

## One member one vote information May 2019

### Introduction

Changes to the NZNO constitution affecting voting processes on constitutional and policy remits came into effect in 2019. These changes were ratified at the NZNO AGM on 19 September 2018.

Before these changes, voting on constitutional and policy remits at the AGM was done by delegates/representatives from the following NZNO groups: Regional Councils; the Colleges and Sections; the National Student Unit; Te Rūnanga; the Membership Committee; and Te Poari. Individual financial members of NZNO not involved in any of these groups did not have the right to vote.

### Changes around voting

A new Clause 29 has been added to the Constitution which states that each financial member will now be entitled to one vote. Voting will take place online (or by postal ballot where necessary). Results of voting will be announced at the AGM, but voting will no longer be done by delegates/representatives alone at the AGM.

The affected clauses are:

- Clause 25.3.3 – The business of the AGM shall be to: receive the outcome of member decisions to policy and constitutional remits
- Clause 29 – Voting for constitutional and policy remits (**new**)
- Clause 29 – Voting at AGM (now Clause 30)
- Clause 30 – Alterations to constitution and policy remits (now Clause 31).

The original Clause 29 has become Clause 30. Clause 30 has become Clause 31 and so on.

### Why the change?

The 'one member one vote' system is to reduce variable member consultation. For example, one delegate/representative could have several votes counted depending on the number of groups they belong to, with many members not being consulted prior to voting or having input into decision-making. Also, larger Regional Councils representing more members had a stronger voting power compared to those from smaller regions, yet voting decisions at the AGM were made by a handful of delegates/representatives.

### Enhanced democratic process

The new system enhances NZNO's democratic process by allowing every financial member to have the right to vote. It is also hoped the new process will make voting more visible to the wider membership and encourage greater engagement and involvement.

This has been a matter of concern to NZNO for some time and the changes result from a working group that has consulted widely to develop a 'one member one vote' strategy.

### Summary: important points to note.

- Voting on constitutional changes and policy remits will now take place by ballot via electronic or postal voting before the AGM, rather than at the AGM. Results of member voting will be announced at the AGM.
- This means debates over remits will no longer occur at the AGM. Instead, it will be the role of delegates and representatives to discuss issues with their constituency base in an advocacy role as remits are developed. This will play an important role in member engagement, participation and decision-making.
- Member votes cannot be changed once they are cast.
- The process and timeline (see below) for submitting remits have not changed.
- The role of the Remit Committee includes identifying constitutional remits which affect Te Rūnanga and/or checking their consistency with Ngā Ture. Such remits will be presented for endorsement at Hui ā-Tau before being presented to the AGM. In practical terms this means before being voted on by financial members through the 'one member one vote' system.

### The importance of members/groups consulting when developing remits

There will no longer be opportunity to discuss/amend remits at the AGM, so it will be important to share remits in development (e.g. with other regions, Colleges and Sections, Te Poari, the National Student Unit) so they are well-understood and better agreed-to before they come to the Remit Committee. As mentioned above, delegates and representatives should be essential to this.

During its considerations, the Remit Committee may ask members or groups with similar remits to consult together and consolidate them.

### Remit process draft timeline 2019

<b>14 March</b> (not less than six months before AGM)	Remits open – notice of AGM sent to members
<b>10 May</b> (four months before AGM)	Remits close
<b>13-31 May</b>	Remits prepared by the Remit Committee Remits sent to Te Poari for its special Hui-a-Tau (AGM) review process
<b>21 June (12 weeks before election day)</b>	Notice of Board election; call for nominations issued to members
<b>19 July</b> (not less than two months before AGM)	AGM agenda and remits issued to all members Board nominations close
<b>7 August</b> (not less than six weeks before AGM)	Voting on remits and Board nominations opens
<b>13 September</b>	Voting on remits closes 12 Noon
<b>17 September</b>	NZNO AGM

### Preparing a remit

A remit is a statement submitted for consideration that seeks change to NZNO policy or to its constitution. Remits are vital to our democratic process and should be thought through carefully. If

you are considering a remit, please be sure to fully understand the policy or part of the constitution you would like to change.

A step-by-step guide to preparing remits (<https://tinyurl.com/y54jau67>) and a [remit template \(https://tinyurl.com/yxj6rdrl\)](https://tinyurl.com/yxj6rdrl) are available on the NZNO website. Please follow the advice in these documents carefully to ensure your remit submission goes smoothly. Keep it short and make sure it is written clearly.

It is particularly important that Te Rūnanga is consulted about all proposed remits, especially when those remits may impact on Te Rūnanga.

Remits are usually proposed by Regional Councils, Colleges and Sections, Te Poari, the Membership Committee and the National Student Unit (member groups). However, individual members wanting to propose a remit are encouraged to approach these member groups, which may decide to develop a remit proposal on the suggested constitutional or policy change.

Remits close on 10 May.

### Voting

Voting on remits will open on 7 August and, closer to that time, members will be sent more information about how to vote online. In the meantime we have posted a [mock-up of the online voting form](#) on our website so you can familiarise yourself with it. This mock-up contains just five sample constitutional and five sample policy remits. It could be that the actual voting form presented to you at the time has more remits for you to vote on.

The online voting paper will be in two sections and you will be asked to vote in each one:

1. Board member elections
2. Remits (constitutional and policy)

Also closer to the time of voting we will be sending you an electronic booklet containing all of the remits to be voted on in full. In our next communication we hope to send you an example of this booklet, again to familiarise you with the process.

### Finding out more

Communications to members about One Member One Vote are available online at: [https://www.nzno.org.nz/membership/one\\_member\\_one\\_vote\\_2018](https://www.nzno.org.nz/membership/one_member_one_vote_2018).