

1. ELECTED MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT SOLGM REPRESENTATION REVIEW FORUM

Officer responsible Council Secretary	Author Max Robertson, DDI 941-8533
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The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for one Councillor and one Community Board Chairperson to attend a SOLGM representation review forum to be held in Wellington on Friday 4 April 2003.

PURPOSE OF THE FORUM

The Local Electoral Amendment Act 2002 introduced new representation review provisions which arose out of the review of the Local Government Act. These new provisions also included provisions for the establishment of Maori wards for territorial authorities and Maori constituencies for regional councils.

Under the new provisions, representation reviews will need to be undertaken at least once every six years. Councils have the opportunity to undertake a review in 2003 for the 2004 local elections or leave the review until 2006 for the 2007 elections.

The purpose of this Forum is to:

- Explain the new representation review provisions and their underlying principles.
- Explain the statutory deadlines particularly in relation to any 2003 review.
- Raise important governance considerations in any review.
- Introduce the Local Government Commission's guidelines for representation review determinations.
- Provide an overview of the SOLGM Electoral Working Party's draft explanatory and good practice guidelines to new Part 1A of the Local Electoral Act, and seek input prior to their finalisation.

The seminar will particularly benefit elected members involved or likely to be involved in the review process (SOLGM recommends the attendance of at least one Councillor and one Community Board Chairperson/member).

ESTIMATED COST

As no overnight accommodation charges are involved, the cost for elected member attendance will be limited to the travel and registration costs, estimated at approximately \$500 per registrant, or \$1,000 if two elected members attend. These costs can be accommodated within the relevant sections of the public accountability budget for the current year.

Chair's

Recommendation: That Councillor James and Mrs Yvonne Palmer be nominated to attend the SOLGM representation review forum to be held in Wellington on Friday 4 April 2003 and that both representatives be authorised to appoint substitutes in the event of their unavailability to attend.