poutu
- k. Bernice Mene

The Terms of Reference of the Panel set out that engagement and information sharing are important precursors to any discussion on changes to New Zealand's constitutional arrangements.

To facilitate the consideration of constitutional issues by the public of New Zealand, the Panel is currently undertaking a significant programme of consultation and engagement that seeks to hear New Zealanders views on any issues relating to our constitutional framework.

A six month engagement programme is currently underway in order that the Panel is able to draw together the views of as many New Zealanders as possible about the kind of future they want our constitution to have.

This process presents a second opportunity through which to advance a proposal that would firmly set the place of Local Government squarely within the core of our constitutional arrangements.

Should WCC be successful in generating support for this proposal, and should it be adopted by LGNZ, a single voice from a significant sector of New Zealand's democratic apparatus will be created in support of the proposed remit.

While the target audience for the proposed remit is LGNZ's membership and not the Panel, the possibility to have this considered by the Panel adds an important issue on the constitutional review agenda.

5. Conclusion

Subject to Council's approval:

- 26 April 2013 - Release the White Paper
- 26 April 2013 – Write to councils, as outlined in this paper, seeking support for the remit proposal and continue to gather support leading up to the LGNZ AGM in July 2013.
- 13 May 2013 – No later than this date, submit the remit proposal to LGNZ's Remit Committee
- 21 – 23 July 2013 – Remit considered by LGNZ AGM delegates.

Following this process, officers will work with LGNZ to advance the proposal.

Contact Officers: *Kaine Thompson - Senior Strategy Advisor, Strategy and Brian Hannah – Manager Strategy*

Local Government – A Place in our Constitution

*Remit Proposal – Wellington City Council
Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting
July 2013*

Ahead of the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting in Hamilton in July this year, Wellington City Council proposes a policy remit for consideration by delegates. The remit proposes the addition of a statement that “there shall be local government” in the Constitution Act 1986.

Wellington is the home of New Zealand’s democracy and it is fitting and proper that Wellington City Council should propose a simple but symbolically significant amendment to the Constitution Act.

This White Paper presents for discussion a proposal to amend the Constitution Act to give local government a place in New Zealand’s democratic governance arrangements. This paper proposes that regardless of the extent to which local government is responsible for delivering services and activities, the nature of local government as a crucial part of our constitutional framework is undeniable.

Local government is addressing change in the environment in which it operates. Changes in how Auckland’s local government arrangements are organised, amended legislation opening the door to more change, the *Better Local Government* framework all set out new horizons for the local government sector.

These challenges will be met and local government will continue to be responsible for billions of dollars worth of activity in our economy. Local government will continue to build our towns and cities and work constructively to reflect the aspirations New Zealanders have for the kinds of towns, cities and regions we wish to live in and leave for generations to follow.

This paper proposes that an amendment to the Constitution Act is a hugely symbolic gesture towards reflecting the kind of democracy that New Zealand is, a place where free and open elections allow us to elect our leaders and to make decisions directly affecting the things we can touch, see and feel in our daily lives.

New Zealanders are currently engaging in a conversation about the future of our constitution. This is the appropriate time to have fully reflected the structures that support and protect our democratic traditions.

This approach aims to have local government reflected in the current framework. It leaves open the opportunity to have the essential nature and significance of local government reflected in any ‘written constitution’ that may emerge out of the current *Constitution Conversation* or future processes.

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Remit Proposal

2. Wellington City Council (WCC) proposes that delegates to the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Annual General Meeting support the following remit:
 - i. *That Local Government New Zealand will seek to promote an amendment to the Constitution Act 1986 that gives constitutional expression to local government within New Zealand's democratic governance arrangements.*
 - ii. *That local government – its essential place and significance – be reflected in any constitutional arrangements for New Zealand that may emerge out of the current constitutional review process.*
3. The detail for how this remit may be translated through our constitutional arrangements can then be developed following successful adoption by the AGM. In addition, this remit will form the basis of future work to that will allow the local government sector to engage with the *Constitutional Conversation*.

Background

Constitutions

4. A constitution, in whatever form it takes, is a moral covenant between a government and its people. Regardless of the form of any constitutional arrangements, the protection of certain rights, freedoms, and obligations are the terms of agreement between a people, who delegate power and a government who may execute those delegations.
5. The Cabinet Manual says:

*A constitution is about public power, the power of the state. It describes and establishes the major institutions of government, states their principal powers, and regulates the existence of those powers in a broad way. While all constitutions have these general characteristics, each constitution is affected by the national character of the state it services.*¹
6. Perhaps the most famous written constitution, establishing the tradition of a true agreement between a people and their government and the ascribing of certain powers, rights and freedoms, is that of the United States:

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity,

¹ Cabinet Manual, Introduction, "On the Constitution of New Zealand: An introduction to the foundations of the current form of government", Rt Hon Sir Kenneth Keith, 1990, updated 2008 - <http://cabinetmanual.cabinetoffice.govt.nz/node/68>

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provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.²

7. That constitution, while arguably imperfect, does exemplify the very nature of constitutions. That they are enduring, they are principled and importantly, they set out the nature of the democracies they define. Constitutions form a trust and set out the principled expectations by citizens for those they elect as leaders.
8. The form and function of government is also legally entrenched. Constitutional amendments are not only rare and significant, but require a “super-majority vote”. The process of amending the US Constitution requires the House of Representatives and the Senate by a two-thirds majority, a joint resolution, to amend the constitution that is then ratified directly by each state in the Union.

The New Zealand Context

9. Unlike most modern democracies, New Zealand does not retain a codified constitution. In both countries, constitutional arrangements are found within a range of legal documents, the decisions of the court and enduring constitutional conventions. While there is a view that New Zealand must form a written constitution, it is clear that a constitution can exist, and endure, without necessarily being written in a single place.
10. In New Zealand, the documents in which our constitutional arrangements are considered to be vested are not superior law, no super-majority is required to amend and there are no special requirements for amendment to those legislative Acts other than simple majority.
11. The major sources making up the constitutional arrangements of New Zealand include:
 - Constitution Act 1986
 - Electoral Act 1993
 - New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990
 - State Sector Act 1988
 - Judicature Act 1908
 - Official Information Act 1982
 - Ombudsmen Act 1975
 - Public Finance Act 1989
 - Treaty of Waitangi
 - The Prerogative Powers of the Queen.
12. Some important decisions by New Zealand courts and conventions of the constitution which in practice regulate, control and in some cases transform the

² Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America

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use of legal powers arising from the prerogative powers help to protect and enhance the democratic character of our constitution.

13. This paper doesn't seek to expose a view on whether New Zealand should have a single written constitution or not. Rather, this paper seeks to address the position of local government has within the constitutional framework New Zealand has now and may have in future.
14. Those things said, it is crucial to be clear about the way in which New Zealand's constitution is arranged and the tenor of those arrangements. It is that New Zealand will be democratic, that it will be incorrupt and that leaders will act in the best interests of citizens.

The Nature of Democracy in New Zealand

15. The quality of New Zealand's democratic arrangements is the aspect this paper is concerned with. While a democracy is largely identifiable by free and open elections, a democracy must also give citizens opportunities to participate in decision-making.
16. The quality of New Zealand's democracy is strengthened by the checks and balances that empower citizens with tools to act against abuses of power and against decision-making that are over extensions of executive or other powers.
17. New Zealand's democracy is punctuated by a tradition of the exercise of power through an elected Parliament, an impartial and independent judiciary, a free press, access to government information, protection of individual rights and freedom from corruption.
18. The exercise of decision-making power in New Zealand is on the basis of making decisions as close as possible to the communities those decisions may affect and that decisions should be made by the most competent body with sufficient mandate.
19. The existence and function of local government contributes to New Zealand's robust democratic tradition. In its submission to the Constitutional Arrangements Committee in 2005, Local Government New Zealand had cause to quote Richard Mulgan who states:

...if democracy is to do with self government, the control of one's own life and environment, then the most important area of control is the most immediate environment, the locality in which one lives. Home and neighbourhood should take precedence over the wider and more remote units of region, state or nation.³

³ Mulgan, "Democratic Theory, Devolution and Accountability" ed Martin and Harper, 1988.

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20. New Zealanders enjoy high quality representation from elected Members of Parliament with 1 representative to around every 55,000 New Zealanders. In addition, New Zealanders elect non-electorate-based MPs who contribute to representation that is further reflective of New Zealand's ethnic and demographic diversity.
21. The existence of local government is in the nature of establishing democratic representation closer to the point of impact and influence. It is reflective of an enduring desire of those in free and democratic societies to influence decision-making that has a real and direct impact on the environment in which they live.

Government that is Local

22. The provision of local governance and civil society mechanisms through which citizens can then have their concerns and values expressed is fundamental to the way New Zealanders expect their democracy to operate. Regardless of the scope of activities for which local government has upon which to focus, that it is part of the democratic apparatus is key:

...local government is the prime element in democracy and has an intrinsic value regardless of the functions it may carry out.⁴

23. That it makes decisions exerting some control on “*ones own life and environment*”, that it is truly government which is *local*, it possesses the virtues of being fundamental to the make up of our democratic governance. Undeniably, democratic governance is the ultimate system to ensure citizen participation in decision-making, it demands participation by virtue of electing leaders and then holding them to account.
24. By providing local government structures that distribute their resources in an equitable, transparent and accountable way, democratic governance increases access to services by citizens⁵. In addition to that access, citizens are also afforded a system that allows them to tailor those services to suit the needs of the home and neighbourhood in addition to or even in spite of the views of a central government.
25. In this respect, local government acts as a check and balance against the priorities of an elected central government which, in New Zealand, is subject to party politics. The nature of local government in New Zealand, to be driven largely in a committee style, enables a truer reflection of local preferences and aspirations.
26. The extent to which local government in New Zealand is empowered through decentralization of function, creates local structures that can make decisions and

⁴ “Representative Government”, John Stewart Mill, 1861

⁵ “Democracy, Governance and Development: A Conceptual Framework”, Cheema and Maguire, United Nations Development Programme

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distribute services and resources independent of a central government and more responsively. This is most especially so given local government's ability to raise its own revenue.

27. Clearly, the advantage of democratic governance more broadly is in its ability to reduce disparity and provide equality of opportunity away from the "tyranny of the majority"⁶ as James Madison wrote. That is keenly enabled by the existence local government with its connections to both the area over which there is jurisdiction but similarly its ability to distribute resources to reflect much more local preferences.

The Nature of Local Government

The Constitution Act

28. The principal statement of New Zealand's constitutional framework is the Constitution Act 1986. The Act itself is stunning in simplicity and sets out the establishment of:
 - The Sovereign as Head of State
 - That there shall be a Parliament with an executive and a legislature
 - That there shall be an independent Judiciary.
29. Each of the institutions has a role to play and core functions that can overlap, but they also provide a check and balance upon each other. The question of the place of Local Government arises here. Local Government is not set out in the Constitution Act, but should it be?

The Nature of Parliament

30. At its most fundamental, Parliament can be described by the following key characteristics:
 - Its Members are elected
 - It may pass law
 - It may raise revenue.
31. While, more broadly, the characteristics of Parliament can be far more exhaustively defined, the true nature of Parliament is defined by these key elements. It is fitting, of course, that Parliament's place in our constitutional arrangements is clearly set out in our principal constitutional Act.
32. When reviewing the basest elements of Parliament, we consider now the core characteristics of local government:
 - Its Members are elected
 - It may pass regulation
 - It may raise revenue.

⁶ "The Federalist" (No.10), James Madison, 1787

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33. This paper considers that the core characteristics of both Parliament and Local Government are the same. The mandate to act according to the legislative provisions that define the functions of local government on the basis of free and democratic elections is the same.
34. The ability to impose rates is accepted in return for the appropriate delivery of services where measures of public consultation, consideration and transparency are the same. And, that citizens delegate the power of representative decision-making and the creation of regulations that are both abided by and/or enforced, are the same.
35. There is no other apparatus of New Zealand's framework of government that shares these core characteristics with Parliament. The very name *Local Government* is an indication of its status in our communities. It is a form of government consistent with the traditions of New Zealand's robust representative democracy. It is truly government that is local.

The Place of Local Government

The Local Government Environment – The Challenge of Change

Auckland

36. On 9 December 2009, the government introduced the Local Government (Auckland) Act. For the first time in its history, Auckland was about to be governed by one council.
37. When the Auckland Act became law in 2010, 8 councils would become one, Auckland was to have one Mayor and Auckland would be set to elect 20 Councillors to a new Auckland Council.
38. This is the most significant change to the local government landscape since large scale reforms were undertaken in 1989. There were and continue to be a wide range of views about whether reform was necessary to the structure of Auckland's local government arrangements to address a range of apparent issues, most importantly Auckland's transport challenges.

Better Local Government

39. In March 2012, the government sent strong signals that reforms in Auckland were to be viewed as a compass for the local government sector. The government's broad strategy is called *Better Local Government*.
40. Better Local Government makes reorganisations easier and encourages a more strategic regional view. Better Local Government asks local government to be

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more effective with its resources and to think about the long term with clear, simple and easily accessible plans.

41. The first four points were part of a work programme which culminated in the first piece of legislation which was passed in December 2012. The Act provides for:
 - A new purpose statement
 - New financial prudence requirements
 - Changes to the way councils are governed
 - Changes to the process for reorganising local government.
42. The new purpose statement and the changes to the reorganisation process came into effect as soon as the Act was passed. The changes to the governance arrangements also came into effect with the passing of the Act, except for new mayoral powers which apply from the October 2013 elections.
43. The financial prudence requirements are to be set by regulation. The work to develop those regulations is underway, in consultation with Local Government New Zealand.
44. Work is also underway on the second phase of the reform programme which now consists of six streams of work after Government added points five and six since the announcement was made in March.
 - An efficiency taskforce
 - An expert advisory group on local government infrastructure efficiency
 - A review of development contributions
 - A framework to guide the allocation of regulatory roles between local and central government
 - Investigation of a dual or two-tiered governance model for local government
 - Development of options for a performance framework for local government.
45. Following Auckland and the release of Better Local Government, the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill was released. Government then passed new law that changed the local government sector in line with what has happened in Auckland.
46. Importantly, the Local Government Commission who makes decisions about whether reorganisations should happen or not will have more scope. This means anyone with strong community support will be able to apply to reorganise local government in their area. In addition, the Local Government Commission has new criteria that encourage a regional view, a regional voice and simplified strategic regional planning.

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Lingering Question

47. So, while the functions of local government may be applied with some flexibility, the nature has, does and will continue to endure. It is not proposed in this paper that local government is under threat. This paper doesn't propose that the changing focus or drive towards what local government should *do* is diminishing its role within our constitutional arrangements.
48. Rather, as discussed earlier and while important, the extent to which local government is empowered to make decisions and be government that is local is perhaps irrelevant to the question of whether or not it is reflected within our constitutional arrangements in the first place.
49. However, while significant reform is being undertaken throughout the local government sector, the importance of local government, the constitutional importance of local government to the nature of New Zealand's democratic arrangements remains largely unstated.
50. With that said, it is the position of this paper that it is the character of local government rather than its function that gives rise to its importance to our constitutional arrangements and the nature of our democracy.
51. The local government sector is predominantly guided by the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA). It is not the position of this paper to propose amendments to the scope of activities that local government is empowered to undertake, more it is the simple recognition that local government is fundamental to the democratic governance arrangements of New Zealand.
52. As is the case with all legislation in New Zealand, the LGA is neither superior nor entrenched legislation; it is a piece of legislation that remains open to reform by a simple majority in New Zealand. This paper does not advocate the entrenchment or otherwise of the LGA or any other Act of Parliament, again the focus here is to ask whether New Zealanders would expect a key aspect of its democratic governance arrangements to be reflected in legislation addressing the form of those arrangements.
53. The manner in how local government works, the systems and structures that support it, the mechanisms drawn upon to ensure the necessary transparency and accountability are arguably important and necessarily open to change by Parliament.
54. With that being said, there is an important and lingering question about the place of local government in New Zealand and whether local government as a fundamental aspect of New Zealand's democratic arrangements should be more clearly defined as part of our constitutional arrangements.

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55. The Constitution Act 1986 does not currently include a reference to there being local government in New Zealand. While the Constitution Act, like other significant Acts considered to be part of New Zealand's constitutional arrangements is not entrenched or considered superior law, they are Acts to which our courts and Parliament pay deference to.
56. While it is reasonable to conclude that New Zealanders would vehemently oppose any apparent political will to disestablish local government, it is likewise not sufficiently recognised in our constitutional arrangements and we believe that it should be.

Change to the Constitution Act – What it means

57. The current structure of the Constitution Act is as follows:
 - Part 1 – The Sovereign
 - Part 2 – The Executive
 - Part 3 – The Legislature
 - Part 4 – The Judiciary
 - Part 5 – Miscellaneous Provisions
58. In simple terms, the Constitution Act sets out what apparatus will be in place, the fundamental mechanisms that are designed to deliver, protect, and maintain our democratic governance.
59. The Act provides that, for example, there shall be a Parliament of New Zealand, not the way in which its Members will be elected, the way in which it will conduct its business, or the Officers it will establish the rules under which law will be made.
60. The Act provides that, for example, there shall be an independent judiciary, not the way in which judges are appointed, the rules for conducting the courts over which they preside or the manner in which courts will consider the matters before them.
61. As discussed in this paper, the nature of local government is that it empowers citizens to engage in democracy, it is a tool through which democracy is delivered, strengthened and protected. Its absence from our constitutional framework is conspicuous.
62. An amendment to the Constitution Act is a hugely symbolic recognition of the fact that New Zealand's long tradition of democracy is comprised not only of a strong and stable central government but also of local government that has built our towns and cities and continues to represent our local preferences.

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Conclusion

63. Local government provides an avenue for popular participation in representative decision-making. It is in our nature to want our homes and neighbourhoods to reflect our aspirations for the kind of New Zealand in which we wish to live.
64. Local government allows us to exert control over the aspects of democratic governance we can see and touch on a daily basis, those things in our lives that we see, touch and feel every day.
65. Local government, regardless of the extent to which it is empowered to undertake activities and to make decisions is fundamental to the kind of democratic governance we wish for ourselves.
66. We believe that recognition of the place of local government is vital to protecting its enduring importance as a fundamental characteristic to how New Zealanders wish to govern ourselves.
67. We support Government's establishment of a Constitutional Review Panel to consider such matters and urge the local government sector to support this remit. Further, we urge Wellingtonians and other New Zealanders to support this initiative in order to fully reflect the nature of our democratic governance.