

Feedback on the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill 2018 (Parliamentary Select Committee submission)

From: The Rodney Local Board

Date: 21 May 2018 *(to be retrospectively approved on 24 May)*

Executive Summary

1. The Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill seeks to restore the purpose of local government to be to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, taking a sustainable development approach. It also restores territorial authorities' power to collect development contributions for any public amenities needed as a consequence of development; broadens the definition of community infrastructure and makes a minor modification to the development contributions power.
2. Council's Planning Committee is considering preparing a council submission on the Bill, which would be presented to the Governing Body for approval. The deadline for submissions to the Governance and Administration Select Committee is 25 May 2018.
3. Local boards may provide input on the matters that are the subject of the Bill.

Rodney Local Board Feedback:

The Rodney Local Board:

- a) Provide the following feedback to the Governing Body on the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill 2018 (the Bill) for inclusion in a submission to the parliamentary select committee:

General Comments

- i. note that council operates in a restrained funding environment where the demand for new infrastructure, which is the result of considerable growth, vastly exceeds the amount of funding available
- ii. broadly support the intention of the Bill which recognises the reality that new development requires appropriate council services and community facilities
- iii. agree that it is appropriate that a 'developer' generating additional demand for infrastructure contributes to meeting the capital costs that council must incur to support this increased demand

Part 1: The Four Well-beings

- iv. does not support the re-introduction of the 'four well-beings' being the "social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of [a] district or region" as proposed in sections 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 of the Bill
- v. note that there are no measures to assess the 'four well-beings' in the Bill and the definition of "social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being" will vary from territorial authority to territorial authority
- vi. if the 'four well-beings' are included, then recommend a definition be included in the Bill of what these are and how they can be measured, which will provide for a consistent, national approach
- vii. express concern that the reintroduction of the 'four well-beings' will require council's to continually report on or give effect to the 'four well-beings' and this will require significant investment of resources
- viii. does not support section 6 of the Bill, being the repeal of section 10(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002, which would remove the requirement for local government to

perform its functions "...in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses"

- ix. note that ratepayers expect local government to act in a cost-effective manner and the repeal of section 10(1)(b) is inconsistent with ratepayer expectations for their local council

Part 2: Other Amendments

- x. supports section 11 of the Bill which expands the definition of "community infrastructure" and permits territorial authorities to collect development contributions for a much broader range of public amenities
- xi. supports section 12 of the Bill, which repeals section 198A of the Local Government Act and will allow territorial authorities to require development contributions for reserves if a development is non-residential in nature
- xii. supports section 13 of the Bill, as it will allow territorial authorities to collect development contributions to repay financial advances from the New Zealand Transport Agency necessary to provide reserves, network infrastructure, or community infrastructure

Authorisation

The Rodney Local Board members have been consulted and asked to provide feedback regarding the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill 2018.

This feedback is informal feedback, subject to retrospective approval at a business meeting on 24 May 2018.

Beth Houlbrooke

Chairperson
Rodney Local Board

Date: 23 May 2018

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