



Te Tari Taiwhenua

Local Government Briefing

Hon Rodney Hide
Minister of Local Government

Copy to: Hon John Carter
Associate Minister of Local Government

Title: Aide Memoire: Meeting with Auckland Representatives

Date: 15 April 2009

Key issues
This aide memoire provides background information for your meeting with Auckland representatives. It provides a summary of key recommendations made by Auckland Local Authorities and key interest groups to the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Auckland Governance.

Action sought	Timeframe
Note as background information for your meetings with Auckland representatives.	16 April 2009

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone		Suggested first contact
		direct line	after hours	
Marilyn Little	Director Policy	04 494 0589	021 228 8118	✓
Caroline Bridgland	Principal Policy Analyst	04 473 8062	027 6678108	

Return to: Caroline Bridgland
DMS file reference 1652659DA
Ministerial database reference: LGC200901031

Marilyn Little
Director Policy
Local Government and Community Policy Group

Proactively Released by the Minister of Internal Affairs

Aide Memoire: Meeting with Auckland Representatives

You are meeting with a number of Auckland's representatives in the coming week. Attached is an outline of key recommendations made by Auckland Local Authorities in their submissions to the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Auckland Governance

Auckland City Council Recommendations

- **Greater Auckland Council** - The Council would be a unitary Council that would replace all the existing local Councils and the Regional Council. They propose two options - a mix of regional / local representation.
- **Committees of the Council** - Several standing committees, an executive committee and four area committees.
- **Local representation and decision-making** - Each ward within the region would be represented on the Council by a Community Councillor. They would serve as a conduit between council and communities. Neighbourhood Boards were proposed for local decisions on traffic, parking etc.
- **Council organisation** - The Greater Auckland Council organisation would sit under this political structure. Its Chief Executive would determine what structure was appropriate for the organisation.
- **Additional planning requirements** - The Council would have additional planning responsibilities. This includes a regional spatial plan, which would set out a 30-year strategy and vision for the region. All other plans would be subordinate to the regional spatial plan.
- **Responsibilities for infrastructure** - The Greater Auckland Council would inherit all assets of the existing councils and Regional Councils, including key infrastructure assets - transport, 3 Waters, regional cultural and recreational facilities, Ports of Auckland and Auckland International Airport interests.

Manukau Council Recommendations

- **Greater Auckland Regional Council** - A Greater Auckland Council made up of a mayor elected at large, 12 regionally elected councillors and three appointed local councillors for each city. Also three Maori councillors.
- **Three cities** - Three cities of substance (Northern, Central and Southern), of approximately equal size and importance, which contribute to the development of and ensure the implementation of regional strategies and plans and address local issues in a more cost-effective way than at present.
- **Community Boards** - Proposed Community Boards, to counterbalance the power inherent in larger Councils, and to achieve accessible democracy, local decision-making and responsibility for local issues.
- **Environmental Planning** - Regional Council to develop strategic regional planning framework. District Plans will be responsibility of Local Councils.
- **Transport and Roading** - Regional Council will plan arterial routes. Public passenger transport to be funded by Regional Council. local Council to deliver local roads and some arterial roads.
- **Water/Wastewater services** - Watercare's ownership transferred to Regional Council, but local water/wastewater service suppliers will remain in local Council ownership, typically through Council-Controlled Organisations.
- **Stormwater** - Regional Council will regulate and monitor Stormwater services, assets and decision remain with local Council
- **Facilities Development** - The Regional Council will own and fully fund facilities identified as being of regional benefit. Local Councils will continue to develop local facilities to meet local requirements.
- **Economic Development** - regional economic development to be delivered by agency such as 'AucklandPlus'. Local Councils will retain local economic agencies and initiatives.

- **Parks** - The Regional Council will retain ownership and funding of regional parks, Local Councils will continue to fund, own and maintain local recreational and sports parks.
- **Community Development** - To be done through a strategic regional planning framework by Regional Council. Local Councils will retain responsibility for community services and initiatives such as youth services.

Waitakere City Council

- **Regional Entity and four cities** - The Council proposed a two tier structure, comprising a new and strengthened Regional entity that works closely with 'four cities', one of which will be Waitakere.
- **Boundary Changes** - The Waitakere City Council recommends that there should be changes to its boundary to incorporate the Avondale Ward of Auckland City and the Western Ward of Rodney District.
- **Vision and Planning** - The strengthened new Regional entity would set the long-term vision, agenda and priorities for the Auckland region in a Regional Plan binding all the parties including the Regional entity's delivery arms, central government and/or Territorial Authorities.
- **Cabinet Model** - The Regional entity would follow a Cabinet model of decision-making and leadership through the exercise of collaborative, collective responsibility for decision-making.
- **Government Representation** - The Council also proposed that central government be represented on the Regional entity by two (non-voting) members and that the Regional entity has the lead voice and coordinates responses to central government policy.
- **Formal Agreements** - A partnership agreement setting out the expectations and agreements between the Auckland region and central government would be set out in legislation.
- **Functions** - The submission noted that allocation of functions between local, regional and central government requires much greater clarity. Key areas of concern are transport, water catchment management, urban regeneration, skills development and economic development.

Bob Harvey, Mayor of Waitakere – Individual Submission

Mayor Harvey is the only mayor that elected to make an individual submission. His submission backgrounds his extensive experience in local government over the past 50 years. It reiterates the Waitakere City Council's position then goes on to advocate for the eco city model, a sustainability approach and the role of local government in supporting programmes and services around early childhood education and support services.

Mayor Harvey endorses the election of an executive, regional mayor elected at large. He advocates against regional (city) mayors, seeing them as "no more or less than feudal, feuding, nonentities that would spend their lives in civic office conspiring against each other and the executive mayor".

He also suggests that the terms for the regional mayor and elected members be four years, for the following reasons:

- a longer term political mandate is required to prevent Auckland's infrastructure decisions chopping and changing; and
- the great majority of voters do not care about local or regional governance enough to vote and that four year terms will make voting more purposeful.

Rodney District Council Recommendations

- **The creation of new region-wide infrastructure organisations** – for transportation, sewerage, water supply and energy, owned by territorial authorities and run with commercial discipline.
- **Disband Auckland Regional Council (ARC)** - and create a regional forum (modelled on the present Regional Sustainable Development Forum) to deal with matters of regional significance
- **Directly elected organisation** - to deal with the ARC's environmental responsibilities.
- **Continuation Territorial Authorities** - with a focus on place shaping, community development and service delivery.

Papakura District Council Recommendations

- **Function before structure** - Structure and governance should be determined by function, not vice versa.
- **No change without good cause** - Indicated that the Commission should only change the existing governance arrangements in the Auckland region, or the allocation of functions and responsibilities as between local and regional bodies, where there are good reasons to do so.
- **Representation** – Supports a ward based voting system, and that regional representation is chosen by 'communities of interest'
- **Community Governance** – Supports ward based constituencies.
- **Resize Territorial Local Authorities** – strongly recommend that there are more local Councils for Auckland and Manukau Cities.
- **Regional Sustainable Development Forum** – The Council supports this mechanism for collaborative strategic planning and prioritising.
- **Regional Transport Delivery** - Supports the allocation of regional transport service delivery functions to an organisation that has the same or similar characteristics to Auckland Regional Territorial Authority (ARTA).
- **Regional Investments** - Supports maintaining an entity like Auckland Regional Holdings (ARH) to hold regional investment assets such as Ports of Auckland Limited and the waterfront investments to provide an additional stream of revenue.
- **Regional Water Supply and Wastewater** - Supports the vertical integration of the wholesale and retail water and wastewater businesses throughout the region.

Franklin District Council Recommendations

- **Separate District Council** - that Franklin remain a separate District Council outside a redefined Auckland metropolitan area to maintain the rural hinterland and to acknowledge that our rural community represents a distinct and separate community of interest.
- **Change to Boundaries** - That the Auckland Regional Council's (ARC's) boundary be moved north to match Franklin District's northern boundary, so that our District lies completely within the Waikato Region.
- **Memorandum of Understanding** - Franklin District wants to enter into a formal memorandum of understanding with the Auckland Region regarding each party's contributions and obligations to Auckland issues, especially relating to economic development, transport and regional amenity matters
- **Transitional Arrangements** - Appropriate transitional arrangements would be needed to cover Electoral, Governance, Rating; and Strategic and statutory planning matters

North Shore City Council Recommendations

- **Enhanced Regional Governance** - North Shore City supports the enhancement of regional government while at the same time protecting 'local' government needs. It supports:
 - an enhanced regional authority;
 - a strengthened relationship with central government; and
 - local decision-making and local service delivery.
- **Governance arrangements** - It supports governance arrangements for a strengthened regional authority that would include the following:
 - representation on the new authority being half appointed from Councils and half elected directly on a ward basis, with the Mayor/Chair elected by members of the strengthened regional authority;
 - the four Metro Cities to appoint two representatives each to the regional authority and District Councils one each; and
 - a significant majority to be required in order to make key decisions, giving the Mayor/Chair a genuine mandate to talk to central government.
- **Strong Regional Functions** - The Council supports stronger regional functions, provided that there are clear net benefits, e.g. economies of scale, and robust and democratic checks and balances. It also supports the continued separate structures of the ARTA and Auckland Regional Holdings (ARH) to ensure ARTA receives adequate resources.
- **Retain public ownership** - It promotes legislative protection to ensure publicly-owned assets cannot be removed from public ownership.

Auckland Regional Council recommendations

- **Two tier model** - ARC supported a two-tier model of local government with clear and transparent division of labour and political accountability between tiers.
- **Single Unitary Authority** - It proposed a single unitary authority for Auckland, supported by Community Councils. Community Councils would be modelled on existing community boards as a starting point, but with a prescribed set of statutory responsibilities and activities.
- **Parliamentary based wards** - There would be twenty-one councillors from wards based on parliamentary electorates. It proposed Maori representation from three constituencies across the region.
- **Unitary Functions** - The unitary authority would combine many of the responsibilities of present Territorial Authorities (TAs) and the ARC including:
 - integrated three waters management;
 - arterial roads;
 - economic development;
 - waste management;
 - building and environmental health regulation; and
 - management of regional assets.
- **Community Councils** - would have specific local responsibilities defined in statute, including, responsibility for local roads and local road priorities, local community facilities, local parks and reserves, local urban renewal and improvement programmes, community development, community safety and environmental enhancement programmes.

Auckland Region and Far North Community Boards Inc (Chair is Mike Cohen)

- **Three tier structure** - This group supports a three tier system built up from the community with increased responsibilities for Community Boards and at the Regional level.
- **Community Councils** - The first (most local) tier would be strengthened and appropriately resourced and funded elected Community Boards (Community Councils). The functions and power of the Community Councils should have greater surety, preferably enshrined in statute.
- **Community Councils powers** - should have the power and resources:
 - to progress ideas and projects to make a community a better place to live;
 - to be able to prioritise how the funds are spent in the community; and
 - to initiate action to address issues and problems causing a high level of frustration to local residents
- **Area Councils** - The second tier, Area Councils (current TAs), would have their powers revised, taking into account the strengthened Regional and Community Council tiers.
- **Regional Council** - The third tier would be a strengthened Regional Council.

Devonport Community Board (Chair is Mike Cohen)

- The Devonport Community Board submitted that the current system promotes competition and duplication and results in a lack of consistency in policy implementation and consequent confusion, time delays and inefficiencies.
- **Three tier system** - It supports a three tiered system where responsibilities are clearly defined, which provides a balance between regional co-ordination and local autonomy consisting of:
 - **A Regional Council** - to set policy;
 - **Territorial Local Authorities** - that are not responsible for regionally significant infrastructure and facilities but which do focus on the local implementation of regional policy; and
 - **Community Boards** that provide the interface with their community of interest and are adequately resourced to allow for accountability in the delivery of services.

Watercare Services Ltd

No submissions were made by either Watercare Services Ltd or the retail water providers i.e. Metrowater Ltd, United Water International Ltd or Manukau Water Ltd.

Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA)

ARTA proposes a model that enables the regional transport function to strongly connect strategy setting, operational planning and funding in a way that provides a coordinated approach to delivering transport services.

The regional transport function would be responsible for:

- Strategic planning and prioritisation of activities on the regional transport network;
- Coordination of regional transport funding;
- Planning, management and operation of all regional passenger transport infrastructure and services;
- Management of the regional arterial road network (including delegated responsibility for the management and operation of State Highways in the region); and
- Regional travel demand management initiatives.

Local transport activities (planning, management and operation of local roads, provision of local bus stops, cycleways and pedestrian facilities, and local travel planning activities) would continue to be lead by local-community government

Regional and local transport would continue to operate within the national transport strategy and priorities set by central government.

Ngati Whatua recommendations

- A process of developing and implementing a formal inclusion into the Auckland Local Governance arrangements;
- Establishment of a Regional Mana Whenua Forum;
- Implementation of relationship for Ngati Whatua claims;
- One authority to work with on Kaipara Harbour issues;
- Regulation for coastal and aquaculture Local Government plans; and
- Development of current and potential economic, social and cultural challenges of Ngati Whatua tribes so they own the solutions by working with central and local government.

Released by the Minister of Local Government