

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 22 November 2022

Water Services Entities Bill

Proposed amendments

Simon Watts, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

Clause 27

Replace *clause 27(2)* (page 27, lines 8 to 11) with:

- (2) Each regional representative group consists of a number of regional representatives that is provided for in the constitution (*see section 91(a)(i)*) and is—
 - (a) as many regional representatives as there are territorial authorities covered by the entity; or
 - (b) any greater number of regional representatives.

Replace *clause 27(3)* (page 27, lines 12 to 14) with:

- (3) Each regional representative group must have—
 - (a) at least 1 representative from each territorial authority covered by the entity; and
 - (b) a majority of representatives appointed by territorial authorities.

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) amends the Water Services Entities Bill. It would change the composition of the regional representative groups to ensure that every territorial authority is represented in the regional representative group. Some councils raised concerns that their voices would be shut out of the entities' regional representative groups. This amendment ensures that every territorial authority would be represented even without constitutional amendments expanding the number of rep-

representatives. This would not affect the ability of entities to have boards larger than that number. It simply ensures at least one seat for every territorial authority. The amendment would ensure that regional representative boards comprise a majority of territorial authority representatives. Territorial authorities are the owners of their assets and should have control over the boards that oversee their management. This SOP does not amend provisions requiring representatives from mana whenua to be appointed board members. It only removes the requirement for them to make up half of the representative boards. This ensures all voices are at the table but that control remains with territorial authorities so they can act on behalf of the communities they represent as asset owners.