

Drafting Guidelines for InternetNZ Constitution

Executive Summary

The InternetNZ Constitution Review Drafting Instructions propose three broad types of changes to the constitution of InternetNZ:

- new content either required or recommended for constitutions registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022
- changes to modernise provisions in the current constitution, specifically around objects, governance, membership and administrative processes, including bringing these in line with current best practice
- changes to help embed InternetNZ's commitment to centering Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

New content includes additional introductory sections, such as a preface to the constitution, mandatory administrative provisions, and a section on the tikanga of the Society. Other new sections include the dispute resolution process, which takes a tikanga-based approach.

It is proposed the objects of the Society are revised to reflect the evolving nature of the Internet over the past 30 years, help embed our commitment to centering Te Tiriti, and better reflect the work of the organisation in 2024 and beyond.

Proposed changes to membership provisions are largely to add new mandatory clauses and clarity on the roles, rights and obligations of members. The three types of membership – Individual, Organisational and Fellow – stay the same with the removal of the “Individual Professional” membership, which is not currently in use. To ensure cost alone does not prevent people from becoming members, subscription fees will be required to be set in a way that minimises financial barriers.

One of the most significant sets of proposed changes is about governance of the Society. A redesigned governance structure is proposed to prioritise skills and diversity relevant to InternetNZ's current and future needs. This includes a reduction in the number of members of the governance group from a maximum of 11 to 9, an increase in appointed members to give flexibility in filling skills gaps, and the establishment of an Appointments and Nominations committee. There are also provisions for embedding Māori representation at a governance level, including the potential to have tangata Tiriti and tangata whenua co-chairs. These proposals do impact members but were designed to retain or include member representation in governance roles and throughout the appointment process.

Other changes are explained throughout the remainder of the Drafting Guidelines document.