

Elevator pitch >

Local Government New Zealand is the national peak body for councils and local democracy. We bring local voices into national policy, influence decisions early, and work with government to deliver practical solutions. Our legitimacy comes from a strong membership base.

Long-term goals >

Our long-term goals have been reset in 2026 by National Council. They drive LGNZ's work and are integrated into everything we do.

01.

LGNZ effectively influences central government.

02.

New Zealanders value councils. Local decisions matter and councils are financially sustainable.

03.

Strong Te Tiriti partnerships deliver positive outcomes for people, place and the economy.

04.

More people participate in local government

We deliver long-term goals through influence, connection and support



INFLUENCE/

- > Shape policy early, before it is developed, through relationships with officials, Ministers, all political parties.
- > Work with all political parties, key stakeholders and local government to advance our advocacy priorities (listed below) in the short and long term.
- > Improve policy through the legislative process.
- > Spearhead solutions to local government's intractable problems.
- > Use media to set the agenda and raise local government's voice.
- > Give members the right tools to boost local government's influence
- > Integrate a te ao Māori lens throughout our advocacy.



CONNECTION/

- > Bring members together at our sector, All-of-local-government and conference events to hear from key speakers and Ministers, share ideas and connect.
- > Use events as an opportunity for members to influence key decision makers and officials.
- > Make sure members are in the loop on everything LGNZ does, with input into decisions and submissions.
- > Support Te Maruata, Young Elected Members and the Community Boards Executive Committee to connect and equip elected members and progress their kaupapa.
- > Connect women in local government online and in-person pre-conference.



SUPPORT/

- > Build elected members' capability and knowledge through our Ākonga professional development.
- > Launch a formal qualification for elected members in partnership with Victoria University.
- > Advocate to protect elected members' safety and security.
- > Deliver initiatives like Street Lights Profiles and the Road Efficiency Group that support best practice and generate efficiency and financial savings for councils.
- > Develop and update key guides and templates for councils.
- > Provide confidential support to councils in difficulty.
- > Develop and deliver value-add services, including shared services, that meet councils' needs.

Our advocacy priorities >

Members generated these priorities and then ranked them at our February All-of-local-government meeting:

01.

Financially sustainable and cost-effective local government

02.

Meeting current and future infrastructure needs

03.

Resilient communities, economies, and environments

04.

A responsive and accountable local government system

Each priority will be driven by a reference group.

Regional, Metro and Rural & Provincial sectors will each have the opportunity to create sector goals under each priority.