

Grant Taylor
The Controller and Auditor-General
By Email: Grant.Taylor@oag.parliament.nz
CC:
enquiry@oag.parliament.nz

29/09/2025

Dear Mr Taylor,

I am writing to raise an urgent concern regarding the Electoral Commission's website. I have become aware that the Commission is currently linking to material produced by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) under the heading "About Māori wards and constituencies."

LGNZ is not a neutral body; instead, it is effectively a lobby group. They run campaigns and take positions on political issues. The page in question goes beyond describing legislative provisions and presents arguments in favour of Māori wards and constituencies. In doing so, it constitutes partisan advocacy rather than impartial voter information.

It is highly inappropriate for the Electoral Commission – whose statutory role is to administer elections impartially – to direct voters to partisan sources of advice. This undermines the principle of neutrality that the public rightly expects from the Commission, and risks damaging trust in the integrity of the electoral process.

Compounding the issue, the LGNZ page employs branding and colour schemes that closely resemble the Electoral Commission's own style, and its domain name (votelocal.co.nz) is similar to the Commission's official vote.nz site. This risks giving voters the impression that the material is part of the Commission's own neutral information, when in fact it is not.

Given that voting is currently open, I urge you to treat this matter with the utmost urgency. At a minimum, the Commission should be instructed to immediately remove the link while your office investigates whether it is permissible for them to publish it at all. Leaving the link live during the voting period risks unfairly influencing electors.

I therefore respectfully request that your office:

1. Directs the Electoral Commission to remove the link to the LGNZ material immediately.
2. Conducts an urgent review into whether the Commission's actions are consistent with its statutory duty to maintain neutrality.
3. Provides assurance to the public that similar issues will not arise in future.

I appreciate that your office may need time to complete a full assessment, but in the meantime, I strongly urge you to insist that the Commission remove the link until that process is concluded.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Cameron Luxton", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cameron Luxton MP

ACT New Zealand

Parliament Buildings

Cameron.Luxton@parliament.govt.nz

Attached are screenshots showing the websites in question and also correspondence between the Electoral Commission and a complainant who raised the matter with them.