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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  
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## **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.

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## **List of Abbreviations**

ANZAC	Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
LGNZ	Local Government New Zealand
LTFS	Long Term Financial Strategy
MMP	Mixed Member Proportional
RMA	Resource Management Act
RDC	Rotorua District Council
S	Section
SOLGM	Society of Local Government Managers
TLA	Territorial Local Authority
UK	United Kingdom

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