

Report to Council



DATE: 18 April 2024
TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Chief Executive

ANNUAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND (LGNZ) MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to request that Council consider its ongoing membership of LGNZ and to confirm payment of the Membership Subscription for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- 1.2. This issue arises from the Mayor's concern about the increased fee for the Annual LGNZ Membership Subscription.
- 1.3. Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and the achievement of the District Vision adopted by the Council in June 2021, which are set out in the Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.4. This report concludes by recommending that the Council receive the report and provide direction to the Chief Executive on their preference regarding membership to LGNZ and payment of the Annual LGNZ Membership Fee for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

2. Background

- 2.1. The reason the report has come before Council is due to the need to keep the Council apprised of the increase in the amount invoiced for the Annual LGNZ Membership Subscription for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- 2.2. LGNZ is led by a National Council of elected Mayors from across New Zealand. The purpose of LGNZ is to provide support and training for Local Government elected members and to facilitate relationships between Local and Central Government. Benefits of membership include:
 - Submissions on behalf of all LGNZ members for all legislative and policy directions of Central Government.
 - Provide forums for WDC to be heard at various levels of engagement through:
 - LGNZ AGM
 - Rural and Provincial Sector Forums
 - Zone 5 & 6 Forums
 - Young Elected Members.
- 2.3. An Annual General meeting of member authorities is held annually.

2.4. In the past LGNZ has provided direct support to Council:

- Advice and legal support in 2018-2019 when the Minister of Local Government proposed to put a Crown Observer into Council.
- Support via specialist advise from Dr Mike Reid on a diverse range of policy areas including local governance, elected member development, legislative change, social policy and local democracy.
- LGNZ have a Strategy (**see Appendix 2**) and its three leadership pillars are champion, connect and support local government.

Champion	Connect	Support
Advocate for local government on critical issues.	Bring members together at zone, sector and conference events or via networks like Te Maruata and YEM.	Provide professional development uniquely tailored to local government.
Build relationships with ministers and officials.	Create strong feedback loops between members and LGNZ's work.	Support councils and elected members when they are stuck.
Decode policy and make submissions.		Support elected members to deal with pressure and harassment.
Focus our advocacy effort on the big issues impacting local government and key priorities that matter to both local and central government.	Lift engagement with our members.	Fulfil the potential of our Ākona learning and development platform
Build a partnership with the new government by creating connections and developing solutions.	Bring localism to life at SuperLocal24.	Roll out the revitalised CouncilMARK/Te Korowai.
Advocate for Choose Localism.	Revitalise our Te Ao Māori/Te Tiriti based approach.	Create resolution service to address complaints and build trust.

2.5 The LGNZ invoice for the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 was \$37,538.91 including GST. The invoice for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 was \$38,665.07 including GST.

3. Current Situation

3.1 The current situation is that an invoice of \$47,132.73 including GST for membership has been received for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 (**see Appendix 1**). This is a 21% increase from 2022/2023.

3.2 Council needs to decide if they wish to remain a member of LGNZ and if the invoice should be processed for payment.

3.3 Representatives of LGNZ – Mayor Sam Broughton and Susan Freeman-Greene met with the Mayor and Elected Members on the morning of 18 April 2024.

4 Options

4.1 Option 1: To receive the report, continue LGNZ membership and pay the invoice amounting to \$47,132.73 including GST.

- 4.2 Option 2: To receive the report, withdraw from LGNZ membership and not pay the invoice amounting to \$47,132.73 including GST.
- 4.3 Option 3: To receive the report, continue LGNZ membership and ask for a review of the fee before paying the invoice.

5 Risk Analysis

5.1 Risk has been considered and the following risks have been identified as forfeiture of LGNZ membership:

- 5.1.1 Lack of representation or advocacy when the Council requires support or expert advice.
- 5.1.2 The diminished ability of the Mayor (or their delegate) and elected members to network with peers across the sector and hear first-hand from leaders and subject matter experts.
- 5.1.3 Council is not in a position to submit all changes in legislation from a Westland perspective as we do not have the resources to do so. Council would have to be further selective about which legislative changes they provide submissions for and would not be able to include a Westland perspective in any wider LGNZ submissions.

6 Health and Safety

6.1 Health and Safety has been considered and no items have been identified.

7 Significance and Engagement

- 7.1 The level of significance has been assessed as being administrative in nature and of low significance.
- 7.2 No public consultation is considered necessary as this report and decision will be made publicly available.

8 Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

8.1 Option 1 – Receive the report, agree to continue with LGNZ membership and pay the invoice.
The benefits of LGNZ membership for a small Council are that there is support from a larger organisation and the wider network of local government. There are also opportunities to contribute to submissions that would not be possible if the Council is not a member of LGNZ.

See **appendix 3** for the full list of membership benefits

- 8.1.1 The following financial implications have been identified:
This subscription for the LGNZ membership in the current year's budget is set at \$40,984.98. The cost of the new subscription at \$47,132.73 will be a 13% increase on the 2023/2024 budget.
- 8.1.2 Additional cost for accommodation, travel and conference fees would need to be included at approximately \$15,000
- 8.1.3 This increase costs would mean an adjustment to the 2024/2025 Annual Plan by increasing the costs accordingly – this would equate to approximately 0.3% rates increase.

8.2 Option 2 – Receive the report and advise LGNZ that Westland District Council are withdrawing from membership and the invoice will not be paid.

- 8.2.1 Withdrawing from membership would impact on WDC's ability to access any LGNZ materials, specific advice, provide input into submissions and remove the ability to attend forums and workshops which enhance our networking ability.

8.2.2 The following financial implications have been identified:
There will be a surplus in the amount already budgeted for in 2023/2024.

8.3 Option 3 – Receive the report, agree to continue with LGNZ membership and request a review of the fee before paying the invoice.

8.3.1 Given the small ratepayer base and the current state of the economy Council could ask LGNZ to review the fee increase.

8.3.2 The following financial implications have been identified:
LGNZ may not agree to a fee reduction and there would be a low impact as the majority of the fee has been budgeted for. If LGNZ agreed to a further reduced fee there will be a surplus in the amount already budgeted for.

9 Preferred Option(s) and Reasons

9.1 The preferred option is at the discretion of the Council.

10 Recommendations:

10.1 That the report be received.

10.2 That Council instruct the Chief Executive as to their preferred option.

Simon Bastion
Chief Executive

Appendix 1: Invoice from LGNZ
Appendix 2: LGNZ Strategy
Appendix 3: Membership Benefits



TAX INVOICE

Westland District Council
Private Bag 704
Hokitika
Hokitika 7842
NEW ZEALAND

Invoice Date
8 Apr 2024

Invoice Number
INV-2517

GST Number
49455479

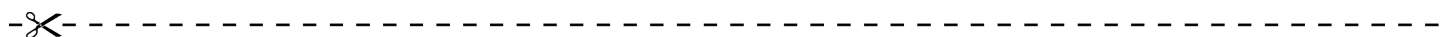
New Zealand Local
Government Association Inc
(trading as Local Government
New Zealand)
P O Box 1214
Wellington 6140

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount NZD
Annual LGNZ Membership Subscription	1.00	40,984.98	40,984.98
For the year 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025			
Subtotal			40,984.98
TOTAL GST 15%			6,147.75
TOTAL NZD			47,132.73

Due Date: 20 May 2024

Payment can be made directly to the following account:
New Zealand Local Government Association Inc
01-0527-0008244-00
ANZ North End, Wellington
SWIFT Code: ANZBNZ22

Any enquiries to:
office@lgnz.co.nz or 04 9241200



PAYMENT ADVICE

To: New Zealand Local Government Association Inc
(trading as Local Government New Zealand)
P O Box 1214
Wellington 6140

Customer	Westland District Council
Invoice Number	INV-2517
Amount Due	47,132.73
Due Date	20 May 2024
Amount Enclosed	

Enter the amount you are paying above

We champion, connect and support local government



CHAMPION/

+ We advocate for the national interests of local government on critical issues.

- > For example, our advocacy meant councils could choose to delay adopting their LTP given the changes to water services reform. So far, eight councils have decided to delay by up to three months and 11 councils deferred for a year.
- > We've advocated strongly for the Minister of Local Government to be included in Cabinet – which is the approach taken by the current government.

+ We generate a national conversation about key local government challenges by commissioning research and developing thought leadership.

- > In March, LGNZ released research by Infometrics analysing increases in local government infrastructure costs that are driving rates rises.
- > We've commissioned NZIER to estimate the costs of four reforms on local government, to show how unfunded mandates contribute to councils' costs. This research is due out in June.

+ LGNZ speaks out for local government in the media – on issues like rates rises, local government funding and harassment of elected members.

- > For example, since December we've generated more than 100 media mentions on why rates are increasing and how local government needs new funding and financing tools.
- > We regularly talk to Local Democracy reporters to help them understand the issues behind the headlines and make their coverage more balanced.

+ Our expertise helps you to decode policy and make submissions. For members using the analysis and evidence in our submissions, we estimate you save time or costs worth:

- > \$34,000 for the submission on the NPS-Natural Hazards and Inquiry into Community-Led Retreat and Adaptation Funding
- > \$27,300 for the submission on the Emergency Management Bill
- > \$82,100 for the submission on the Natural and Built Environments and Spatial Planning Bills
- > \$43,800 for the freedom camping guidance.

+ We operate in a political environment – but we're nonpartisan and build a strong relationship with the government of the day that supports members' engagement.

- > We met with the PM in March and have locked in quarterly meetings for 2024, along with regular meetings with the Local Government Minister, Regional Development Minister and Minister for RMA and Infrastructure.
- > We've established an LGNZ Transport Forum to drive transport advocacy.
- > We meet regularly with senior officials in key central government agencies.

CONNECT/

+ Our sector and zone meetings connect local government leaders and put you in front of central government politicians and experts.

- > We've secured Ministers and key stakeholders for recent Metro, Rural & Provincial and Regional sector meetings.

+ Our networks – Te Maruata, Young Elected Members and CBEC – connect their members and provide targeted support.

- > Each network holds in-person hui. This year the CBEC Conference is being held in tandem with SuperLocal24.

+ Our must-attend conference brings everyone in local government together.

- > More than 800 people attended SuperLocal 23, with very positive feedback about the venue, sessions, networking opportunities and overall experience.

SUPPORT/

+ We're the home of Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, which has placed thousands of young people into employment and training.

+ Through Ākona, we tailor professional development and induction for local government's exact needs and provide every elected member access.

- > Ākona's range of courses and resources has grown exponentially since it launched, thanks to councils' input. The online learning platform includes 17 e-modules as well as in person and online workshops, with an average of three new courses rolled out every quarter.

+ We develop templates and guides that you can use or adapt – from standing orders to codes of conduct.

- > We've had more than 300 downloads of our governance guides in the past four months.

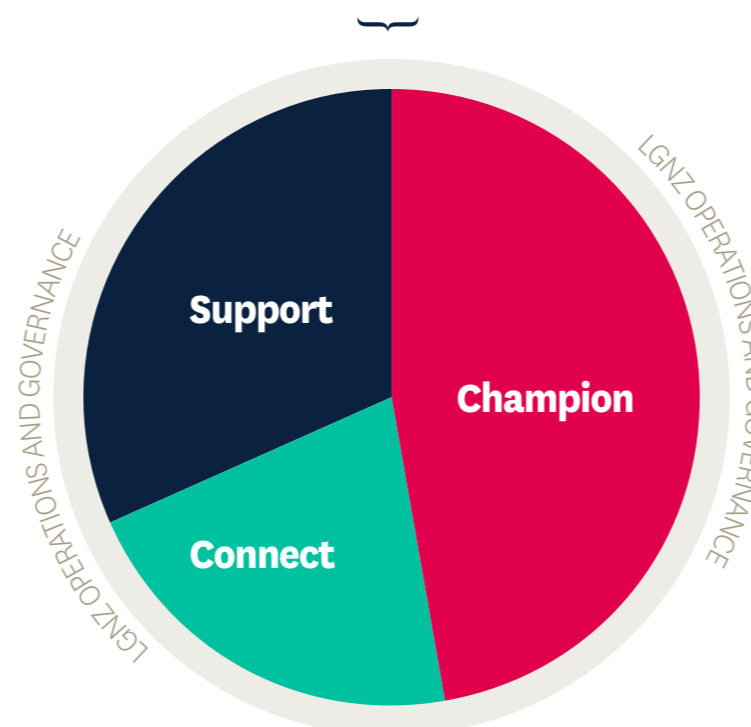
+ We support elected members and councils when they are stuck. We're who you call when things get tough and messy. We work behind the scenes to support elected members, councils and local democracy.

- > We provide free, anonymous counselling for members. 97% of people who accessed therapy in the 2023 calendar year and provided feedback said that it was helpful.

+ Member councils receive financial benefits from participating in initiatives like our Street Light Profiles or the Moata Carbon portal.

+ LGNZ is a partner in the Road Efficiency Group –Te Ringa Maimoa, which is a unique partnership focused on better activity management and decision making while building capability across the transport sector.

WHERE OUR EFFORT GOES





OUR VISION/ To create the most active and inclusive local democracy in the world.

Our purpose:

WE SERVE MEMBERS BY CHAMPIONING, CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CHAMPION/

- > Advocate for local government on critical issues.
- > Build relationships with ministers and officials.
- > Decode policy and make submissions.
- > Speak out for local government in the media.

CONNECT/

- > Bring members together at zone, sector and conference events or via networks like Te Maruata and YEM.
- > Create strong feedback loops between members and LGNZ's work.

SUPPORT/

- > Provide professional development uniquely tailored to local government.
- > Support councils and elected members when they are stuck.
- > Support elected members to deal with pressure and harassment.

Our long-term goals:

- 01.** Local government and central government are trusted partners.
- 02.** Localism is entrenched as the best way to deliver for our communities.
- 03.** Elected members are connected, engaged and highly capable.
- 04.** Te Tiriti partnerships between local government and Māori are authentic, strong and respected.
- 05.** More New Zealanders value and participate in local government.
- 06.** A sustainable and fit-for-purpose LGNZ.

Our work:

CHAMPION/

- + Focus our advocacy effort on the big issues impacting local government and key priorities that matter to both local and central government.
- + Build a partnership with the new Government by creating connections and developing solutions.
- + Advocate for Choose Localism.

CONNECT/

- + Lift engagement with our members.
- + Bring localism to life at SuperLocal24.
- + Revitalise our Te Ao Māori/Te Tiriti based approach.

SUPPORT/

- + Fulfil the potential of our Ākona learning and development platform.
- + Roll out the revitalised CouncilMARK/Te Korowai.
- + Create resolution service to address complaints and build trust.

WHAT MEMBERS SAY ABOUT LGNZ >>

“LGNZ provides opportunities to connect with my peers and learn from them as well as the ability to come together and negotiate with Central Government to get better policy and funding outcomes for the people we collectively serve. Without this work our community would be significantly disadvantaged.”

“LGNZ is like the dinner table at my parents’ house at Christmas time – a place where we can debate the issues of the moment, even if we don’t always agree. A place where we meet and get support from those that know what we are going through. And a place where we can reflect, laugh and relax (often over a beverage or two).”

“It’s been a lifeline at times to see, know and learn what is happening across the country, we can draw strength and ideas for our council and best of all build great networks.”

“During the last year, 42 councils were impacted when an engineering technologist used other engineers’ signatures to sign off on producer statements and certificates of design. While that person has now pleaded guilty to charges of forgery, LGNZ offered strong leadership and support, connecting councils together, and helping to carefully explain the impact to households across many communities.”

“The value of LGNZ to me is in the context of relationship and a safe place to go to when guidance is required and the knowledge that our sector body is representing the vision and goals of our communities. LGNZ needs to remain grounded in its purpose to ensure it continues to demonstrate valued and visible outcomes.”

“LGNZ’s forums create the ability to connect with people who ‘get it,’ in what can be an isolating role, I find this invaluable.”

“An increased feeling of support and connection – I’m part of a team that delivers!”

“In addition to the networks like Te Maruata and YEM, mayors and chairs have the additional support provided by the sector meetings. I find this invaluable for seeking support in what can be a very challenging job, and it also enables councils facing the same issues to work collectively together through LGNZ rather than individually reinventing wheels for every topic that comes up. These sector meetings also provide access to ministers in a way that would not necessarily be possible for an individual mayor or chair.”

“There are multiple opportunities for networking for councillors to discuss and compare issues their councils are facing, and to seek other forms of support.”

“The advocacy role to Government is huge. My council does not have the resources or the influence to ensure our experience on the ground is heard. By being part of LGNZ we become a national force, with significant mana and authority.”

“Most councillors arrive at the table with very little understanding of how local government works and the LGNZ induction is a useful training session alongside the induction process run by each council. This is often where network formation begins as well. Ākona provides a method for continued up-skilling.”

“LGNZ submits on a far greater range of policy than my council does which means despite us not having the time or resources to flag all issues with government, we know that LGNZ is doing this on our behalf. In addition, the policy submissions that LGNZ prepares are often used as a basis for our own submissions, saving time for officers.”

“Ākona has saved my council money because we’ve been able to reduce other training.”

“I think it is worth considering what the status quo would look like if LGNZ or an equivalent did not exist. I think councils would quickly get together and create an LGNZ equivalent because it would be glaringly obvious that it is necessary!”

Ngā hua o te mematangā

Benefits of membership



LGNZ membership offers a range of benefits, including advocacy, networking, and professional development opportunities.

We advocate on your behalf on the issues that matter most to you and work to ensure all members are included, well-connected, supported and have the skills they need to deliver to the best of their abilities.

As members you gain access to:

1. LGNZ’s research, insights, advice, campaigns and policy development on government reforms and issues that matter

We provide comprehensive advice and expert knowledge on the policy and regulation that impacts local government. Our subject matter experts break it all down into manageable pieces and help you to understand what it means for you.

Our team then will listen to the needs and wants of councils, take an evidence-based approach and advocate a position that will deliver the best possible outcomes for local government. Our relationships enable our early involvement and influence in policy work.

2. National campaigns for national challenges

We are the unashamedly champions of local government, campaigning hard within the community on the importance of councils to the people they serve. This includes promoting local body elections, advocating for civics education to be included in the school curriculum, and providing media advice and coordination to ensure the public understands the stories, values and importance of local democracy.

LGNZ is the home for sector-wide programmes that support and fund cross-community programmes, with expert staff to manage and administer them such as the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs.

3. A series of regional and national networks and events

Being an elected member is no easy task. That's why we create forums where members can network, share knowledge and be supported.

Councils/kaunihera are grouped into networks of both geographical zones and demographic sectors, and we support regular meetings to ensure members can connect, share best practice and engage in our policy work.

Our events and networking programme is also where central government, advisors, businesses and influencers come to hear from you directly and we use these events to shine a light on the things that matter most for the sector.

4. Programmes to support continuous learning and development

The landscape of local government is always changing. That's why we provide all the necessary education and resources to enable you to learn, grow and excel. Whether its issues of governance, understanding Te Ao Māori, dealing with media or how to interpret public policy, we have all the tools and resources you need to perform effectively in your role.

Our programme of professional development is designed specifically to support elected members throughout their career. We understand how challenging it can be as an elected member. When councils/kaunihera and elected members are dealing with tough issues, they can come to us for advice and experience in finding solutions.

5. Programmes to enhance council/kaunihera performance

It is our role to help build capability and lift performance for the benefit of the entire local government sector.

We provide access to CouncilMARKTM a programme designed to improve support individual councils/kaunihera to further improve the service and value they provide.

6. Support and expertise in enhancing the diversity of local government and the inclusion of all

As a neutral, non-partisan collective we provide a forum for all members to speak/kōrero and be heard. We achieve this by working arm-in-arm with Taituarā – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa and with our own networks.

LGNZ also support three separate national committees to empower the unique requirements of specific member groups.

These are Te Maruata the Māori Committee, the Young Elected Members Committee and the Community Boards Executive Committee.

Information sourced from www.lgnz.co.nz