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Committee Secretariat  
Governance and Administration Committee  
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Tēnā Koutou

### **Rangitikei District Council Submission on the Local Government Electoral Legislation Bill**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Local Government Electoral Legislation Bill. There are several aspects of this bill which apply to Rangitikei District Council (RDC), and we wish to provide the below comments:

#### **1. Māori Representation in local government**

With the change implemented in March 2021 there has been a significant uptake on the provision to introduce Māori Wards. RDC was one of the Councils that used this opportunity to revisit the introduction Māori Wards and was successful in implementing two wards which are now in place for the 2022 elections.

We support the second phase of this change which will make Councils' approach to considering Māori Wards easier and more equitable in future, including more consultation with the community. We expect this will support a greater awareness of the upcoming election, encouraging residents to both stand and vote.

#### **2. Updating process when election results are tied**

We support the introduction of a mandatory recount in the event of a tied result and an alternative to the use of a coin toss if an election is still tied after a judicial recount. Both these changes give certainty to the candidate and the Electoral Official who is responsible for election results.

#### **3. Enabling all candidates to submit electronic nominations**

We support this practice as it will improve processes for candidates and Electoral Officers. Particularly in a geographically large district this approach will speed up processing of nominations and remove the barriers seen in the current system where nominees must print off a nomination form, fill it in, scan it and potentially hand-deliver the documents to a Council office. The removal of barriers that may discourage people from standing is welcomed.

Another matter which is out of scope for this Bill but we encourage being reconsidered is the introduction of electronic voting. Updating our voting system to better meet modern expectations is something that should be addressed urgently to encourage the participation of younger voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.  
Naku noa

Carol Gordon  
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