



13 September 2022

Committee Secretariat
Committee Secretariat
Governance and Administration Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

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SUBMISISON ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL LEGISLATION BILL

Background:

The single broad policy and purpose of this Bill is to improve the processes by which individuals and communities are represented through, and can participate in, local government elections. It includes provisions to align local board boundaries with ward boundaries where a change to a local board boundary would be minor. The bill also includes a refined process for the re-organisation of local boards. A re-organisation includes establishing new local boards, disestablishing local boards, amalgamating local boards, significant changes to boundaries etc.

The section of the Bill most relevant to this submission, is that of aligning, so far as is practicable, Local Board area boundaries with Ward boundaries.

Context of this Submission: Every six years, councils throughout New Zealand must review their representation arrangements, including whether their wards properly reflect their populations. The review is designed to ensure the public interest is fairly represented on the council as ward populations grow or change over time.

In 2018 we were very supportive of changes mooted by council to the Electoral Ward boundary Parnell was part of, and made submissions as such. At the last boundary review undertaken by Auckland Council, and for the 2019 local body elections, the suburbs of Newmarket and Parnell were shifted from the Waitemata Ward to the Ōrākei Ward. Our consumer and residential demographics have a strong alignment with Ōrākei. This has been a highly successful transition and we are well represented, at Governing Body level, by our Ward Councillor.

However having different Ward and Local Board boundaries, in our experience creates a sense of 'not having priority focus' from the main funding entity, in the case of Newmarket and Parnell, the Waitemata Local Board. We feel that we are often overlooked from a capital funding perspective, and our priorities are not considered. It is also hard to gain any traction from council on long-term projects as there is no direct reporting line.

We have a shared synergy and alignment with Ōrākei and believe an alignment of Ward and Local Board boundaries is in the best interests of the rate paying residents, businesses, and other stakeholders, within the respective suburbs, to support the development of those areas.

So we firmly believe a realignment of Newmarket & Parnell's Local Board boundary to be incorporated into the Ōrākei Local Board area would achieve a positive outcome and would enable equitable provision to be made for the current and future well-being of all communities of interest within the affected area.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Adamson".

Cheryl Adamson
General Manager