

## Some Questions for Candidates meetings

You could take a copy of this to the meetings and hand it to the Chairperson

1. Do you believe that LGOs should take advantage of Nick Smith's amendment to the Local Government Act allowing them to adopt a policy that sets out the policies of the local authority in relation to salaries etc of staff
2. Do you believe the council should pay at least the "living wage" of \$19.80 per hour to all its employees?
3. Do you believe this should extend to council contractors
4. Do you believe Council top staff including the CEO are paid too much.
5. Do you believe LGOs should take the lead and set an example in caring about the welfare of their residents.
6. Do you believe LGOs should be required to publish wage and salary bands in maximum \$10,000 steps starting at the lowest waged employee and including all employees up to and including the CEO.
7. Do you believe LGOs have a responsibility to monitor the availability of affordable housing and maintain an adequate supply of low cost housing.
8. Do you believe LGOs should provide discounted public transport for people on low incomes (Community Service Card holders)
9. Do you believe LGOs should provide discounted fees for the use of Council Services (swimming pools, libraries etc) for people on low incomes (Community Service Card holders).
10. Do you believe.LGOs should undertake a comprehensive rates review on the same schedule as the long term plan review.

## Nick Smith and Local Govt Amendment

### Actual words in amendment

#### 36A Remuneration and employment policy

- (1) A local authority may adopt a policy that sets out the policies of the local authority in relation to—(a) employee staffing levels; and (b) the remuneration of employees.
- (2) A local authority must review a policy adopted under this clause at intervals of no more than 3 years.

Schedule 7 clause 36A: inserted, on 5 December 2012, by section 38(5) of the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Act 2012 (2012 No 93).

### Nick Smith's Brochure words (March 2012)

'Better Local Government' is an eight point reform programme to improve the legislative framework for New Zealand's 78 councils. It will provide better clarity about councils' roles, stronger governance, improved efficiency and more responsible fiscal management.

Then in Section 3

Elected representatives will be specifically empowered to be able to set a council's employment and remuneration policy and will be entitled to put explicit limits on staff numbers. The chief executive would remain the only direct employee of the elected council. The chief executive will also maintain responsibility for employing all other council staff but within the parameters of the new council policy.

He even goes so far as to say

There has been significant public concern about some local government chief executives' salaries.

*(Never one for hyperbole, we note that the Hon Dr Smith is only referring to "some" salaries).*

The bottom line of section 3.1 of this brochure was:

3.1 The Local Government Act 2002 will be amended to empower councils to set policy on the number of staff to be employed and overall remuneration policy. Councils' annual reports will be required to include information on staff employed by salary bands.

### When Closing The Gap emailed the ministry to find out exactly where the Act had been amended their reply included the following:

Local authorities may adopt a remuneration and employment policy under clause 36A, schedule 7 of the Act. It should be noted that this provision does not require councils to adopt such a policy, but clarifies that councils are able to adopt one should they want to.

The provision for the recording of employee numbers and the number of employees per remuneration band in the annual report is set out in clause 32A, Schedule 10 of the Act. These provisions are mandatory.