

PROPOSED MOTION

I move that:

- a) an additional Clause 1.5.2 be added after Clause 1.5.1 of the constitution, to read:
This Constitution must be interpreted having regard to the principles of institutional neutrality. In exercising its powers the Board will, so far as is practicable and in keeping with the objects of the Society, maintain neutrality on contentious issues. and that
b) definitions of Contentious Issues and Neutrality be added to clause 1.3 in their appropriate alphabetic locations, as follows:

Contentious issue means a political, ideological, religious, moral or cultural issue on which there are substantial differences of opinion or belief that are expressed as significant hostility between communities or groups of New Zealanders, including views on gender identities, sexual preferences, race relations and the role of Te Tiriti, but does not include:

- (i) Issues of fact; or
- (ii) Issues directly related to the charitable objects of the Society as listed at or in clause 1.4.1.

Neutrality means the eschewing of endorsement, promotion or support of or opposition to perspectives or positions on a contentious issue including avoiding the appearance of any such alignment.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Rationale:

The proposed clause and definition reaffirms the principle that institutions such as InternetNZ, are tasked with governance of the .nz domain for all New Zealanders, should be non-partisan and focus on its core objects. Avoiding bias and the appearance of bias on contentious social and political issues would not preclude InternetNZ taking stances on contentious issues where necessary for the pursuit of its objects, such as advocacy against internet censorship.

Mover: Fiona Margaret Mackenzie

Seconder: Lee Warwick Short