



29 June 2016

Members  
Electoral Matters Committee  
Parliament of Victoria

### **Submission on Inquiry into Electronic Voting**

1. Thank you for your letter of 31 May 2015, inviting a submission from me on your inquiry into Electronic Voting.

#### **Summary**

2. New Zealand currently does not use electronic voting in either general or local authority elections.
3. Electronic voting in both parliamentary and local authority elections has been considered on a number of occasions recently by the Justice and Electoral Committee.
4. The Government has recently been examining the feasibility of of online voting in local authority elections, but has yet to undertake a proposed trial.

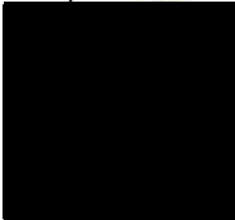
#### **New Zealand Parliament's consideration of electronic voting**

5. As you may be aware, New Zealand currently does not use electronic voting in either general or local authority elections. Nevertheless, electronic voting is a matter of considerable interest to the New Zealand Parliament.
6. The Justice and Electoral Committee by convention enquires into each general and local authority election. Each inquiry focuses on electoral law and the administration of each election, and any other election-related matter the Committee is interested in examining. The committee will often makes recommendations to the Government on ways to improve the conduct of elections.
7. The committee has considered electronic voting in a number of recent inquiries into general and local authority elections.
8. I provide the following reports in which electronic voting is considered:
  - [Inquiry into the 2014 general election](#)
  - [Inquiry into the 2013 local authority elections](#)
  - [Inquiry into the 2011 general election](#)
  - [Inquiry into the 2010 local authority elections](#)
9. The committee's most recent comments on electronic voting recognise the substantial differences in systems, context and legislative frameworks between local and national elections in New Zealand. The committee is following the progress of electronic voting in overseas jurisdictions as well as locally, but does not consider electronic voting to be a priority for the 2017 general election.

### **Government trial of online voting in local authority elections**

10. Since 2013 the Government has been working towards implementing a feasible system for online voting at local authority elections.
11. A trial of online voting in eight local authorities was scheduled for the 2016 local authority elections. However, in April 2016 the Government decided not to proceed with the trial at the 2016 elections, as further work is required to ensure that the trial meets public and Government expectations.
12. The Government is currently awaiting further proposals from the local government sector on how to progress this initiative.
13. In-depth information on the initiative to have online voting available at local authority elections can be found on the Department of Internal Affairs webpage: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/online-voting>

I trust you will find this information useful.



Rt Hon David Carter

**Speaker**

**New Zealand House of Representatives**