

31 August 2022

Justice Committee Secretariat
Justice Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

By email: ju@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION: ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) appreciates the opportunity to submit on the Electoral Amendment Bill (the Bill).

Submission

2. The DCC supports the aims of the Bill to improve transparency and compliance of the political donations framework, and to enable people to participate in the democratic process.
3. Specifically, the DCC is supportive of the pragmatic and targeted legislative amendments contained in the Bill that:
 - improve transparency of the political donations framework
 - extend the ability of New Zealanders overseas to vote
 - allow flexibility around the regulated election period where appropriate.
4. Through its Social Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2023, the DCC seeks to ensure that all Dunedin residents are valued citizens with a role to play in the city. The DCC supports a democratic process that is fair to all Dunedin residents, so as to allow all residents to participate in elections in a way that is meaningful to them.
5. The DCC acknowledges its Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities and is committed to working in partnership to provide opportunities for Māori to participate in and contribute to decision making processes and to have an active role in the development of Dunedin. The DCC hopes the broader amendments resulting from the independent review of electoral law strengthens the role of the Treaty of Waitangi in electoral legislation.

Conclusion

6. The DCC is committed to improving the lives and wellbeing of the people of Dunedin and ensuring access to the democratic process and is pleased to support in overall support of the Bill.

7. The DCC thanks you for the ability to submit on the Electoral Amendment Bill.
8. The DCC would like to speak to our submission, if requested.

Kā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Hawkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Hawkins
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN