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## **WARATAH-WYNYARD COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON COUNCILLOR NUMBERS AND ALLOWANCES**

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On behalf of Waratah-Wynyard Council I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this consultation.

We considered the consultation document at a workshop in September. While in principle supportive of the concept of a metrics-based system of determining Councillor numbers and allowances, overall, Councillors conveyed very clearly that they found no merit in the proposed reforms. Waratah-Wynyard Council's position is unequivocally unsupportive of these proposals.

In discussion the following concerns were raised:

- There is no obvious benefit to ratepayers in these proposals. Council does not accept the argument that the proposed cost-neutral increase in remuneration is sufficient to attract more professional and diverse representation.
- If that is truly the desire then a proper living wage must be a key component that candidates should expect if they step up to take on the often challenging role of representing their community at a local level
- There is no benefit to Councillors in these proposals. The proposed increase in remuneration is negligible and there are no other demonstrable benefits.
- The proposed decrease in Councillor numbers at Waratah-Wynyard by one would result in the loss of a valuable voice, including the insights and intelligence of an individual that would otherwise inform debate and decision-making.

Waratah-Wynyard Council feels strongly that the proposals amount to disappointing minor amendments to the local government landscape rather than the major reforms, including structural reforms, that were promised at the outset of the Future of Local Government process.

This Council believes that the government should concentrate its efforts on leading significant change that will create a more sustainable local government sector for the long term and remains willing to participate in such discussions and explore innovative outcomes.

Yours faithfully,



Vanessa Adams  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)**

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