

13. COMMUNITY BOARD CONFERENCE – VOTING RIGHTS

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Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability	

The purpose of this report is to assist the delegate in his attendance at the Community Board Conference at Invercargill from 10 to 13 May 2001.

At the Conference there will be remits and other recommendations arising requiring decisions to be made.

So as to provide the delegate with the authority to vote on any such matters, approval to so act on the individual Board's behalf is sought.

The National Community Board Liaison Team is submitting a number of recommendations for conference consideration. These are detailed below:

1. That the establishment of the National Community Board Liaison Team be confirmed for a further term to act on and progress the resolutions of this conference. In addition the team be charged with maintaining a positive and active working relationship, on behalf of conference and community boards, with Central Government, Local Government New Zealand, the Department of Internal Affairs, the Local Government Commission and other agencies or groups between now and the next national conference.
2. That the team membership comprise of two representatives from each of the six zones throughout New Zealand as defined by Local Government New Zealand.
3. That Peter Dow of the Christchurch City Council, be appointed as honorary administration officer to the Liaison Team for the co-ordination of meetings, minutes and general administrative functions.
4. That the Liaison Team look at the options available for financing the work of the team including the circulation of a regular news update, giving information on team activities and items of interest to community boards, that could be distributed on a regular basis to all boards between conferences.
5. That the legislation allowing individuals to be elected, and installed, as both councillors and community board members be challenged with a view to ensuring that the originally intended ratio of councillors to elected board members is maintained.
6. That the Minister of Local Government be requested to ask the Department of Internal Affairs to undertake a survey of the current functions and work of Community Boards 12 years on and the Liaison Team be consulted on the terms of reference for such a study.

The suggested outcome should include a statement on the effectiveness of community boards.

This can be addressed from two points of view:

- *Their role in their communities;*
- *Their role in their TLA.*

Role in the local community:

- *How is the community board viewed by its local community?*
- *How does the community board see its role in its community? How well does it feel it is performing this role? What could be done to improve its effectiveness?*
- *How well is the community board performing its role as its community representative and advocate?*

Role in the TLA:

- *What is the degree of partnership and cooperation between community boards and their parent councils? Is it harmonious? Or is it characterised by misunderstanding or mistrust?*
- *To what extent is there a clear understanding of the respective roles of community boards and parent councils? What can be done to improve the definition of roles?*
- *Are community boards viewed as cost-effective? What efforts have been made to make them cost-effective, or demonstrate their cost-effectiveness?*
- *Is there a willingness on the part of councils to encourage new community boards?*
- *What powers and responsibilities are being delegated to community boards? What more could be given?*
- *How do community boards report through to their parent councils? What do they have on the way of speaking rights? Do councils respect the views of their community boards?*

What we should finish up with is:

- d) *A snapshot of way community boards are performing at the present time;*
 - e) *A statement of best practice, which pulls together the best features from community boards around the country, which can act as a model for everyone else;*
 - f) *An appraisal of current performance and guidelines and identifying the means to improve on that performance.*
7. That Conference authorise the Liaison Team to enter into discussions for the purpose of “putting the community board view” on local government reviews currently under way or any other legislation or review should community board input be sought.
 8. That Local Government New Zealand be requested to give serious consideration to the inclusion of a community board representative on the Local Government New Zealand Council and that all community boards be asked to support this move through submissions to their parent council.
 9. That the Minister of Local Government, be asked to consider the appointment of a staff member to the Internal Affairs Department who would have responsibility for the maintenance of ongoing communication between community boards, their parent councils, allied government agencies and Local Government New Zealand.
 10. That members of National Community Board Liaison Team be recognised by conference as representatives to the Local Government NZ zone meetings.

Recommendation: That the Community Board’s delegate (John Freeman) attending the Community Board Conference be authorised to vote on matters arising during the Conference proceedings.

Chairman’s

Recommendation: For discussion.