

THE COMMUNITY BOARDS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Supporting the needs of  
**community boards**



**We are.** | Community  
**LGNZ.** | Boards

# What are community boards?

Community boards were established in the reform of local government in 1989. In technical terms they are a form of “sub municipal governing organisation” and are designed to bring government closer to communities – as a form of grassroots democracy.

There are currently 110 community boards located throughout New Zealand. They can vary from large, such as the community boards in Christchurch, to small, such as the community boards in Southland. Their functions also vary although all boards are concerned with what happens in their communities and ensuring that councils and other public agencies address community issues.

Boards are elected every three years along with all other elected members. Board members serve three year terms and then must stand again for election.

## Who are we?

The Community Board Executive Committee represents all the community boards in New Zealand. It is an Advisory Committee to Local Government New Zealand’s (LGNZ’s) National Council. The Committee’s role is to promote the interests of community boards, advise the National Council of LGNZ on matters concerning community boards, and promote best practice amongst community boards. It consists of six representatives drawn from each part of New Zealand. The chair of the committee is elected by members of the committee.

## Statutory functions of community boards

Community boards are created by an Act of Parliament, the Local Government Act. They have a special relationship with the communities which elect them and to the territorial authority (District or City Councils) in which they are located.

### In respect to the community:

- representing the interests of its community
- acting as an advocate for the interests of its community
- communicating with community organisations within the community
- communicating with special interest groups within the community.

### In respect to matters directly related to the community board:

- considering and reporting any matter of interest to the community board
- considering and reporting any matter of concern to the community board.

### In respect to the special relationship with the territorial authority:

- consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority
- maintain an overview of (all) services provided by the territorial authority within the community
- prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community
- undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.

## For the 2013 – 2016 triennium the executive members are:

### ZONE 1

#### NORTHLAND

John Schollum – schollumjw@gmail.com

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### ZONE 2

#### WAIKATO, BAY OF PLENTY

Geoff Palmer – geoff.palmer@xtra.co.nz

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### ZONE 3

#### TARANAKI, HAWKES BAY, MANAWATU, WANGANUI

Mick Lester, Chair – mglester@clear.net.nz

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### ZONE 4

#### GREATER WELLINGTON

Fiona Vining – fiona.vining@kapiti.govt.nz

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### ZONE 5

#### WEST COAST, CANTERBURY AND TOP OF THE SOUTH

Mike Mora – mike.mora@ccc.govt.nz

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### ZONE 6

#### OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND

Lyal Cocks, Deputy Chair – lyal.ocks@qldc.govt.nz

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## What is our mandate?

To achieve its objectives of being accountable and responsive to community boards, CBEC will:

- conserve, protect, promote and advance the role and interests of community boards in local government
- advocate, when necessary, for community boards with their territorial authority and central government
- encourage the establishment of community boards to ensure grass roots participatory democracy and community involvement
- build the capacity and enhance the effectiveness of community boards and their members by identifying and promoting issues of national significance and sharing experiences
- promote and facilitate good working relationships between territorial authorities and community boards for the benefit of their communities.

## How is the Executive Committee elected?

The six members of the committee represent each of the LGNZ zones and LGNZ manages the election of the executive. Nominations are called immediately after each election and postal ballots are held in which all community boards in councils that are members of LGNZ have the right to vote.

## How often do we meet?

CBEC meets three times a year with funding and administrative support provided by LGNZ. Regular zone forums are held by the executive members to update community board members and highlight topical issues as well as offer opportunities to enhance skill and knowledge.

The LGNZ website has a page dedicated to community boards. This includes a number of useful resources. Go to [www.lgnz.co.nz/home/nzs-local-government/community-boards](http://www.lgnz.co.nz/home/nzs-local-government/community-boards)

## The biennial community boards conference

Every two years a council takes responsibility for hosting the community boards' conference. In 2015, the conference will be hosted by the Far North District Council and held in the Bay of Islands from 14-16 May. The theme of the conference is "Influencing Change." The conference has been designed to highlight good practice and provide opportunities for community board members from around the country to share practice and experiences. For more information go to: [www.nzcbc2015.co.nz](http://www.nzcbc2015.co.nz)

## Best practice awards

One of the highlights at each conference is the awarding of the community board best practice awards. Awards are judged by category and include consultation, leadership and inclusiveness. All boards are invited to enter this competition.

Information on previous winners and how to enter can be found here: [www.lgnz.co.nz/home/nzs-local-government/community-boards/community-board-awards/](http://www.lgnz.co.nz/home/nzs-local-government/community-boards/community-board-awards/)

## Training

LGNZ's professional development programme, KnowHow, offers a comprehensive training programme for community board members and other elected members.

Courses range from an introduction into the roles of community boards to influencing change, financial governance 101 and decision-making. To find out more go to: [www.lgnz.co.nz/home/equip-and-knowhow/](http://www.lgnz.co.nz/home/equip-and-knowhow/)

< “Community boards are important for all New Zealanders because they make local government more accessible and help to raise ratepayer awareness of services, issues and events.” >

**Mick Lester**

Community Boards Executive Committee Chair

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Committee

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