



Cabinet

Copy No: 35

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio: Local Government

On 11 May 2009 Cabinet:

- 1 noted that on 6 April 2009, Cabinet agreed to the development of legislative changes necessary to implement changes to Auckland's governance arrangements [CAB Min (09) 12/7];
- 2 noted that on 4 May 2009, Cabinet confirmed the detailed policy content of proposed urgent legislation to implement the government's decisions on Auckland governance, including the introduction of three Bills - two to be introduced in May 2009, and one to be introduced later in 2009 [CAB Min (09) 15/11];
- 3 noted that the Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill (the Bill) gives effect to the agreed policy proposals on Auckland's governance structure by:
 - 3.1 providing the high level framework for the structure of the Auckland Council - 8 members elected at large and 12 members from wards, and in the order of 20-30 local boards including their high level functions;
 - 3.2 directing and providing powers for the Local Government Commission to determine the boundaries of the wards of the Auckland Council and the local boards, and the number of local boards and their membership;
 - 3.3 providing powers and functions for the Local Government Commission to develop a reorganisation scheme for the partition of the Franklin District and the Franklin District Council between the Auckland Council and the Waikato District Council;
- 4 noted that the Bill inserts provisions into the Local Government (Auckland Reorganisation) Act 2009 providing for Watercare to lead the integration of water and wastewater services under the oversight of the Auckland Transition Agency;
- 5 noted that the Bill is not an omnibus Bill and does not require the agreement of the Business Committee to be introduced;
- 6 noted that the Minister of Local Government, the Associate Minister of Local Government, and the Minister for Social Development and Employment, will be discussing the roles and functions of local boards with some Auckland community groups, and that as a result of this consultation process, changes to the roles and functions of local boards may be made during the Select Committee process;

- 7 agreed that the Bill be added to the 2009 Legislation Programme with a category 2 priority (must be passed in 2009);
- 8 approved the Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill 2009 [PCO 13728/7.0] for introduction;
- 9 agreed that the Bill be introduced by 14 May 2009, subject to the final approval of the government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 10 agreed that the government propose that the Bill be:
- 10.1 referred to a special purpose select committee for consideration, with an instruction that the committee report finally to the House on or before 4 September 2009;
- 10.2 enacted by 24 September 2009;
- 11 invited the Leader of the House, in consultation with the Minister of Local Government and Associate Minister of Local Government, to initiate the establishment of the special purpose select committee to consider the Bill.

Rebecca Kitteridge
Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (09) 253

Distribution:

Prime Minister
 Chief Executive, DPMC
 Director PAG, DPMC
 Minister of Finance
 Secretary to the Treasury
 Minister for Economic Development
 Chief Executive, MED
 Chief Executive, MED (Energy and Resources)
 Minister for the Environment
 Secretary for the Environment
 Minister of Transport
 Secretary for Transport
 Minister of Pacific Island Affairs
 Chief Executive, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
 Minister for Social Development and Employment
 Chief Executive, MSD
 Minister for Ethnic Affairs
 Secretary for Internal Affairs (Ethnic Affairs)
 Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman
 Minister for Building and Construction
 Chief Executive, Department of Building and Housing
 Associate Minister of Local Government
 Minister of Local Government
 Secretary for Internal Affairs (Local Government)
 Minister of Maori Affairs
 Chief Executive, Te Puni Kokiri
 Chief Parliamentary Counsel
 Legislation Coordinator
 Secretary, AGR