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Deliberative Democracy:
Developing Best Practice in Territorial Local Authorities

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts (Social Policy)
at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Barbara Jill MacLennan

2000
Abstract

This thesis explores current practices used by territorial local authorities in Aotearoa/New Zealand to involve citizens in deliberation. It has been written in response to the call from other researchers into local governance and consultation, for the development of more participatory processes and a more deliberative democracy.

Drawing on research data, the thesis establishes a national baseline about the deliberative processes currently used by territorial local authorities and the issues they identify. These are further examined through four case studies. The concepts emerging are presented as a draft set of best practice guidelines, as a contribution to improving democratic processes in local government and indeed throughout the public sector.
Acknowledgements

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Finally, special thanks are due to my partner Laurie and my daughters Amy and Ella for their support and endurance through years of part-time study, and also to our extended family and friends for their good humour, encouragement and care which enabled me to ‘get the task completed.’
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANZAC</td>
<td>Australian and New Zealand Army Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGNZ</td>
<td>Local Government New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>LTFS</td>
<td>Long Term Financial Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMP</td>
<td>Mixed Member Proportional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMA</td>
<td>Resource Management Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDC</td>
<td>Rotorua District Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Section</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOLGM</td>
<td>Society of Local Government Managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA</td>
<td>Territorial Local Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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