

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS VS THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

In June 2022, we wrote a paper for the Review into the Future for Local Government to outline councils' [Vision for the Future](#) and influence the Panel's draft report. This included recommendations based on what we'd heard from members.

Following the release of the draft report, we're glad to see many of the recommendations members made have been picked up by the Panel. 18 out of 24 of our recommendations were fully or partially supported by the Panel.

Here's a comparison of what we recommended against what the draft report says.

Key Shift One – Strengthened Local Democracy		
What we said	What the draft report says	Yes/No
Reviewing the LGA 2002 by the end of 2025 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> replace the LTP with a planning framework that better reflects other major reform programmes strengthen Code of Conduct accountability mechanisms enable more direct and deliberative forms of democratic participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation 24: That central government reviews relevant legislation to simplify long-term planning and rating provisions to allow a more holistic and responsive process. Point 7.8.4 Supports the Local Government Commission's recommendations for a standardised Code of Conduct referenced in legislation and standardised processes for making, triaging and investigating code of conduct complaints. Recommendation 1: That local government adopts greater use of deliberative and participatory democracy in local decision-making. Recommendation 2: That local government, supported by central government, review the legislative provisions relating to engagement, consultation and decision-making to provide 	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>

	a platform for revitalising community participation.	
<p>Reviewing the Local Electoral Act 2001 by the end of 2025 to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extending the term for local government to four or five years reducing the voting age to 16 enabling online voting introducing mandatory voting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation 16: That central government undertakes a review of the legislation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) lower the eligible voting age in local body elections to the age of 16 c) provide for a four-year local electoral term The draft report doesn't comment on online voting. The draft report doesn't comment on mandatory voting. 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>
<p>Reviewing the Local Authorities (Members Interests) Act 1968 to address confusion around the non-financial conflict of interest rules.</p>	<p>The draft report doesn't comment on addressing non-financial conflict of interest rules.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Provide a greater role for neighbourhood governance in the structure of local government, such as community and local boards.</p>	<p>Supported in part – community or local boards are a key part of one of three proposed models for the future structure of local government (see Point 9.6).</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>That the Government includes civics education in the national curriculum and partners with councils to deliver this.</p>	<p>Supported in part.</p> <p>Point 2.7.4 We suggest that enhanced civics education could help enable young people to engage more effectively with local democratic processes.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Key Shift Two – Stronger Focus on Wellbeing</p>		
<p>What we said</p>	<p>What the draft report says</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p>Consider which functions, assuming appropriate funding, could be suitable for devolving to councils.</p>	<p>Recommendation 13: That local government and central government review the future allocations of roles and functions by applying the proposed framework and principles outlined in the report (see chapter 4).</p>	<p>✓</p>

Require communities to have a local wellbeing plan, which councils develop in partnership with communities, iwi/Māori and government agencies to ensure alignment of services and outcomes.	Supported in part. Point 6.4.1 ...[There should] be a commitment to co-invest for community outcomes. By co-investment, we mean an approach where central government and local government align efforts to plan, fund, and execute projects to maximise wellbeing outcomes at place.	✓
Explore the “city deal” approach to service delivery.	Supported in part – cited as an example but no specific recommendation given (see Point 6.6.1).	✓
Key Shift Three – Authentic relationship with hapū/iwi/Māori		
What we said	What the draft report says	Yes/No
Review current legislation to ensure it provides clear and consistent direction about how councils give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti by the end of 2025.	Supported in part. Recommendation 6: That central government develops a new legislative framework for Te Tiriti-related provisions in the Local Government Act that drives genuine partnership in a local context and explicitly recognises te ao Māori values and wellbeing concepts. Recommendation 9: That central government explore a stronger statutory requirement on councils to foster Māori capacity to participate in local government.	✓
Consider how the principles of co-governance and partnership can be reflected in the structure of local government so that iwi and Māori have a greater role in decision-making and service delivery.	Recommendation 7: That councils develop in partnership with iwi/hapū a partnership framework that complements existing co-governance arrangements to ensure that all groups in a council area are involved in local governance in a meaningful way.	✓
Provide the option of enabling Māori themselves to decide whether Māori wards/constituencies should be established.	Supported in part. Recommendation 20: That central government retain the Māori wards and constituencies mechanism, but consider additional options for	✓

	providing for a Treaty-based partnership at the council table.	
That central government support LGNZ and Taituarā to provide induction and training resources to increase councils' understanding of local tikanga, kawa and histories, and ensure that all staff and elected members can show respect for and an understanding of te ao Māori.	Supported in part. Recommendation 8: That central government introduce a statutory requirement for local government Chief Executives to develop and maintain the capacity and capability of council staff to grow understanding and knowledge of Te Tiriti, the whakapapa of local government and te ao Māori. Recommendation 10: That local government leads the development of coordinated organisational and workforce development plans to enhance the capability of local government to partner and engage with Māori.	✓
How central government might support councils and iwi to work together to grow their communities' understanding of the histories and stories of mana whenua.	See recommendations 8 and 10 above.	✓
Key Shift Four – Genuine partnership between local and central government		
What we said	What the draft report says	Yes/No
Give local government constitutional status through, for example, inclusion in the Constitution Act 1986.	Acknowledged but not recommended. The Panel states that the recommendations in the Draft Report will already change the constitutional status, and may address these concerns. (see page 238).	X
Build on existing initiatives, such as the Central Local Government Forum, to enable greater central and local government collaboration (eg, an MoU between central and local government after each parliamentary election).	The draft report doesn't comment on specific mechanisms such as the CGLG Forum or an MoU. It provides little detail about how to improve the relationship between central and local government – an area that needs more work.	X

<p>That a Parliamentary Office of Local Democracy is established to provide a non-partisan perspective on the quality of New Zealand's local democracy.</p>	<p>Acknowledged but not recommended (see page 238 for more detail).</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Key Shift Five – More equitable funding</p>		
<p>What we said</p>	<p>What the draft report says</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p>That councils are provided with a share of central government revenue to complement property taxes, that are calculated on the basis of council population; any additional services allocated following the conclusion of the Review; and a weighting to reflect the needs of low socio-economic communities (an equalisation mechanism).</p>	<p>Supported in part. Recommendation 22: That central government and local government agree on arrangements and mechanisms for them to co-invest to meet community needs and priorities, and that central government makes funding provisions accordingly. Recommendation 25: That central government agencies pay local government rates and charges on all properties.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Investigating the practicalities of a requirement that the Government's Regulatory Impact Statements (RIS) include any impacts on local government</p>	<p>Recommendation 21: That central government expands its regulatory impact statement assessments to include the impacts on local government; and that it undertakes an assessment of regulation currently in force that is likely to have significant future funding impacts for local government and makes funding provisions to reflect those.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Permit councils to choose complementary funding measures such as value uplift charges, bed taxes, higher offence penalties and congestion charging to fairly raise income from people and organisations that benefit from, or impose costs, on the activities of local government.</p>	<p>Recommendation 24: That central government reviews relevant legislation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable councils to introduce new funding mechanisms, and • retain rating as the principal mechanism for funding local government, while simplifying long-term planning and rating provisions to allow a more holistic and responsive process. 	<p>✓</p>

