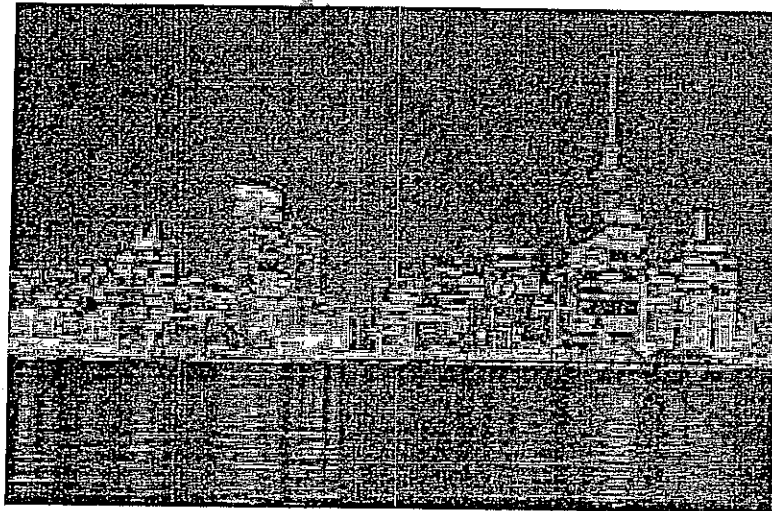


Royal Commission of Inquiry into Auckland Governance

Planning for Government consideration of recommendations



Briefing for Minister of Local Government
January 2009

Outcomes of briefing

We are seeking confirmation from the Minister:

- of the process and timetable proposed for initial decisions on the Royal Commission recommendations
- of proposed Ministerial arrangements
- that Auckland local authority politicians and officers be invited to participate in policy and implementation processes on an appropriate basis

Consideration of Report

- ToR place Inquiry in context of purpose and principles of the Local Government Act 2002
 - local/regional government role in all community well-beings
 - broad empowerment
 - a sustainable development approach
- Govt policy decisions on recommendations will allow recognition of change of Govt, new priorities, different economic situation, since ToR set
- Early certainty about Government's intentions will:
 - establish Government leadership
 - maintain momentum/public support for change
 - support good governance during transition
 - facilitate tight implementation timetable
- Communications and stakeholder relationships important

Government Response

Proposed process and timetable

February 2009 - Cabinet paper

- criteria to assess Royal Commission recommendations
- timetable and strategy for initial decisions and announcement
- links with other policy/legislative programmes

April 2009 – Initial Response Cabinet Paper

- high level decisions on recommendations/direction
- implementation/transition process and timetable
- approval for urgent legislation (if required)
- agreement to detailed communications and risk management strategies

April-May
- urgent
legislation
(if required)

May-August 2009 *
–policy work and decisions on
detail of governance
arrangements/implementation

August to April 2010 *
– introduction and passage of
implementation legislation
(Local govt. elections Oct. 2010)

* Subject to decisions in April paper

Ministerial Arrangements and local government involvement

- Propose special Cabinet sub-committee (Ministers of Local Government, Finance/Infrastructure, Transport, Economic Development, Environment, Social Development, Maori Affairs, and Associate Local Govt.)
- Policy advice continue to be “whole of government” process led by Department of Internal Affairs
- Propose Auckland local authorities be involved in process
 - information role (for April Cabinet paper)
 - participation in detailed policy and in implementation processes (after April decisions)

Next Steps

- Meeting of relevant Ministers (convened by Minister of Local Government) for briefing/discussion on Royal Commission Inquiry and proposed arrangements for initial response
- Cabinet paper (February) to seek formal agreement to:
 - objectives and criteria for assessment of Royal Commission recommendations
 - timetable and strategy for initial decisions and their announcement
 - management of links to other policy/legislative programmes