

Report **05.60**
Date 10 February 2005
File E/09/07/07

Committee **Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee**
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Submissions on the 2004 Elections

1. Purpose

To ask Council to:

- a) approve the attached submission on the Justice and Electoral Select Committee enquiry into the 2004 local authority elections, and
- b) delegate to the Council Chairperson the power to approve, on behalf of Council, Greater Wellington's submission to the Local Government Commission.

2. Background

As a result of the 2004 elections, the Government has ordered the Justice and Electoral Select Committee to enquire into the 2004 local authority elections. The Select Committee has set terms of reference for the enquiry under four sections:

- Assessment of the Local Electoral Act and regulations
- Participation and elector turnout
- Electoral systems
- Election management.

Submissions on the enquiry are due by Friday, 25 February 2005.

The Local Government Commission is also seeking submissions on the 2004 local body elections. The initial deadline for submissions has been extended until 18 February 2005.

3. Comment

3.1 Submission to Justice and Electoral Select Committee

At its meeting on 1 February 2005, the Council's Planning and Monitoring subcommittee requested that officers draft a submission, largely based on Local Government New Zealand's (LGNZ) submission, for Council approval.

The attached submission is based on the recommendations made in LGNZ's submission that are relevant to this Council and makes clear the Council's own views on representation arrangements (**attachment 1**). Given that LGNZ has either carried out or accessed research to back up its considerations, officers feel that the recommendations posed by LGNZ are reasonably well-supported and, where relevant, are indicative of the views of this Council. Officers do, however, feel that without thorough research and analysis of the 2004 elections, the Select Committee will not take into account the unique characteristics that the 2004 elections presented, e.g. two different voting systems.

Officers seek comments from the Council on the draft submission and will make any amendments the Council sees fit. We have also provided a copy of the Select Committee's full terms of reference for your information (**attachment 2**).

3.2 Submission to Local Government Commission

The Local Government Commission is reviewing the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Electoral Act 2001, and is seeking submissions by 18 February 2005. Greater Wellington's electoral staff found they had minimal difficulty implementing the provisions of these two Acts. Any submission made by Greater Wellington will be relatively small and only comment on the technical aspects of the election process. For these reasons and the tight timeframe, it is requested that Council delegate to the Council Chairperson, the power to approve, on behalf of Council, Greater Wellington's submission to the Local Government Commission.

4. Communication

A copy of the Council's final submission will be sent to LGNZ for their information.

5. Recommendation

That the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that it:

- 1) approves the attached submission on the Justice and Electoral Select Committee enquiry into the 2004 local authority elections.*

- 2) *delegates to the Council Chairperson the power to approve, on behalf of Council, Greater Wellington's submission to the Local Government Commission.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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