

# (DRAFT) META CONSTITUTION OF MODEL NEW ZEALAND

Drafted on 26/9/2020

## Article 1 | Constitutional Supremacy

1. This constitution governs the entirety of /r/ModelNZParliament, and all of its child subreddits.
2. This constitution also governs all communities and spaces affiliated with /r/ModelNZParliament, including Discord servers.
3. This document is supreme to any document within the simulation, including the Meta Rules of the Model New Zealand, any Act of Parliament, and any party constitutions.
4. For the purposes of this Constitution and any other related documents, the term *simulation* means /r/ModelNZParliament and is considered to continue from the real life New Zealand from 18 October 2020.

## Article 2 | Meta Votes

1. A *meta vote* is any vote that has a meaningful impact on the operation of the simulation.
2. In order to vote in a meta vote, a reddit account must meet any of the following requirements:
  - a. Have made at least one canon contribution to the simulation within the previous forty-five days, or;
  - b. Given specific approval by the Governor-General.
3. A meta vote is to be operated by the Governor-General, with the exception of a vote of no confidence against the Governor-General, which will be conducted by the Chief Electoral Officer.
4. Simulation members will debate any meta issues for a period of at least ~~four~~ three days.
5. Meta votes will last three days and be conducted with a secret ballot.

## Article 3 | Governor-General

1. The Governor-General shall have supreme authority over all decisions made within the simulation, including questions of canonicity as well as actions taken in meta.
2. The Governor-General must be a moderator with full permissions on all simulation related subreddits or Discord servers.
3. Upon the Governor-General's resignation or removal, any simulation member may nominate a replacement.
  - a. If there is only one nominee, they will advance to a vote of confidence which requires a two-thirds majority to pass.
  - b. If there are multiple nominees, an election using the alternative vote will be used to select one nominee, who will then advance to a vote of confidence which requires a two-thirds majority to pass.
  - c. If a nominee fails the vote of confidence threshold, the process will start anew.
4. The position of Governor-General may not be held concurrently with the positions of Chief Electoral Officer, Chief of Events, or Speaker of the House of Representatives.
5. The Governor-General may designate an Acting Governor-General to perform the duties of the Governor-General for up to two weeks.

## Article 4 | Chief Electoral Officer

1. The Chief Electoral Officer is the chief authority over elections. They are responsible for leading the Electoral Commission and operating elections.
2. Upon the Chief Electoral Officer's resignation or removal, any simulation member may nominate a replacement.
  - a. If there is only one nominee, they will advance to a vote of confidence which requires a two-thirds majority to pass.
  - b. If there are multiple nominees, an election using the alternative vote will be used to select one nominee, who will then advance to a vote of confidence which requires a two-thirds majority to pass.
  - c. If a nominee fails a vote of confidence, the process will start anew.

3. The position of Chief Electoral Officer may not be held concurrently with the positions of Governor-General, Chief of Events, or Speaker of the House of Representatives.

## Article 5 | Moderation Team

1. The *Moderation Team* consists of the Governor-General and any other moderators appointed by the Governor-General.
2. Moderators appointed by the Governor-General must be confirmed via a meta vote with a simple majority.
3. The Moderation Team will consider punishments, as well as maintain peace within the simulation.

## Article 6 | Speakership

1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives will lead the Speakership as well as lead the day-to-day operations of Parliament.
2. This person will be elected by a meta vote conducted by the Governor-General, who will call for nominees whenever there is a vacancy.
  - a. If there is only one nominee, they will advance to a vote of confidence which requires a simple majority to pass.
  - b. If there are two nominees, the election will be a simple plurality election.
  - c. If there are more than two nominees, the election will use preferential voting.
3. Any simulation member may be nominated for Speaker.
  - a. Simulation members may refuse a nomination.
4. The position of Speaker of the House of Representatives may not be held concurrently with the positions of Governor-General, Chief Electoral Officer, or Chief of Events.
5. The Speaker may appoint any Deputy Speakers to help them with their Parliamentary duties.
  - a. Deputy Speakers must be confirmed via meta vote with a simple majority.
  - b. A Deputy Speaker may also be nominated by the Governor-General and confirmed via meta vote.

6. The Speaker may appoint any Speakership Advisors to give advice on any situation where it is needed. These advisors do not have the obligations of other members of Speakership.
  - a. Former Speakers of the House are automatically Speakership Advisors.
  - b. Speakership Advisors may be removed by the Governor-General.
7. Members of the Speakership are required to have full permissions any Parliamentary related subreddits and spreadsheets that are necessary to perform their duties to their fullest extent.
  - a. Any spreadsheet is to be owned by the Governor-General.
8. The primary duties of the Speakership will be to post bills and debate, rule on points of order, count and post votes, move bills as needed to various stages within the House, and any other such parliamentary tasks including record-keeping on the spreadsheets.
9. If at any time the Speakership is unavailable, or a decision requires a secondary perspective, the duties of the Speakership may be performed by the Governor-General.
10. The Speaker of the House of Representatives may appoint persons for the sole purpose of conducting archival work maintaining spreadsheets.
  - a. These persons shall be known as Archivists and shall be listed publicly.
  - b. Archivists need not have the same rights to subreddits and communication channels that other members of Speakership has. Their access shall be set at the level which is appropriate for them to do their tasks.
  - c. Archivists are not subject to a vote of confidence upon appointment but where an appointment occurs it must be posted to /r/ModelNZMeta.
11. A person who is not the Governor-General or not a member of Speakership shall not hold permissions on simulation spreadsheets and subreddits.

## Article 7 | Electoral Commission

1. All canon elections will be operated by an Electoral Commision.
2. The Electoral Commission will be led by the Chief Electoral Officer, who is also a member.
3. The Chief Electoral Officer may nominate any non-partisan members to the Electoral Commission who must pass a vote of confidence before their appointment with a simple majority.

4. In addition to the non-partisan members, the Governor-General will have an advisory role on the Electoral Commission.
5. During a period of ten weeks following a member of the Electoral Commission leaving the commission, they will not be permitted to do any of the following:
  - a. Joining or forming a political party.
  - b. Holding any canon political office such as that of Member of Parliament.
  - c. Being a candidate in any canon election.
  - d. Receiving modifiers for canon activity in the simulation.
6. Section 5 also applies to the Chief Electoral Officer and the Governor-General.

## Article 8 | Events

1. Events will be operated and overseen by an Events Team.
2. The events team will be led by the Chief of Events, a non-partisan member appointed by the Governor-General. The Chief of Events must pass a vote of confidence by a simple majority before their appointment.
3. The Chief of Events may not be a Member of Parliament or hold any other canon role.
4. Additional members may be appointed to the Events Team by the Chief of Events.
  - a. Any simulation member, with the exclusion of party leaders, the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition, is eligible to be a member of the events team.
  - b. Members of the events team may not work on an event if they are directly involved in Parliament's response to the event.
  - c. These members must be approved by a vote of confidence. This vote must pass by a simple majority.
5. Where there is a dispute over the canonicity of any thing or event in the simulation, the Events Team is to be the main group to advise the Governor-General on whether to consider any such event canon or not.
6. An 'event' is defined as a random, fictional situation that affects New Zealand significantly, and which Parliament must respond to.
  - a. An event may be either positive or negative in impact.
  - b. An event may match a real and current situation, with notable differences to make the response of Parliament unique.

- c. An event cannot directly involve a person in the simulation (eg. a scandal or fraud).
  - d. Events must be well researched and sourced. Upon the conclusion of an event, the Events Team must submit a short report to /r/ModelNZMeta explaining the event and its background.
- 7. An event must not be held if:
  - a. Parliament dissolves within two weeks, or if there is a pause in business for the Christmas Break.
  - b. An event has occurred in the last two weeks.
- 8. An event may be cancelled and retconned for any reason by a meta vote with a two-thirds majority.

## Article 9 | Removal of Team Members

- 1. Votes of no confidence may be brought against the following meta positions:
  - a. The Governor-General,
  - b. The Chief Electoral Officer,
  - c. Moderators,
  - d. The Speaker of the House,
  - e. Deputy Speakers,
  - f. Members of the Electoral Commission, and
  - g. Members of the Events Team.
- 2. Any member mentioned in (1) may resign from their positions, to be presented to the Governor-General.
- 3. To remove the Governor-General, a petition must be presented to the Moderators which outlines the justification for the vote of no confidence, as well as the signatures of at least five community members who are eligible to vote in a meta vote,
  - a. If this petition is accepted, the Moderators will present the petition to the Governor-General and ask them to resign.
  - b. If the Governor-General refuses to resign, the Moderators will conduct a vote of no confidence.
    - i. Simulation members will debate the vote of no confidence for a period of at least four days. The Governor-General may participate in this debate.

- ii. After the debate, a vote will be taken. This vote will require a quorum of half of all eligible simulation members and a two-thirds majority.
- c. If the vote of no confidence passes, the Governor-General will be relieved of their powers.
- 4. To remove any of the members in (1) other than the Governor-General,
  - a. a petition must be presented to the Governor-General which outlines the justification for a vote of no confidence, as well as the signatures of three community members that are eligible to vote in a meta vote.
    - i. If this petition is accepted, the Governor-General will conduct a vote of no confidence, pursuant to Article 3.
- 5. Alternately, the highest ranking member of a team may remove members of that team;
  - a. The Speaker of the House of Representatives can remove any member of Speakership,
  - b. The Chief Electoral Officer can remove Electoral Commissioners,
  - c. The Chief of Events can remove Events Team members,
  - d. The Governor-General can remove any person holding any meta position.

## Article 10 | Emergency Powers

- 1. The Governor-General may suspend sections of this constitution in times of crisis after a consultation of the simulation.
- 2. The suspension of the constitution must be renewed by a meta vote as soon as possible.
  - a. The suspension must be renewed regularly until the period of crisis is over.

## Article 11 | Amendment

- 1. Any simulation member eligible to vote in a meta vote may propose an amendment to the constitution on /r/ModelNZMeta.
- 2. Amendments must be debated by the simulation for a period of at least 4 days before going to a meta vote.

3. Minor edits to the Constitution, such as changes to spelling or grammatical errors that do not change the intent of the Constitution may be made by the Governor-General without a meta vote.
  - a. The Governor-General must notify the simulation when this takes place.

## Article 12 | Replacement

1. Any member of the simulation may ask the Governor-General to initiate a review of any meta document.
2. The simulation will debate the merits of reviewing a ~~constitution~~ meta document for a period of at least three days before it will go to a meta vote.
  - a. This vote requires a three-quarters majority to pass.
3. If this vote passes, any members of the simulation will review a meta document and propose a replacement document.
  - a. Members of the simulation who compose this group for review are to be decided by the Governor-General.
4. The simulation will scrutinise, debate and review the replacement document for a period of at least 7 days before it will go to a meta vote.
  - a. This vote requires a three-quarters majority to pass.
5. If a vote on replacing the document is unsuccessful, a new vote may not be held on the same provisions until 3 months have passed.

## Article 13 | Additional Documents

1. Below this constitution will be a set of documents, which will govern the details of the simulation.
2. The documents include:
  - a. The Electoral Regulations of Model New Zealand,
  - b. The Parliament Rules of Model New Zealand Parliament,
  - c. The Community Standards of Model New Zealand.