

16. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND: APPOINTMENT OF PROXY TO VOTE AT SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services
Officer responsible:	Secretariat Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to recommended the appointment of a proxy to vote at a special general meeting of Local Government New Zealand to be held in Wellington on Friday 11 March 2005.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At its meeting on 9 December 2004, the National Council resolved, under *Local government New Zealand* Rules (Constitution) K 1(a) and G 8 to initiate an alteration to the rules, and to that end, to call a Special General Meeting of *Local Government New Zealand*. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a proposed constitutional change which would change the restriction on the term of office of the President from one to no more than two consecutive terms.
3. The National Council decided to hold a Special General Meeting, rather than to wait until the next scheduled Annual General Meeting in July 2005, to enable the changes to take effect in time for the next Presidential Election, also scheduled at the next Annual General Meeting.
4. The specific change being proposed is to Rule F15, which currently states:
"No person may hold office as President for consecutive terms, provided that any person who holds office as President by virtue of an appointment in accordance with Rules F27 to F32 is eligible for re-election at the end of the unexpired term of office of that person's predecessor."
5. Rules F27 to F32 cover the definition of an in-term vacancy in the office of President. Under the proposed change, the first line of Rule F15 would now read:
*"No person may hold office as President for **more than two** consecutive terms ..."*
6. The votes of member councils at the Special General Meeting may be exercised by a proxy. Proxies must be appointed in writing, and executed under the Common Seal of the member authority. In appointing a proxy, a member authority may also instruct the appointed proxy how to vote.
7. The proposed rule change was informally discussed with Councillors at a seminar held on Tuesday 8 March, when Councillors indicated support for the retention of the status quo.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve the appointment of a proxy to vote on its behalf at the Special General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand to be held on Friday 11 March 2005, and that the voting instructions to the proxy be included in writing on the proxy appointment form, instructing the proxy to vote against the proposed change to Rule F15.