

Electoral Commission, 2012

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# **REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON THE REVIEW OF THE MMP VOTING SYSTEM**

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**PROVIDED TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE  
FOR PRESENTATION TO PARLIAMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
SECTION 78 OF THE ELECTORAL REFERENDUM ACT 2010**

**29 OCTOBER 2012**

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To the Honourable Judith Collins, Minister of Justice:

AS a result of the electorate having voted on 26 November 2011 to retain the MMP voting system the Electoral Commission was required by the Electoral Referendum Act 2010 to conduct a review of the said system and report by 31 October 2012 to the Minister of Justice, for presentation to the House of Representatives, as to whether any changes to the system were necessary or desirable.

THE Electoral Commission has conducted the required review.

NOW, as required by section 78 of the said Act, the Electoral Commission hereby provides the required report to you, the Honourable Judith Collins, Minister of Justice, for presentation to the House of Representatives as soon as practicable.

DATED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012.



Hon Sir Hugh Williams, KNZM, QC  
Chair, Electoral Commission



Jane Huria, CNZM  
Deputy Chair, Electoral Commission



Robert Peden  
Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Commission

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- The one electorate seat threshold for the allocation of list seats should be abolished.
- The party vote threshold should be lowered from 5% to 4%.
- There should be a statutory requirement for the Electoral Commission to review the operation of the 4% party vote threshold and report to the Minister of Justice for presentation to Parliament after three general elections.
- If the one electorate seat threshold is abolished, the provision for overhang seats should be abolished.
- Consideration should be given to fixing the ratio of electorate seats to list seats at 60:40 to help maintain the diversity of representation and proportionality in Parliament obtained through the list seats.
- Political parties should continue to have responsibility for the selection and ranking of candidates on their party lists.
- Political parties should be required to give a public assurance by statutory declaration that they have complied with their rules in selecting and ranking their list candidates.
- In any dispute relating to the selection of candidates for election as members of Parliament, the version of the party's rules that should be applied is that supplied to the Commission under section 71B as at the time the dispute arose.
- Candidates should continue to be able to stand both for an electorate seat and be on a party list at a general election.
- List MPs should continue to be able to contest by-elections.

