



Local Government New Zealand

te pūtakehi matakōkiri

MEDIA RELEASE

Local Government New Zealand welcomes sector representation on RMA reference group

For immediate release on 17 June 2004

Local Government New Zealand has welcomed the announcement by Associate Minister for the Environment David Benson-Pope of a five-member reference group to provide independent advice on the recently announced review of the Resource Management Act (RMA).

“Given the impact of the review on the local government sector we are pleased with the appointment of Basil Chamberlain, Chief Executive of the Taranaki Regional Council to the reference group,” said *Local Government New Zealand’s* President Basil Morrison.

“Basil Chamberlain is a very experienced local government chief executive and will ensure that the sector’s concerns and needs are clearly expressed as we move through this important review of the RMA.”

“He will provide a critical part of what the Minister refers to as the practical ‘real world’ perspective the reference group will bring to the process.”

The RMA improvement programme, announced last month, focuses on five key areas: balancing local and national interests; local resource management planning; resource consent processing; natural resource allocation; and capacity and practice in local government.

The local government sector has generally welcomed the review, which provides the opportunity to make RMA work more effectively for applicants, interested parties and the local authorities who have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Act.

Ends

Local Government New Zealand is the national voice of all 86 councils of New Zealand.

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