



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

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Wahine O Aotearoa

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3 May 2004

S04.19

**Submission to the Local Government and Environment
Select Committee on the Local Government Law Reform Bill (No 3)**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 42 nationally organised societies. It has 33 branches spread throughout the country to which women from some 150 societies are affiliated. The Council's function is to serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international level through research, study, discussion and action.

Members of the Public Issues Standing Committee have considered this omnibus Bill and the associated Supplementary Order Paper No 203, the chief purpose of which is to make minor technical amendments to seven Acts. Of these, NCWNZ has particular interest in the Dog Control Act 1996, the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government Act 2002.

We would like to comment specifically on the following:

Pt 2 Clause 18 Impounded dog must be micro chipped before release.

NCWNZ has made a number of submissions on Dog Control legislation, the most recent being in June 2003 in a submission to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the local Government Law reform Bill No (2) and the Supplementary order Paper No 79. We noted in the Principal Act, responsible dog owners would register their dogs so that, if impounded, they would pay vet fees for microchipping but that owners of unregistered dogs would evade this.

We are very pleased to see that Clause 18 of this Act corrects that anomaly by omitting the words "registered" in Section 69A (1) of the principal Act.

Pt 3 Clause 23 5 A. General description of First Past the Post electoral system

We commend the inclusion of this description and the logical placement alongside it of the description of Single Transferable Voting in 5 B. However, we consider that subsection 5A (b) and 5B (c) are less clear and should be a separate description, inserting the words "matter" for "candidate".

Pt 4 Clause 54 Subclause 7 Voting (2) (b) and (3)

The question of a casting vote has aroused a lot of discussion, and we note with interest the substitution of clause 24 in the Principal Act to clarify the situation. We support the change in which the Mayor or chairperson does not have a casting vote and, in the case of equality of votes, the status quo is preserved. We believe that this will result in the outcome being more secure and will prevent the possible abuse of the casting vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

Beryl Anderson
National President

Mary Gavin
Convener, Public Issues Standing Committee