



# Cabinet

CAB Min (15) 14/10

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## Minute of Decision

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### Policy Settings for a Trial of Online Voting in 2016 Local Elections

#### Portfolio: Associate Local Government

On 4 May 2015, following reference from the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee (EGI), Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that on 3 December 2014, EGI:
  - 1.1 agreed that there is no principled objection to enabling local government to trial online voting for local elections in 2016 or as reasonably practicable thereafter;
  - 1.2 agreed that for a trial of online voting to be enabled, the local government sector must demonstrate that any voting technology solution(s) developed can operate securely and the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001 can be met;
  - 1.3 invited the Associate Minister of Local Government to report back to EGI with proposals on detailed settings for a trial, and seek a decision on whether to proceed with further work with local government;
  - 1.4 noted that the Minister's report-back will include an Evidence of Identity risk assessment, which will identify the level of identity-related risk associated with the provision of online voting for local elections;

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- 2 **noted** that an Evidence of Identity risk assessment has been completed, which:
  - 2.1 found that identity-related risk for local elections is low;
  - 2.2 when combined with the lack of need for ongoing authentication, does not justify requiring territorial authorities to use RealMe for online voter authentication during the trial;
- 3 **agreed** to the proposed trial requirements, as summarised in Table 1 to the paper under CAB (15) 196 and outlined in the report on *Requirements for a Trial of Online Voting in Local Elections: A Framework Guide Local Government* (the policy document) attached to the paper under CAB (15) 196, as the basis for:
  - 3.1 regulatory requirements in respect of a trial;

- 3.2 the development of technical specifications by territorial authorities participating in a trial, to ensure that online voting technology will operate consistently with the principles of the Local Electoral Act 2001;
- 4 **invited** the Associate Minister of Local Government to seek confirmation through Local Government New Zealand of which territorial authorities believe they can meet the requirements referred to in paragraph 3 and wish to proceed with a trial of online voting in 2016;
- 5 **invited** the Associate Minister of Local Government to report to EGI on the confirmed territorial authorities and seek agreement that there is sufficient scale and representativeness to ensure that a trial of online voting in local elections will produce evidence of the practicality and value of online voting in local elections across New Zealand;
- 6 **invited** the Associate Minister of Local Government to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft regulations enabling a trial, if required;
- 7 **authorised** the Associate Minister of Local Government to:
- 7.1 make any technical revisions and minor or editorial changes that may be required to the policy document before it is published;
- 7.2 publish the policy document, the paper under CAB (15) 196, and any related Cabinet minutes;
- 7.3 invite the local government sector to demonstrate that online voting can be trialled in a manner that meets the requirements in the policy document.



Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (15) 196, EGI (15) 94

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