



# Cabinet

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## Minute of Decision

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### Royal Commission on Auckland Governance: Central and Local Government Engagement

Portfolio: Local Government

On 27 April 2009 Cabinet:

- 1 noted that on 6 April 2009, Cabinet invited the Minister of Local Government to report to Cabinet on 27 April 2009 with advice on:
  - 1.1 the government's objectives for Auckland over the short and medium term, and how central government can work with local government on these;
  - 1.2 how central government can work with local government in Auckland more generally, including through an Auckland Central Government-Local Government Forum;

[CAB Min (09) 12/7]
- 2 noted that there is a significant gap in the mechanisms for dialogue between central and local government in Auckland, and that simple but effective engagement mechanisms are required to ensure a targeted focus on Auckland's critical issues during the transition period and in the long term;
- 3 noted that the primary objective of the Minister of Local Government in the short term is the successful implementation of the Auckland governance reforms;
- 4 noted that relevant portfolio Ministers will continue to engage with the existing Auckland Councils to progress portfolio priorities, such as transport projects and the Rugby World Cup planning;
- 5 invited the Minister of Local Government, in consultation with other relevant Ministers, to report back to the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee by October 2010 on the government's objectives for Auckland;
- 6 agreed that during the transition period, the existing engagement mechanisms between central government and Auckland's local government should generally be maintained;

- 7 **noted** that the process for engagement with existing Auckland Councils during the transition period on priorities outside of the Local Government portfolio will be set out in the separate report from the Minister for Economic Development, Minister of Transport, and Minister for the Environment on *Response to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance Critical Issues for Auckland's Success* [CAB Min (09) 12/7];
- 8 **agreed** that an Auckland Central Government-Local Government Forum (the Forum) would be a simple and effective mechanism for engaging with Auckland's governance at a strategic level;
- 9 **agreed** the Forum be jointly chaired by the Minister of Local Government and the Mayor of Auckland, with membership comprising relevant Ministers, Auckland elected representatives from both tiers of local government, and Local Government New Zealand representation;
- 10 **agreed** that the secretariat role for the Forum be provided by the Department of Internal Affairs, in conjunction with Auckland Council officials;
- 11 **agreed** that the Forum should commence as soon as possible after the election of the Mayor and Auckland Council;
- 12 **directed** the Department of Internal Affairs to report to the Cabinet Committee on Implementation of Auckland Governance Reforms by October 2010 with draft terms of reference for the Forum;
- 13 **noted** that the proposed engagement model between central and local government in Auckland on social issues is still under consideration [CAB Min (09) 14/4];
- 14 **noted** that the Establishment Board will need to ensure that the Auckland Council is appropriately structured to play its role in aligning effort between central and local government.

  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (09) 201

Distribution: (see over)