



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
MANA KĀWANATANGA Ā ROHE

Local Government reorganisation in Auckland

The Local Government Commission gives notice in accordance with clause 13(1)(a) of Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002 that it has determined its preferred option for local government in the Auckland Council affected area is the existing local government arrangements in Auckland.

The Commission's reasons for this decision are that:

- a) The options that meet the specific statutory requirements for a reasonably practicable option in Auckland and were therefore identified by the Commission as reasonably practicable were:
 - i) The existing local government arrangements in Auckland; and
 - ii) Two local boards for the current Rodney Local Board area.
- b) A number of other potential options were considered and determined not to meet the specific requirements under the Local Government Act 2002 for being a reasonably practicable option in Auckland.
- c) In particular, the options for a North Rodney Unitary Authority and/or a Waiheke Unitary Authority were considered not to meet the tests for being reasonably practicable options set out in the Local Government Act 2002 because:
 - i) neither would have the resources necessary to carry out effectively the responsibilities, duties and powers of a unitary authority in the relevant area; and
 - ii) neither would have a region that is appropriate for the efficient performance of their role.
- d) Having considered all relevant matters under Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Commission is satisfied that the existing local government arrangements in Auckland is the preferred option for the Auckland Council affected area as they will, in the affected area, best promote the purpose of local government and will facilitate improved economic performance.
- e) The Commission considered that an additional local board in Rodney was unlikely to improve the existing local government arrangements in the Auckland Council area or result in efficiencies overall, due to the additional cost and uncertain benefits.

The Commission's full decision is available at www.lgc.govt.nz

Dr Suzanne Doig

Chief Executive, Local Government Commission



Local Government Commission

Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

Rodney meeting handout

The Local Government Commission has determined its preferred option for local government in the Auckland Council affected area is the existing local government arrangements in Auckland.

This handout summarises why the Commission has determined that:

- a unitary authority for North Rodney (as one of the options considered by the Commission for local government reorganisation in Auckland) is not a reasonably practicable option for Auckland and therefore will not proceed; and
- two local boards in the current Rodney local board area is not the preferred option.

This handout is a summary of two aspects of the Commission's decision only.¹

The proposed unitary authority for North Rodney would not meet the relevant statutory tests. In particular, to be considered "reasonably practicable" under the Local Government Act 2002, the Commission must be satisfied that an option will:

- Have sufficient resources; and
- Have an area that is appropriate to its role; and
- Contain distinct communities of interest; and
- Enable catchment-based flooding and water management issues to be dealt with effectively.

The Commission could not be satisfied that a North Rodney Unitary Authority (either as proposed or with revisions) would clearly meet those four legislative tests.

The Commission considers the area of a North Rodney Unitary Authority is not appropriate for its role as it would not have the capacity and capability required to deliver the responsibilities of a district council and a regional council combined.

These requirements are not only about money but also access to specialist skills needed to deliver statutory regional functions such as marine management. These functions are more complex than those of a district council alone.

Nor could a North Rodney Unitary Authority be guaranteed to have sufficient resources. We consider that a North Rodney area of around 24,000 people is too small to support a unitary council, rather than a district council.

¹ A summary document of the Commission's determination for the preferred option as it affects Waiheke has also been prepared for those attending the Waiheke meeting.

While there are a lot of assumptions involved in modelling a deamalgamation from Auckland Council, we consider total rates would need to rise by around 20 per cent in one year to offset the costs. There would be additional and significant transition costs on top of this.

To determine whether its preferred option is the status quo or a second local board for Rodney, the Commission must be satisfied that the option best promotes the purpose of local government. This includes two elements:

- democratic decision-making and action; and
- meeting the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services and regulatory functions.

We must also be satisfied that the option will facilitate improved economic performance.

We considered that an additional local board in Rodney was unlikely to improve the status quo because it would incur additional expense for the broader community in return for uncertain potential gains, given how local boards function at present.

A copy of the full decision of the Commission, and the reasons for it, will be available at www.lgc.govt.nz from 3.30pm on 30 November 2017.