

## 11. DRAFT MEMBERS' BILL

<b>Officer responsible</b> General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services	<b>Author</b> Julie Sadler, DDI 941-8438
---	---

The purpose of this report is to submit a recommendation from the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board on a draft members' bill being promoted by Mr Murray Smith, MP United Future NZ. The bill is entitled the Local Government (Use of Community Boards) Amendment Bill.

The following letter from Mr Smith, seeking comments on the draft bill, was before the Board at its meeting on 30 August 2004:

*"I enclose a copy of a draft Member's Bill that I have prepared and will be seeking to have passed by Parliament.*

*A large part of my motivation for the Bill has come from my role as Deputy Chairman of the Petone Community Board and the circumstances that exist in the Hutt Valley where we have three Community Boards and four Ward Committees.*

*The Bill only affects a few Local Authorities. Apart from Hutt City Council Ward Committees are also found in Hurunui District Council, Selwyn District Council and Timaru District Council. I have written to each of the Councils with an offer to travel to meet with them and talk about the Bill and their reasons for the use of Ward Committees rather than Community Boards.*

*The Bill has been drafted in consultation with the New Zealand Community Board's Executive and has already received the strong endorsement of the Zone 4 Community Board meeting that was held early in July.*

*I would welcome any comments that your Board may wish to make in regard to the proposal and, certainly, letters of support would be very helpful in my efforts to have the Bill passed.*

*At this stage I am pleased to advise that the Minister of Local Government, Hon Chris Carter, has enthusiastically endorsed the Bill and I am seeking formal confirmation from the Government that they will support the first reading of the Bill if and when it gets drawn from the ballot and will incorporate its provisions in the next Local Government Amendment Bill (which may occur in the middle of next year) should it not be drawn before hand."*

The Board decided to recommend to the Strategy and Finance Committee that the Council support the intention of the draft Member's Bill and urge the Government to amend the legislation.

The above recommendation has been discussed with the General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services who advises that it would be premature for the Council to address this issue at this stage. The appropriate time to consider the question of supporting the proposed amendment to the Local Government Act is if and when the Bill comes before the House.

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the above issue be addressed if and when the Bill comes before the House.

### **Chair's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.