

5. COUNCIL SUBMISSIONS ON BILLS

Officer responsible Legal Services Manager	Author Peter Mitchell, DDI 371-1549
Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability: Decision-making	

The purpose of this report is to submit, for the Committee's information, the Council's submissions on the above Bills.

The draft submissions on the Bills were considered by the Legislation Subcommittee at two meetings on Wednesday 14 February and Thursday 22 February 2001. The Council has delegated authority to the Subcommittee to approve submissions on proposed legislation where time does not permit the Council to approve such submissions. A copy of the submissions on each Bill has been separately circulated to Councillors.

HOUSING CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL

This Bill is a part of the Government's Housing Programme and enables the merger of the present Housing New Zealand Limited, Community Housing Limited and the Housing Policy function of the Minister of Social Policy. The new merged entity is to be called Housing New Zealand Corporation.

The Council supported the Bill and sought a number of changes, including that one of the Corporation's functions be to work in partnership with local authorities and other social housing providers, including the voluntary sector and churches, for the delivery of social housing.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ELECTED MEMBER REMUNERATION AND TRADING ENTERPRISES) AMENDMENT BILL

The Bill has two purposes:

- (a) To increase the accountability of local authority trading enterprises to the wider community and:
- (b) To provide for the Higher Salaries Commission to determine the remuneration of members of local authorities.

The Council supported the Bill and made submissions relating to a requirement for consultation by the Higher Salaries Commission before making determinations on levels of remuneration and before making decisions on the impositions of levies to pay for the Commission's work in this area.

The Council also made submissions relating to the objectives of local authority trading enterprises with particular reference to the provisions relating to their operating as a successful business.

LOCAL ELECTORAL BILL

This Bill is to repeal the existing Local Elections and Polls Act 1976 and to replace it with a new Local Electoral Act.

The Council supported the introduction of this Bill and made a number of submissions on various topics including Candidate Profile Statements, Applications for Recounts and Electoral Expenses.

CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BILL

This Bill replaces the Civil Defence Act 1983 and requires the planning and preparation for emergencies and for responsive recovery in the event of an emergency.

The Council supported this Bill and again made submissions on a number of matters which, in the view of the Subcommittee, would lead to a more effective civil defence emergency management system.

PROSTITUTION REFORM BILL

This is a Private Member's Bill to reform the law relating to prostitution in New Zealand and decriminalises the existing offences of soliciting in a public place and keeping a brothel.

While the Council's usual practice is not to make submissions on Bills which deal with moral issues, on this occasion the Subcommittee decided to make a submission in relation to the proposed repeal of the provisions regarding brothels. The Subcommittee was of the view that this change was wider than simply a moral issue and would have an adverse impact on the wider Christchurch community, given that there were no controls in the Bill on issues such as who could run brothels and their location within the community.

Accordingly the Subcommittee decided to not support that part of the Bill regarding the reform of brothels, unless the Government carried out further research by way of a Working Party and implemented controls of the type which are found in legislation in Queensland.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.