

Priority Urgent



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: Royal Commission on Auckland Governance: Proposed High-Level Government Response; Royal Commission on Auckland Governance:

Date: 3 April 2009

Key issues
This aide memoire provides information for you to speak to the two Cabinet papers on Monday 6 April 2009, on the proposed high-level Government response to the Royal Commission's report, and transition arrangements.

Action sought	Timeframe
Note and use to brief your Cabinet colleagues on Monday 6 April 2009	4 April 2009

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone		Suggested first contact
		direct line	after hours	
Anne Carter	Deputy Secretary	(04) 495 9323	021 229 6261	✓
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Return to: Karen Joyce
DMS file reference: PLG-1779-4
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Anne Carter
Deputy Secretary
Local Government and Community Policy Group

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Aide Memoire for Cabinet 6 April 2009: Royal Commission on Auckland Governance

On 6 April 2009 Cabinet will consider your two papers on the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance (Royal Commission).

Royal Commission on Auckland Governance: Proposed High-Level Government Response

Governance

- Royal Commission proposes establishment of single Auckland Council led by a Mayor elected at large, with a 2nd tier of six 'local councils'¹.
- The paper proposes that Cabinet agree to establish a unitary Auckland Council with a Mayor elected at large with executive powers, and 20 Councillors.
- The paper proposes that Cabinet rejects the Royal Commission's recommendations for the 2nd tier and agrees to an alternative Local Board model, which maintains local community representation while providing for strong and consistent regional governance.
- The Local Government Commission will determine the number of Boards, boundaries and membership (estimated cost of \$112,000 to \$315,000).
- The proposed Local Board model has the following features:
 - not separate legal entity, cannot raise its own revenue or hire staff;
 - has an advocacy role to input into Auckland Council's plans and can develop local policies for purely local issues (e.g. dog policies, gambling machines) and petition Auckland Council for additional services with a commensurate rates adjustment, or reprioritisation of projects, for the local area.
- You recommend that Cabinet rejects the Royal Commission's recommendations for Māori representation as there are already mechanisms in the Local Electoral Act 2001.
- You recommend four year electoral terms be considered in next electoral system review.

Critical issues for Auckland and central government arrangements

- The paper also recommends that Cabinet agrees to:
 - in principle Auckland Council's functions to include development of a single spatial plan and regional infrastructure investment plan;
 - in principle consolidate all local authority transport functions under a Regional Transport Authority;
 - in principle water and wastewater services be delivered by an Auckland Council CCO with further work on stormwater;
 - support establishment of city centre and waterfront committee and Waterfront Development Agency;
 - in principle an Urban Development Agency be set up, with further work on its powers;
 - not support a Social Issues Board, and instead explore alternative mechanisms for central and local government alignment of social well-being; and
 - not support a Minister or Cabinet Committee for Auckland, with further work on central and local government working together in Auckland.
- You propose announcing the Government's high-level response on 7 April 2009.

¹ It also proposes disestablishing all existing community boards with the exception of Great Barrier and Waiheke Islands and the establishment of a new Community Board for the central city and waterfront.

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