

Subject: Why is the Future of Local Government Review recommending deliberative public engagement?

Tēnā koe [Mayor/Chair/Councillor] [firstname] [lastname]

On behalf of Trust Democracy, a non-profit member organisation founded in 2019 that aims to strengthen democracy through research, education and piloting new forms of democratic participation, I would like to thank you for standing for public office and wish you all the best for the coming triennium.

I'm sure you will be aware of the Government's [Review into the Future for Local Government](#) and its recently published [draft report](#). For us, one of its potentially transformative recommendations is that councils use more deliberative forms of public engagement when developing strategies, policies and making decisions.

While deliberative engagement is successfully being used to [complement and strengthen local and national forms of representative democracy internationally](#), these methods have only rarely been used in New Zealand.

To help raise awareness about, and understanding of, what it is, what it can do and how to organise such processes, we have created resources specifically for local government, which you can access [here](#).

We are also working with [Local Government New Zealand](#) to bring you a series of 3 webinars between March and May 2023. These will feature local government leaders, community participants and deliberative experts from New Zealand and Australia who will share their experiences of deliberative engagement with attendees.

You'll be hearing more about these webinars from LGNZ in the New Year but I can tell you that the first one is going to be about [Watercare's recent citizens' assembly](#), which considered the question: what should be the next source of water for Auckland by 2040?

[Insert Watercare video - <https://vimeo.com/762053892>]

I would also invite you to explore Trust Democracy's [website](#) and consider joining our mailing list, attending an event or [supporting us](#) in another way.

To register for our next Zoom event, which is a meeting with members of [Make It 16](#) on Thursday 1 December at 7.30pm, click [here](#).

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Ngā mihi, nā
Simon

Simon Wright
Chair

