



The Clan Keith

Clan of the Great Earls Marischal of Scotland



Cirean Ceann Cinnidh

Patron: Rt Hon Sir Kenneth Keith, ONZ, KBE, QC

16 May 2016

Commercial, Consumers & Communications Branch
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment
PO Box 1473
Wellington

Dear Sirs

Submission on the Exposure Draft Incorporated Societies Bill

Clan Keith in New Zealand Incorporated was formed in 2012 as the local successor to an Australasian society that went into recess in Australia. The objects of the Society are the sharing, advancement, study, preservation and promotion of the culture, values, history, lore, languages, literature, music, art, and glories of the Scottish Clan Keith.

The Clan Keith is a worldwide family with a common link with the House of Keith Marischal, the clan, its principal family names (Austin, Cate, Dick, Dickson, Falconer, Harvey, Keith, Kite, Marshall and Urie) and the Earl of Kintore, the hereditary Chief of the Name and Arms of Keith.

We welcome the opportunity to make a submission on the Exposure Draft Incorporated Societies Bill.


We generally support the proposed reform of legislation governing incorporated societies, and the draft Bill:

- We seek clarification that the provisions of clause 75 Methods of holding meetings will not preclude members from voting by proxy or a society holding a postal vote.
- We have one reservation concerning the effect of clause 83 requiring even the smallest incorporated societies to adopt standards-based accounting.

We submit that the objectives of clause 83 of promoting higher quality and more consistent reporting will not be subverted if the very smallest societies are exempt from preparing financial statements in accordance with accounting standards. Since for the most part, the smallest incorporated societies will be mutual benefit organisations, there is no wider public policy interest in subjecting them to external financial scrutiny beyond what currently occurs. It is therefore our submission that incorporated societies whose annual operating expenditure in one or both of the two preceding financial years is less than \$10,000 should be exempt from the provision for standards-based accounting.

Our Society adopted the appropriate XRB standard two years ago. This was not an onerous task for people with the appropriate skills and experience. However, our concern is that for others it will appear onerous and serve as a deterrent.

We have no objection to the public release of any information contained in this submission.

Yours sincerely


Ian Dickson | President

Clan Keith in New Zealand Inc.

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