

Briefing for Incoming Minister

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

October 2005

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



Te Tari Taiwhenua

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Introduction: Local Government

Introduction to Internal Affairs

The Department of Internal Affairs' purpose is to serve and connect citizens, communities and government to build a strong, safe nation. The Department's vision is to be a recognised leader in public service – known for innovation, essential to New Zealand, and trusted to deliver.

In 2005, the Department administered six votes:

- Internal Affairs
- Ministerial Services
- Local Government
- Community and Voluntary Sector
- Civil Defence
- Racing

(Ethnic Affairs is a separate portfolio within Vote Internal Affairs.)

The Department administers approximately 80 Acts and sets of Regulations, and approximately 1500 'local' Acts.

The Department employs around 1,100 people in 17 centres in New Zealand, plus small offices in Sydney and London. It has revenues of almost \$150 million per year from both Crown and external sources. It is the responsible department for many Crown entities and other statutory bodies.

Introduction to Ministerial Role

STATUTORY POWERS OF THE MINISTER

The specific responsibilities of the Minister of Local Government under the Local Government Act 2002 include:

- appointing members of the Local Government Commission
- appointing a review authority where there is a significant council failure to meet its statutory obligations or management responsibilities
- appointing Commissioners to act in the place of local authorities in certain circumstances
- making the final decision where regional councils and territorial authorities cannot agree on how to avoid duplication of functions

- a variety of minor statutory approvals (such as authorising changes to the purpose for which endowment land is held, and approving minor boundary alterations)
- being the territorial authority for some offshore islands.

FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Department's activities under the Local Government portfolio focus on policy advice and support to you as Minister. The Department also provides support services to the Local Government Commission, is harbourmaster for Lake Taupo, and undertakes, on the Minister's behalf, territorial authority functions for some offshore islands.

CROWN ENTITIES AND OTHER STATUTORY BODIES

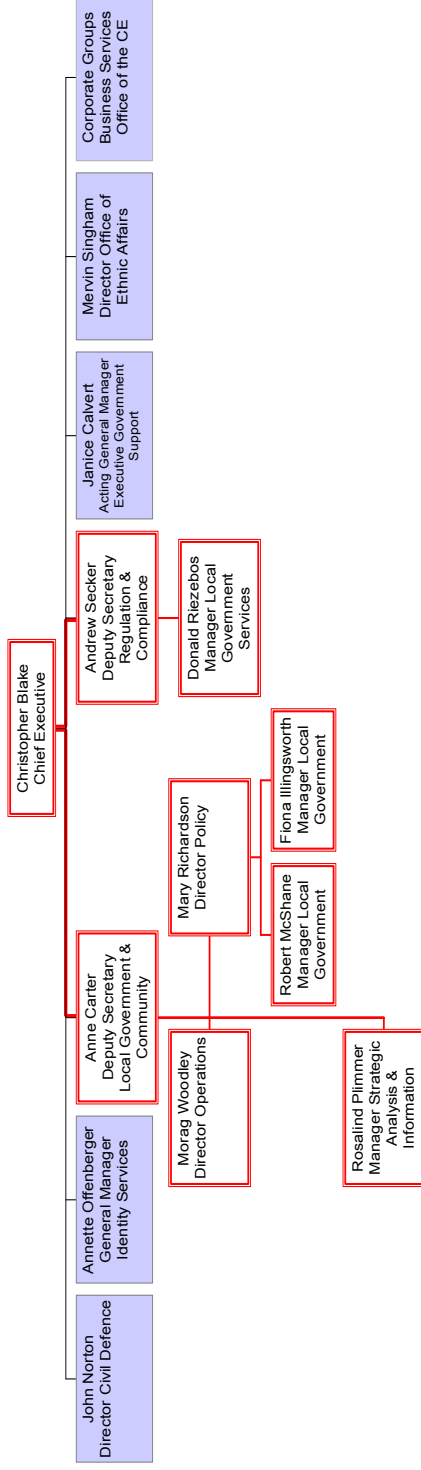
- Local Government Commission.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- **Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)** – represents the local government sector and, particularly, the elected members of local government
- **Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM)** – represents senior local government officers
- **Auckland Regional Mayoral Forum** – a group consisting of the chairperson of the Auckland Regional Council and the mayors of each of its constituent territorial authorities.

Minister of Local Government Department of Internal Affairs accountability arrangements

This chart shows the areas and people of the Department of Internal Affairs (in red) who report to you as Minister of Local Government.



1. Sector Overview: Local Government

Central and local government form the two arms of New Zealand's system of government. Local authorities are autonomous and are accountable to the communities that they serve. They are funded largely by locally raised funds (88 percent of total revenue) and regulated by a range of Acts. Under the Local Government Act 2002, the fundamental purpose of local government is to:

- (a) enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future.

Local authorities make local decisions having regard to their communities needs and priorities. Their responsibilities involve both leading and representing their communities. This means engaging with communities and encouraging community participation in decision-making, while thinking about the needs not only of the people currently living in communities but also of those people who will live there in the future.

Collectively, local authorities make a significant contribution to New Zealand's economy. They have:

- total assets of \$62.8 billion
- an annual operating income of \$4,626 million (for year to June 2004)
- a total rate take of \$2,620 million
- an annual income from sale of goods and services of \$902.6 million
- an annual investment income of \$301.7 million (for year to June 2004)
- 1025 elected members plus 721 community board members
- approximately 40,000 employees.

New Zealand's local government system comprises two complementary sets of local authorities - regional councils and territorial authorities. There are currently 86 local authorities consisting of:

- 12 regional councils which cover most of New Zealand's land area
- 74 territorial authorities (comprising 59 district councils and 15 city councils).

Five of the territorial authorities also have the powers of a regional council.¹

¹ These are the Nelson City Council, the Gisborne, Marlborough and Tasman District Councils, and the Chatham Islands Council. The first four are sometimes referred to as unitary authorities.

Regional councils' activities include:

- managing the effects of using freshwater, land, air and coastal waters, by developing regional policy statements and issuing of consents
- managing rivers, mitigating soil erosion and flood control
- regional civil defence emergency management and preparedness
- regional land transport planning and contracting passenger services
- regional economic development and tourism
- harbour navigation and safety, oil spills and other marine pollution.

Territorial authority (city and district councils) activities include:

- controlling the effects of land use (including hazardous substances, natural hazards and indigenous biodiversity), noise, and the effects of activities on the surface of lakes and rivers
- providing local infrastructure, including water supply, waste-water and sewerage, and roading network
- environmental safety and health, district civil defence emergency management and preparedness, building control, public health inspections, dog control, and other environmental health matters
- social and community development activities, including providing community centres, community grant funding, social housing and community safety initiatives
- recreation, leisure and culture services, including provision of recreation facilities and programmes, public libraries, parks and open space, and art and cultural programmes and facilities
- economic development and tourism promotion.

The mix of activities undertaken by regional councils and territorial authorities is expected to change over time as local authorities and their communities continue to define their roles.

The two types of local authority are not hierarchical, nor are they subsidiary to central government. However, in some instances, specific statutes may establish responsibility or accountability relationships between local authorities and central government, for example the Health Act.

Councils generally raise their own funds by way of rates, development contributions, fees and charges and investments. They also receive a significant contribution towards roading, and transport costs from central government. For example, in the year to June 2004, local government received \$555.7 million in government grants and subsidies. The provision of funding can establish local government responsibilities and accountabilities to central government agencies.

Local authorities do not (and cannot) achieve their objectives alone. They work closely with other organisations including central government, public bodies, businesses, iwi, voluntary sector and citizens to help achieve community well-being. The focus of the current central/local government relationship has been on identifying ways to work collaboratively on issues of common concern.

2. Strategic and Legislative Framework: Local Government

Local authorities are separate legal entities from the Crown. Like other legal entities, their existence, powers and obligations are formally defined by Parliament through legislation as are their relationships with other legal entities including, most importantly, the citizens they represent.

Local government in New Zealand has undergone radical transformation over the last 20 years, involving a number of changes to the structure, role and powers of local authorities. The structure of local government itself was significantly reformed in 1989 when approximately 700 councils and special purpose bodies were amalgamated to create 87 local authorities.

Legislative changes since that time have focussed on increasing the transparency of council decision-making, efficiency and effectiveness, and accountability. Over the same period a number of new Acts (including the Resource Management Act 1991, the Biosecurity Act 1999, and the Land Transport Act 1998, among others) clarified and modernised local authorities' functional responsibilities.

The Local Government Act 2002 resulted from a three-year review of the legislation providing for the constitution and processes of local authorities. Coordinated reviews also led to the enactment of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 within the same period.

The Local Government Act 2002, as well as articulating the purpose of local government, sets out the role of individual local authorities and overarching principles to guide their operation. It provides local authorities with more flexible powers and tools to work with and for their communities, but balances this with explicit decision-making, consultation, strategic planning, and accountability expectations. It also includes modernised and simplified governance procedures, regulatory powers and processes, and a limited number of restrictions on council decisions. The Act is also where the statutory powers of the Minister of Local Government, and the role of the Local Government Commission, are set out.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 prescribes the conduct of local authority elections and polls. It also provides opportunities and procedures to allow local communities to choose local electoral systems (first past the post and single transferable vote), and for reviews of council representation arrangements including the constitution of community boards and Māori wards and constituencies. The Act also provides the basis for District Health Board and Licensing Trust elections.

The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 provides modern and flexible rating mechanisms which are the primary means by which councils raise revenue from their communities. The exercise of rating powers is subject to the transparency, consultation and accountability requirements under the Local Government Act 2002.

The overall objective of these three Acts is to enable local authorities to be responsive to the diverse current and future needs of the communities they represent, and to provide greater scope for those communities to participate in the decision-making processes that determine what their local authorities do. They seek to provide an appropriate balance between flexible local decision-making, and the rights of individuals and communities to understand, and influence, what their local authority does.

OTHER LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT

As well as the three Acts mentioned above, the Department administers a number of acts within the Local Government portfolio, including:

- Local Government Act 1974 (remnant provisions not replaced by Local Government Act 2002)
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968
- Public Bodies Leases Act 1969
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Rates Rebate Act 1973
- Chatham Islands Council Act 1995
- Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 (this will move to the new Department of Building and Housing in February 2006)
- Litter Act 1979.

OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT-RELATED LEGISLATION

Significant local government-related legislation that is the responsibility of other Ministers, and administered by their ministries or departments, includes:

- Biosecurity Act 1993 (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
- Building Act 2004 (Department of Building and Housing)
- Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management)
- Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 (Department of Internal Affairs through Vote: Internal Affairs)

- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (Ministry for the Environment)
- Health Act 1956 (Ministry of Health)
- Land Transport Management Act 2003 (Ministry of Transport)
- Land Transport Act 1998 (Ministry of Transport)
- Public Works Act 1981 (Land Information New Zealand)
- Reserves Act 1977 (Department of Conservation)
- Resource Management Act 1991 (Ministry for the Environment)
- Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 (Ministry for the Environment)
- Transit New Zealand Act 1989 (Ministry of Transport)
- Transport Act 1962 (Ministry of Transport).

In addition, Parliament's Standing Orders grant local authorities the right to promote local legislation specifically affecting their own districts or region.

3. The Minister's Role: Local Government

The Minister of Local Government has primary responsibility for the legislative framework under which the system of local government in New Zealand is constituted, and for its overall effectiveness. While the Minister is responsible for the framework, this does not extend to specific decisions or actions of local authorities. The Minister's powers to intervene in the decisions of individual councils are extremely limited and available only in specific circumstances where the risk to the well-being of local communities or representative democracy justifies overriding local accountability.

The specific responsibilities of the Minister of Local Government include:

- appointing members of the Local Government Commission
- appointing a review authority where there is a significant council failure to meet its statutory obligations or management responsibilities
- appointing Commissioners to act in the place of local authorities in certain circumstances
- making the final decision where regional councils and territorial authorities cannot agree on how to avoid duplication of functions
- a variety of minor statutory approvals (such as authorising changes to the purpose for which endowment land is held, and approving minor boundary alterations)
- being the territorial authority for some offshore islands.

Within government and Cabinet, the Minister's role can include promoting the importance of an effective, responsive and democratic system of local government as an important outcome. This may involve considering the overall coherence of government policy as it impacts on the local government sector, and the consistency of that policy with the purposes, principles and processes set out in the Local Government Act 2002.

Close liaison with other Ministers (for example, Health, Environment, Transport and Community and Voluntary Sector) whose portfolios cover major functional responsibilities where local government may be involved. The Minister of Local Government has a role in promoting the broader concern for effective local governance and community wellbeing.

4. The Department's Role: Local Government

The Department of Internal Affairs has a central role in facilitating effective relationships between central government, local government and communities. This spans the Community and Voluntary Sector and Internal Affairs portfolios, as well as Local Government.

In the Local Government portfolio, this role is manifested in policy advice to the Minister, policy advice on behalf of the Minister to other Government agencies, information and advice to the local government sector and communities, and some regulatory responsibilities. The Department has a specific role in facilitating the interface between central and local government in processes to identify and contribute to community outcomes.

In particular, the Department:

- provides policy advice on local government and support to the Minister of Local Government
- supports and develops effective central government engagement with local authorities and their communities at local and regional level
- provides advice to select committees on Government legislation within the portfolio, local Bills, and enquiries or petitions dealing with relevant matters (for example, 2005 Justice and Electoral Committee Inquiry into the 2004 local authority elections)
- administers acts and regulations on behalf of the Minister of Local Government
- provides support services to the Local Government Commission
- develops and maintains relationships with key stakeholders
- maintains www.localcouncils.govt.nz – a website providing a range of public information about the local government sector and statistical profiles of all local authorities
- is developing a National Dog Database to record the details of registered dogs and their microchip numbers
- administers the Rates Rebates Scheme
- undertakes territorial authority functions for some offshore islands on the Minister's behalf
- provides harbourmaster services on Lake Taupo.

It is important that the Government is assured that the system of local government is operating effectively, efficiently and accountably. The Department is undertaking an evaluation programme to:

- consider the impacts and effectiveness of the new legislation in terms of its high level goals
- provide a basis for evidence-based policy advice to Ministers on the operation of the system of local government

- provide information to the public on the activities of their local authorities.

The Department is involved in a wide range of other policy initiatives affecting local government. These vary from time to time in their currency and priority. Present initiatives that the Department is involved with include the review of drinking water (including the proposals for a new Public Health Bill), the Sustainable Development Programme of Action on Water (raw water quality and allocation issues) and the land access review.

5. Key Issues and Themes: Local Government

Strategic issues

There is a number of strategic issues that face the sector and an incoming Minister of Local Government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The independence of local authorities and their accountability to their communities is partly based on the responsibility of local communities to meet the costs of council responses to local preferences and needs. For this reason, local authority rating processes are designed to make the cost of local government, and the contribution ratepayers are making to different council services and facilities, explicitly transparent. As a result, there is significant political pressure on councils to constrain their expenditure and thus their need for increased revenue, especially from rates.

Within this context, the local government sector has expressed concerns about the ability of local authorities to meet the cost of rising community expectations of improved quantity and quality of services from existing revenue sources. In particular, the following have been raised as contributing to such difficulties:

- the high costs of new or replacement infrastructure, including both network infrastructure and community infrastructure
- new regulatory roles such as the new gambling, building and dog control legislation
- increased costs arising from the consultative and other procedural requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

A joint central government / local government working group has found that most local authorities are able to manage these pressures from within existing funding tools and resources. There is a smaller number of local authorities where increasing funding pressures will be difficult to accommodate using existing funding tools. This appears to be the result of the *cumulative effect* of a *significant number* of the following factors:

- lower population density
- low holdings of revenue-producing assets (such as port company shares)
- high levels of rates exempt land
- high levels of Māori freehold land

- substantial needs for new or replacement capital works on the existing stock of infrastructure
- significantly higher than average rates of population growth or by contrast population decline
- demographics which indicate high levels of non-participation in the labour force, unemployment, and unskilled and semi-skilled workers with consequent low incomes
- higher reliance on residential rates.

The development of terms of reference for phase 2 of the project has now commenced. These may propose further analysis of some of the affected local authorities followed by the development of a range of options for consideration by Ministers.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS CONFERRED ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Local Government Act 2002 states that the roles of local authorities include performing duties and exercising rights conferred under other statutes, as well as giving effect to the purpose of local government. Local authorities have significant roles and responsibilities, mainly of a regulatory nature, under a large number of Acts administered by a range of different Government agencies.

This situation can create tensions for individual local authorities between the exercise of statutory responsibilities and associated Government agency expectations, and responding to the needs and preferences of their local communities. The statutory allocation of functions to local authorities also raises issues about the appropriate division of responsibilities between central and local government. These include the implications of shared responsibilities for planning, accountability and funding arrangements.

These tensions and issues can be exacerbated because responsibility for the relevant legislation and Government objectives is spread over a number of Government agencies, because different functions involve different mixes of national direction and local discretion, and because of differing legislative formats and styles.

Many of these themes were reflected in a paper presented by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) to the Central/Local Government Forum, in December 2003. That paper raised a number of sector concerns at the processes, nature, and cumulative effect of changes to the regulatory roles and responsibilities of local authorities. A joint working group, convened by the Department of Internal Affairs, was established to investigate the validity of those concerns and whether there was a need for a framework to guide policy development involving regulatory responsibilities of local government.

The working group has submitted progress reports to subsequent meetings of the Forum, noting that there is a range of issues, as well as a number of opportunities for addressing these. Current work is focusing on guidance material for central government agencies on:

- the nature of local government and the processes and requirements under which it operates
- local government issues and impacts that may need to be considered in regulatory policy development
- involving the local government sector in policy processes, to obtain expert input about these issues and impacts.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION

The new legislative regimes, and particularly the Local Government Act 2002, have and will bring about changes in the range of activities that local authorities are likely to undertake and the way they go about their business. The Act also places a premium on information, local decision-making processes and accountability.

The objectives of the new legislation are fundamentally concerned with changing behaviour and attitudes on both sides of the relationship between local authorities and their communities. Such changes do not occur immediately when laws are changed, and will evolve over time. The effectiveness of the changes relies heavily on local communities having access to information about their opportunities to engage with their council, and incentives to do so. Information is also required to allow people to make an informed assessment of how their local councils are operating.

Of immediate relevance is the requirement in the Local Government Act that local councils prepare a Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) every three years. During 2005, all local authorities are developing their first full LTCCPs to take effect from 1 July 2006. The LTCCP is the key long term planning tool for councils and it sets out a council's priorities for the medium to long term. It outlines how the council intends to contribute to community outcomes and it provides the main opportunity for the community to participate in local decision-making.

Increased and better coordinated collaboration between local authorities and other agencies in addressing community needs is a further objective of the legislative change. Support is required to assist building necessary relationships, particularly at the interface between central and local government, to ensure that agencies are able to work effectively together on issues affecting local and national communities. While the current focus on central

government involvement with the community outcome process is an important part of this, there is likely to be a need for ongoing broadly focused support for collaborative initiatives.

Some provisions of the Local Government Act 1974 were not included in the review of the Local Government Act. These include Auckland-specific provisions relating to Infrastructure Auckland, Watercare Services Ltd and the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy. Remaining provisions of the 1974 Act that need to be reviewed include roading, land drainage, and waste management provisions. In some cases, coordination will be required with the work programmes of other departments, e.g. the roading provisions in the 1974 Act were left untouched pending the Ministry of Transport's review of land transport, but a review of their application to unformed roads is now being undertaken in response to the Government's land access policy.

Other issues

LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Local Electoral Act 2001 has been in place for two local authority triennial elections. The Act was amended in 2002 to include new representation arrangement provisions formerly in the Local Government Act 1974. These provisions, along with the option to change electoral system, i.e. between first past the post (FPP) and single transferable vote (STV), took effect for the 2004 elections.

Following the October 2004 local authority elections, the Justice and Electoral Committee initiated an inquiry into the conduct of these elections including continuing declines in voter turnout and delays in announcing some STV election results. The Select Committee's terms of reference for its inquiry covered an assessment of the legislation, participation and elector turnout, electoral systems, and election management.

The Committee has completed its inquiry and reported back to Parliament. The Committee has made a range of recommendations relating to the existing representation arrangement provisions, initiatives to improve voter turnout and election management roles and responsibilities. The Government needs to consider its response to the Committee's report.

DOG CONTROL

In February 2003, in response to a series of dog attacks, the Government brought forward a planned review of the Dog Control Act 1996. The subsequent changes to the Act included bans on the importation of four breeds/types of dog, increased penalties for offences, the establishment of a national dog database, and from 1 July 2006, the progressive introduction of microchipping.

The National Dog Database is under development and scheduled to become operational on 1 May 2006. The Department also has responsibility for a dog safety public education programme. The programme, aimed at providing information to children on interacting safely with dogs, is funded until June 2006.

RATES REBATE SCHEME

The rates rebate scheme was introduced in 1973 to assist homeowners on benefits and low incomes to pay rates. The scheme no longer achieves its objective because few people now qualify (102,244 households in 1976, and only 3,712 today), many beneficiaries now receive an income that effectively excludes them from the scheme, and the maximum rates rebate available (\$200) no longer provides a significant contribution to the estimated average residential rates bill (\$1301).

In light of the above, the Government agreed in 2005 to the following changes to the scheme to take effect from 1 July 2006 –

- the maximum rebate will increase from to \$200 to \$500
- the income threshold will increase from \$7400 to \$20,000
- the additional income allowance for each dependant will increase from \$156 to \$500.

An increase in annual funding for the scheme from \$900,000 to \$50m is provided for in 2006/07. It is estimated that up to 300,000 people will be eligible for rebates. An implementation and communications plan for the revised scheme is being developed in conjunction with the local government sector.

LAKE TAUPO

The Department has ownership and regulatory interests in Lake Taupo as a consequence of its role as Harbourmaster for the lake. The Department of Conservation (DOC) also has an

interest in the lake (the Minister of Conservation was a signatory of the deed revesting the bed of the lake in Tuwharetoa and DOC has responsibility for the trout fishery.) Regulations administered by the Department provide for both navigation safety bylaws and fees for launching ramps, berths and jetties.

The Government vested the bed of Lake Taupo in the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board in 1992. The extent of the property rights assigned to the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board as a consequence of that vesting has been the subject of ongoing discussion. The Crown is currently engaged in negotiations with the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board over the extent of the Board's property rights over the lake bed. Those negotiations are being undertaken within the framework and report back requirements approved by Cabinet in July 2005. DOC is the lead agency for the negotiations.

ABOLITION OF BANKS PENINSULA DISTRICT

The Local Government Commission issued a final reorganisation scheme on 19 August for the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City. A poll on the scheme will be held in Banks Peninsula District on 19 November. The proposal was initiated by a petition of electors of Banks Peninsula District and is supported by the Banks Peninsula District Council and the Christchurch City Council. If the result of the poll is in favour of the proposal proceeding, the scheme will need to be implemented by Order in Council. The scheme provides for elections for a member to represent the Banks Peninsula Ward on the City Council and for community board members to be held on 26 February 2006.

6. Statutory Bodies: Local Government Sector

The Local Government Commission

The Local Government Commission is an independent statutory body established under the Local Government Act 2002 and funded from Vote: Local Government. Members are appointed by the Minister of Local Government. The Commission's prime tasks are decisions on the structure of local government, the boundaries of local authority districts and electoral arrangements of local authorities. The Commission has three members:

Grant Kirby (Chairperson)² has held a number of senior administrative positions with the Auckland City Council. In April 2000, Mr Kirby was appointed as the Rodney District Council Commissioner, to act as a replacement for the Rodney District Council until elections were held in March 2001. He works as a consultant, principally on transport issues for local authorities in the Auckland region.

Sue Piper (term expires 30 June 2008) is Executive Director of the Wellington Community Foundation and a member of the board of Quotable Value New Zealand. She was a member of the Wellington City Council from 1995 to 2004 and has been a member of the National Council of Local Government New Zealand.

Gwen Bull was a member of the Auckland Regional Council from 1995 to 2004, and chairperson of the Council from 2002 to 2004. She also chaired the Auckland Regional Growth Forum between 2002 and 2004.

MINISTER'S ROLE

The Minister:

- appoints the Chairperson and members of the Commission
- appoints deputies for members
- appoints temporary members
- may request the Commission to report and make recommendations to the Minister on matters related to local government
- arranges for the implementation by Order in Council of some Commission decisions, i.e. those relating to the constitution, amalgamation or abolition of local authorities and boundary alterations.

² Grant Kirby remains in office until reappointed, replaced or given notice that he ceases to hold office.

DEPARTMENT'S ROLE

The Department:

- provides administrative support and advisory services to the Commission
- provides an employee of the Department to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission.

7. Key Stakeholders: Local Government

- **Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)** – represents the local government sector and, particularly, the elected members of local government. It is supported by a number of full-time staff. The President is Basil Morrison and the Chief Executive is Eugene Bowen.

Since 2000, the biannual Central/Local Government Forum, chaired jointly by the Prime Minister and the LGNZ President, has provided the opportunity for an open exchange of views and concerns between the LGNZ National Council and Ministers.

- **Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM)** – represents senior local government officers. A small staff supports the organisation. The President is Phillipa Wilson, Chief Executive of Franklin District Council, and the Chief Executive is David Smith.
- **Auckland Regional Mayoral Forum** – a group consisting of the chairperson of the Auckland Regional Council and the mayors of each of its constituent territorial authorities. The Forum has consistently pressed for increased central government investment in the Auckland region.

Membership of Statutory Bodies

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Name	Date of Original Appointment	Expiry Date of Present Term
Grant Kirby (chair)*	1 July 2001	30 June 2005
Sue Piper	1 June 2005	30 June 2008
Gwen Bull	1 June 2005	30 June 2008

* Grant Kirby remains in office until reappointed, replaced or given notice that he ceases to hold office.