

## 15. SCENARIOS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO 2010

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The purpose of this report is to seek the confirmation of the Board for the action taken in supporting proposed draft submissions on the document “Scenarios for Local Government to 2010”, which was produced as a foresight planning exercise by the Department of Internal Affairs, Local Government NZ and the Society of Local Government Managers and circulated late last year to Board members.

At its meeting held on 3 February 1999, the Board decided to hold a special meeting on 18 February 1999 to consider submissions on this discussion document. Subsequent to this decision being made, unforeseen commitments arose which prevented Board members from attending the meeting and resulted in there being no quorum present.

The Chairman declared the meeting open and, in the absence of a quorum, declared the meeting adjourned, under Section 2.9 of the Council’s Standing Orders.

In the absence of a quorum, those Board members present agreed to continue with the meeting and to make a recommendation to the coming Board meeting. Those present at the meeting were Bob Todd, John Freeman, Derek McCullough and Aaron O’Brien.

After discussion on various aspects of the discussion document, Board members considered the draft submission approved by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 15 February 1999 for recommendation to the Council. Board members considered that this proposed submission captured the various viewpoints and reservations which they were articulating. Accordingly those present agreed to recommend that the Board adopt the Council’s proposed submission.

The Council’s proposed submission, as recommended by the Strategy and Resources Committee, is as follows:

### **“DRAFT SUBMISSION**

*Based on the questions posed in the document the following is proposed for consideration as a draft submission.*

#### **(a) Megatrends**

*The Council accepts that the most important megatrends influencing local government are those identified by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology.*

*While there is a mixture of internal and external influences provided by the trends, it is likely that the greater impact on the local community will come from the internal type trends. In particular:-*

- *Environmental tensions, e.g. clean air, protection of open space, Treaty of Waitangi customary rights.*
- *Social organisation, e.g. increased pressures on utilities, infrastructures, levels of unemployment and poverty.*

(b) **Features most wanted in Local Government in the future**

*Based on the key points identified under the various scenarios the Council sees the following as priority features:-*

- *Local government being genuinely democratic, responsive and accountable to its community rather than to central government, with freedom to choose the most appropriate responses for local conditions.*
- *Local government providing leadership in articulating a community vision and facilitating outcomes (including the ability to identify and respond to community needs in effective and innovative ways).*
- *Integration of service delivery across the whole of the public sector, the not-for-profit sector and business, in order to achieve the outcomes.*
- *Stronger units of local (provincial?) government.*
- *Partnerships developed with local iwi.*
- *Flexibility in terms of own service delivery (ie, a mix of contracted out or private provision) and asset ownership.*
- *Extensive use is made of technology in local government and community processes, while recognising that communities comprise people.*
- *Strong units of Local Government with emphasis on local involvement and regional co-operation.*

(c) **The Most Important Feature**

*The one important feature selected from (b) above is articulation of community vision and facilitation of resulting outcomes.*

(d) **The Ideal Future**

*The Council sees the ideal future of local government in the year 2010 being best described as providing a forum for leadership and decision making at community level and implementing very broad-based policy and programme delivery processes which are inclusive in nature. The focus is on empowerment of an informed citizenry and 'ownership' by them of **their** governance processes (refer Scenario 3).*

*Community government is about recognising the common elements that make up a community, that bind it together and allow it to set its own aspirations. These may well be distinct from other communities.*

(e) **Disadvantages of the Ideal Future**

*The Council does not see any group in the community being disadvantaged by its ideal future for local government.*

- (f) ***First Choice from Scenarios Offered***  
*Had it to choose only one of the futures it would choose scenario 3 – Governance for Citizens.*
- (g) ***The Scenario Most Disliked***  
*Whilst both scenarios 1 and 2 are unacceptable, scenario 2 which portrays a “society of sharks” and a divided community with vast gaps between the rich and the poor is most disliked.*
- (h) ***Priorities for Science and Technology***  
*The knowledge/information revolution being brought about by new technology, which is viewed by many of the scale of the early 1900s industrial revolution, will be the driving force on a global scale, that influences the other trends.*
- The Ministry then needs to assess the impact of the knowledge revolution, as the first priority.*
- (i) ***Steps Forward***  
*To move forward the local agenda might be widened to look at community governance in the context of public policy/governance more generally. Canterbury local government will provide a forum for such widening of the agenda, in June/July this year.”*

The closing date for submissions was 26 February 1999. Board members present agreed that the above submission would be forwarded to the Research Unit of the Department of Internal Affairs by the closing date and that the action taken in this matter would be referred to the next meeting of the Board for confirmation. In the event that the Board wished to make any changes to the submission forwarded, these could be advised to the Department of Internal Affairs following the Board meeting.

**Recommendation:** That the Board confirm the action taken by Board members present at the informal meeting on 18 February 1999 and approve the submission forwarded to the Department of Internal Affairs on the discussion document “Scenarios for Local Government to 2010”.

**Chairman’s**

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