

15 May 2020

Committee Secretariat
Māori Affairs Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koutou

**DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT (RATING OF WHENUA MĀORI)
AMENDMENT BILL**

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) appreciates the opportunity to submit on the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Bill.
2. The DCC supports the Government's intentions to modernise the rating legislation as it relates to Māori land, while also supporting the development of housing on Māori Land.
3. The DCC is committed to strengthening the existing productive local relationship with Kāi Tahu and is supportive of modernising legislation in alignment with Treaty partnership expectations.
4. Specifically, the DCC is supportive of:
 - a. Delegating authority to local government Chief Executives to write off outstanding rates on Māori land that cannot be recovered, and outstanding rates from deceased owners of Māori freehold land. The DCC sees this as an important change to help support the development of Māori land.
 - b. Incorporating unused Māori land, and land that has Ngā Whenua Rāhui kawenata on it, into the non-rateable land category.
 - c. Opportunities for rates remission for land development, employment opportunities, and housing development on Māori land.
 - d. Separate rating areas for Māori freehold land, as this will remove administrative barriers with regards to the development of papa kāinga and economic activity.
 - e. The prevention of sale or lease of abandoned general land which was historically Māori land before conversion by the District Court.
5. The DCC supports removing the 2-hectare limit around Marae, urupā, and meeting places. However, the DCC would like to see greater clarification around the definition of 'commercial activity' on marae and meeting place land. Specifically, guidelines regarding the amount of revenue a Marae would need to generate before qualifying as commercial activity.

6. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit.

Yours faithfully

Aaron Hawkins

MAYOR OF DUNEDIN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Hawkins', written in a cursive style.