

Editorial Brief for Local Democracy Reporting Service

The core purpose of the Local Democracy Reporting (LDR) service is to provide impartial coverage of the regular business and workings of local authorities in New Zealand. Coverage will extend to other relevant democratic institutions. The service is designed to provide timely coverage of the affairs of publicly-appointed and/or publicly funded local institutions and organisations, including but not exclusive to: local councils (including district and regional councils), council committees, community boards, council-owned or partially owned commercial enterprises, district health boards, local trusts, port and airport authorities, and Māori incorporations and trusts.

- The brief is to report on the decision-making process: what decisions are made in the public's name and how are they arrived at, what evidence is presented to the councils etc.
- The LDRs may provide other stories which are focused on local democracy and which are in the public interest – so long as that does not detract from the core purpose of the service.
- All work must be available to all qualifying media partners, simultaneously and in a timely manner.
- National politics generally is out of scope but there will be occasions in which national politicians and their work/decisions/pronouncements have direct impact/interest at a regional level. This would, as a matter of course, attract the attention of LDR staff.