

## 1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND : DRAFT STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2002–2007

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This report proposes that the Council send a letter to Local Government New Zealand in response to its Draft Strategic Direction paper generally supporting the approach it proposes.

Local Government New Zealand has recently circulated for comment (due by 24 May 2002) the National Council's draft strategy for the next five years. The strategy is tabled. The strategy sets out a direction for Local Government New Zealand focused on it being the national voice for the sector and on it providing support and services to Councils to enhance effective local governance. This firmly places Local Government New Zealand in the position of concentrating its business on those *issues where it makes sense for Local Government to collaborate and co-operate nationally, rather than to act as individual Councils or small groups of Councils*. That is, it proposes that Local Government New Zealand focuses on being a voice for the sector rather than a provider of services to individual Councils. Given the limited resources of Local Government New Zealand and the *vast potential scope of the policy advocacy area alone* this concentration on core business makes sense and it is suggested that it should be supported in the Council's letter to Local Government New Zealand.

The introduction to the National Council's Draft Strategy notes that at the moment Local Government New Zealand focuses on *just one area of collaboration – national policy and advocacy*. Given that collaboration with other sectors is important to the effectiveness of local government and will become increasingly so as local authorities increase their role in local governance and take responsibility for the achievements of the outcomes that their communities want, it seems prudent to encourage Local Government New Zealand to begin to develop collaborative relationships with national organisations representing other sectors. The draft letter covers this point and suggests in particular that Local Government New Zealand looks towards acting as a facilitator or catalyst with national organisations representing the business and community sectors.

Overall the direction and priority set out in the National Council's Draft Strategy is one that the Christchurch City Council, as a prominent member of Local Government New Zealand, should be pleased with and the attached letter endorses it.

**Recommendation:** That the attached letter be sent to Local Government New Zealand in response to its Draft Strategic Directions paper.