



Library and Information Association of New Zealand
Te Rau Herenga O Aotearoa

27th August 2025

LIANZA RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL

ABOUT TE RAU HERENGA O AOTEAROA LIANZA

Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa ([LIANZA](#)) has provided leadership to the wider library and information profession for over 115 years.

With a strong national network, active member communities and volunteer base, an established profile, and strong international connections, LIANZA spans all parts of the diverse library and information sector. This includes public, school, tertiary, health, prison, tertiary, special libraries and information services. LIANZA is the peak body for the library and information sector.

LIANZA works closely with [Te Rōpū Whakahau](#), the professional body for kaimahi Māori in libraries. LIANZA also maintains a strong relationship with Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, The National Library of New Zealand. We have strong links to the wider GLAMMIR sector and are a member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).

Our networks and support extend to the Pasifika library community. We work closely with our LIANZA Pacific Information Management Network and with libraries in the Pacific.

COMMENTS

LIANZA congratulates the Government on recognising libraries, alongside museums, reserves, and other recreational facilities as core services of local authorities.


This recognition reflects the essential role that libraries and cultural facilities play in building resilient, connected, and thriving communities. Libraries in particular, provide equitable access to information, digital inclusion, lifelong learning opportunities, and safe community spaces for all.

Libraries are vibrant centres of local activity and essential community spaces. They facilitate connection and digital literacy, promote reading for pleasure, provide information and activities for all ages, and play an important role in curating local heritage.

The demand for library resources, programmes, and events continues to grow nationwide, particularly during the current economic climate and support community seeking positive, low-cost activities.

As the national professional body for library and information professionals, LIANZA has consistently advocated that libraries are essential infrastructure for social, cultural, educational, and economic life, and we are pleased to see this reflected in legislation. This acknowledgement affirms that libraries are not discretionary, but central to the future of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Marshall'.

Laura Marshall
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