

[← Back](#)**Submission - Local Government Reform Options****SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

17

Submission Date: 19 May 2012 12:15AM

First Name Geraint
 Last Name Scott
 Street Address 11a Alexandra Rd
 Suburb Roseneath
 City Wellington
 Phone 0226830614
 Email geraintmusic@gmail.com

I would like to make an oral
 submission Yes

I am making this submission as an individual

Organisation Name

Do you think the way the councils in
 the Wellington region are organised
 should change

If you think we should change, which
 is your preferred option Option 1

Another option - details

What is the main reason/s that you
 chose this preferred option I believe that strong local representation needs to be retained, and only retaining the current
 councils can achieve that. However, attempting to create more efficiency in back office
 operations and service sharing is a good idea.

How strongly do you feel that we
 should take up your preferred option Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should
 address when implementing your
 preferred option Yes

If yes, please specify

Do you have any concerns about the
 newly merged councils being able to
 absorb some of the functions
 currently performed by the Regional
 Council

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you
 think should happen with the Kapiti
 District

If other, please specify

Under this option, local boards would
 also have elected representatives.
 What would you want local boards to
 be responsible for

Do you have any other comments

Personally, if the three Wairarapa councils want to merge into one council then that is fine by me, as I can see how that may be quite beneficial given the small populations there. However, the remaining councils need to remain as they are, but with some shared services for efficiency. Strong local democracy must be retained. If the councils are worried that the Auckland Super City is a more effective political voice, there is nothing to stop the various Wellington councils setting up a more regular mayors forum to speak with the same clout as the Auckland Council.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



Wellington City Council is eager to find out how Wellingtonians want their city and region to be governed in the future.

You have a chance to tell us whether you want changes to local government in Wellington and, if so, what you want that change to look like. We have summarised four options for you to comment on.

Do you have any other comments?

look forward to factual unbiased reports.

Blank lines for additional comments.

Fold

Fold, fasten and post this form to Wellington City Council using the Freepost address below

Fold

Freepost Authority Number 2199



Wellington Governance Submission (COST01)
Freepost 2199
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140



How to make your submission:

- ▶ Use this pull-out submission form, write your comments on the centre pages, then fold, fasten and send via Freepost (you don't need a stamp) OR
 - ▶ Go online to Wellington.govt.nz and fill in the submission form OR
 - ▶ Email to reform@wcc.govt.nz
- Please contact Wellington City Council on 499 4444 for more information.

Enter your name and contact details

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)

First name* VANUGHAN

Last name* CLIMMANS

Street address*

22 HARAKI ST

KARORI

WELLINGTON

Phone / Mobile 04 476 4141

Email crimmans@netaccess.co.nz

* Mandatory fields

I am making a submission

- As an individual
- On behalf of an organisation

Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged.

How long do you have?

Submissions close at 5pm, Friday 29 June 2012. When we have received all submissions, we will analyse them and make the results public. Officers will report to the Council in August 2012, recommending the next steps.

Privacy statement

All submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made available to elected members of the Council and the public. Personal information supplied will be used for the administration and reporting back to elected members of the Council and the public as part of the consultation process. All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington. Submitters have the right to access and correct personal information.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1422

Sharon Bennett

From: aleaupepe@hotmail.co.nz
Sent: Thursday, 7 June 2012 4:19 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Anthony

Last Name: Leaupepe

Street Address: 17 Tobago Crescent

Suburb: Grenada North

City: Wellington

Phone: 0221360276

Email: aleaupepe@hotmail.co.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: remain the same

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: Wellington is doing very well with the current system but city like Lower hutt and Porirua are not if wellington city council will to merge it will not benefit little cities and the focus will be wide

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Quite strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council: Yes

If yes, please specify: if councils merged then there will be not need for regional council it show take up the super city will take transport and water and the rest there will be no need for wrc

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District: Kapiti should not remain in the new council

If other, please specify: kapiti should stay with horowhenua and help contribute to the development of horowhenua

Do you have any other comments: Stay as it is will make decision easier and coal will be easier to achieve to have a super city will drain the welf out of the Wellington city to smaller cities

The Wellington Civic Trust

PO Box 10183 Wgtn



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Wellington City Council,
PO Box 2199,
101 Wakefield Street,
Wellington City

20 June 2012

Attention: Allan Prangnell

Dear Allan,

Attached is a submission from the Wellington Civic Trust responding to Wellington City Council's *Local Government Reform in Wellington* discussion paper.

We have chosen to submit a written response rather than filling out the Options questionnaire. In keeping with the Civic Trust's normal practice, the Board has endeavoured to remain impartial until a public forum on regional governance is convened and members have had an opportunity to debate the issues and form a collective view. The timing of this forum has yet to be determined but clearly it has not been possible to organise before the 29 June.

Nevertheless, in the submission we set out some of the principles and criteria that have shaped the thinking of the Civic Trust's Board to date.

The Civic Trust would welcome the opportunity to appear before the panel of councillors set up to consider public submissions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni Izzard".

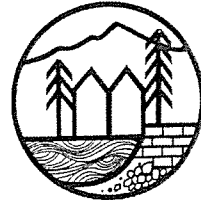
Toni Izzard,
Acting Chair
Wellington Civic Trust

Wellington Civic Trust

P O Box 10183

Wellington

www.wellingtoncivictrust.org



WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION PAPER ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON

Submission from the WELLINGTON CIVIC TRUST

22 June 2012

Introduction

1. The Wellington Civic Trust ('the Trust') commends Wellington City Council for preparing a discussion document for public consultation as part of the process of determining how Wellingtonians want their city to be governed in the future. Since it was first mooted, the Trust's Board ('the Board') has carefully considered the implications of possible change to regional governance for Wellington citizens and for the future of the Trust. Regardless of any boundary changes, the Trust remains committed to helping ensure that Wellington "is the best of all possible places to live and work".
2. This submission builds upon two previous submissions made by the Trust. The first was in response to the PwC review commissioned by the Wellington Mayoral Forum. The second was in response to the proposal for a single unitary authority prepared by a group of Greater Wellington regional councillors. Without convening a public meeting for guidance, the Trust is not prepared at this stage to commit to a specific reform of the existing structure. However, Board members have developed some working assumptions together with key principles and criteria that are considered relevant to assessment of the four options in your discussion document.
3. The Trust is satisfied there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the issue of reform should be addressed, if not resolved, during the current local authority electoral triennium. This submission sets out the Trust's reasoning with respect to the review of regional governance and proposes a further option for public discussion.

4. The Trust is presently exploring the feasibility of a public forum but the proceedings of that will not be available to incorporate into this submission prior to the 29 June closing date.

Timing

5. Notwithstanding the shake-up of New Zealand's political economy caused by the creation of an Auckland 'super city' and the Christchurch earthquakes, the present structure of governance in the region is arguably overdue for review. By the time any reorganisation could be implemented (the 2013 local government elections at the earliest), twenty-five years will have passed since the last thorough review of local and regional governance.

The case for reviewing regional governance

6. While the status quo may have served the region well in the past, if nothing changes economic, demographic and political trends over the next 20-30 years are likely to seriously erode Wellington's competitive advantage. New Zealand now has a very open economy, leaving regions exposed to competitive forces over which governments (and urban managers) have very little control. Australasia is now effectively a single labour market which means Wellington has to compete with the much larger state capitals on the eastern seaboard of Australia, as well as with Auckland, to hold and attract workers.
7. There is ample research evidence to show that 'critical mass' at a regional level and the resulting agglomeration economies provide the conditions giving cities a competitive edge¹. In the decades ahead, Auckland's population will grow to two million giving it even more political and fiscal clout, while the economic centre of gravity will progressively shift to the South Auckland-Hamilton-Tauranga 'triangle'. 'Future-proofing' the city region in an exceedingly uncertain world is the foremost challenge facing city leaders and urban managers.
8. Each region has its role to play in national development. Wellington is not only the capital, it also provides a crucial transport bridge between the North and South Islands which means that network capacity needs to take account of national and regional, as well as core area demands. With respect to wealth creation, Wellington's economic base is highly dependent on central government which makes the task of diversifying the regional economy and building resilience all the more difficult. 'Bidding wars' between councils are unhelpful in attracting timely investment in the right part of the region at the right price.

¹ See, for example, the special issue of *Scientific American* on *Better Cities* (Vol. 305, No. 3, September, 2011) or Chapter 3, "Geography of wealth creation in cities", in B. Badcock, *Making Sense of Cities. A Geographical Survey* (2002).

9. The conclusion to be drawn is that a governance structure with a region-wide remit can deliver better outcomes and greater resilience than eight local authorities contesting strategic decisions taken by GWRC purportedly in the interests of all people in the region. Equally, environmental challenges at a regional level, such as water storage, treatment and reticulation, rubbish disposal, sewage, and transport priorities would benefit from cross-boundary and 'joined-up' solutions.

What's not working?

10. The Trust shares the view that the reorganisation of local government in Auckland was a necessary response to a dysfunctional state of affairs. While the state of governance in Wellington does not compare with Auckland before the creation of the 'super-city', we understand that working relationships between regional and local councillors and staff are sometimes strained. More particularly, although the Chair of the Regional Council has certain functional delegations, no politician is empowered to exercise decisive regional leadership. For example, the Chair of the Mayoral Forum has no statutory authority.
11. The Government has expressly highlighted the advantage that now accrues to Auckland because it is able to directly negotiate with a single spokesperson for the region – Mayor Len Brown. Also, once regional priorities are determined, it is much easier for government departments to align planned expenditure (compared with having to deal with multiple local authorities).
12. The structural flaw in present arrangements is especially evident at the regional level in the areas of urban strategy, infrastructure planning, facilities location, and the staging of metropolitan growth (commonly referred to as 'spatial planning'). Greater Wellington Regional Council has regional responsibilities, but its powers fall short of ensuring that decisions taken at the local authority level are compatible with regional strategy and programmes. Crucial planning and resource management legislation relating to the preparation of district plans only requires local authorities "to have regard to" regional policy statements and plans. As a consequence, while local mayors may trumpet regional solidarity and co-operation, without 'binding powers,' parochialism always works against the interests of the wider region.

Efficiency gains

13. Advocates of local government amalgamation claim that larger administrative units produce 'economies of scale and scope' that in turn can lead to lower rates. The evidence is mixed: although the reorganisation of Auckland has achieved direct savings by reducing the number of politicians and support staff,

the 'harmonization' of rates across the region has unavoidably produced 'winners and losers'.

14. A co-ordinated 'spatial plan' with statutory backing provides one means of strengthening regional decision-making and development. This is a key feature of the Auckland reforms. Fragmented government means that businesses whose operational and marketing territories are rarely confined to one authority, must deal with a variety of differing policies, regulations, schedules, charges and subsidies.
15. Larger regions certainly provide more scope for fiscal equalisation which can lead to more equitable service provision in a jurisdiction. Moreover, Wellington City would benefit from a merger with the outer area Local Authorities to the extent that it would help to ameliorate 'free-loading'. On the other hand, the centralisation of power that followed the formation of Greater Toronto as a single administrative body has left some of the rapidly growing outer suburbs inadequately resourced.

Representation and accountability

16. In a classic treatise on the growing 'disconnect with our democratic structures' in the United States, political scientist, Robert Putnam, showed how vital high quality social networks and political linkages are to a citizen's sense of social inclusion and willingness to actively contribute to civil society.² Citizen participation and engagement in public affairs are essential building blocks of a healthy polity.
17. The Trust is aware that any local authority amalgamations will produce greater administrative centralisation and must diminish the efficacy of political representation and accountability at a local level. In the case of Options 2-4, electing a mayor at large and transferring the rating power to the top tier of the governance structure would radically shift the balance of political accountability and citizen engagement. Under these proposals, citizens will be further removed from the locus of power; access to councillors would need to be 'rationed' given their much larger constituencies; and the opportunity to actively participate in local decision-making, for example, at the Community Board level, will disappear.
18. This perceived loss of community connectedness and ability to shape the local neighbourhood is likely to be a major sticking point for citizens and ratepayers. The Act for the Auckland 'super city' prescribes Local Boards with between five and twelve members and defines roles and functions but does not spell out how

² R.D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone. The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (2000).

the 'vertical integration' would operate in practice, nor how budgets are to be decided and allocated. This has resulted in widespread dissatisfaction leaving the transitional arrangements for Local Boards very much a 'work in progress'.

19. One way to give local communities a greater say in any higher level decision-making in a two-tier governance structure would be to provide for co-option from the Local Board onto peak committees where matters vital to the locality were being considered. This would be somewhat analogous to the present practice of appointing councillors to the boards of CCO's.

Convincing the public

20. The Trust believes that many, if not most households, will not be prepared to trade the status quo (where there is at least a perception of control and participation) for the notional benefits of unified regional leadership, streamlined governance, and an implementable spatial plan. Any proposal for reorganisation must safeguard representation, resourcing and participation of local communities.
21. Ratepayers would also expect a noticeable improvement in services for the same or lesser rates levied.
22. The Trust is not convinced that any of the four options successfully reconciles the competing aims of improved operational efficiency with the degree of community engagement that Wellingtonians currently enjoy.
23. Option 1 preserves existing arrangements for political representation and community engagement but the efficiencies achieved by sharing 'back office' functions are likely to be limited in scope and a collaborative approach has not yet been able to give full effect to the Regional Policy Statement. For example, rationalising 'three waters' management within the region seems to be beyond the Councils. And by not joining GWRC and Porirua in the regional governance review, the other local councils failed the first test of collaboration.
24. In the case of Options 2, 3 and 4, the Trust notes that the number of Wellington City councillors provided for is nine, six and four respectively. Under Option 2, Hutt Valley ratepayers would be better represented than Porirua or Kapiti ratepayers but under Option 3 greater parity would be achieved.
25. The appositeness of Options 2 and 3, which envisage a Wairarapa Unitary Authority, remains an open question. At present the three Wairarapa councils constitute an economic base and community of interest that is overwhelmingly rural in contrast to the rest of metropolitan Wellington. Wellington-bound commuters comprise a small minority of Wairarapa's total workforce even

though they express strong affinity with the rest of Wellington. The Wairarapa water catchment is an important strategic asset to metropolitan Wellington.

26. By amalgamating, as already proposed in a recently commissioned report³, the Wairarapa councils could properly align their operations and achieve savings from the sharing of administrative overheads. Significantly, in the overview of council operations under Options 2 and 3, estimated revenue per capita exceeds estimated expenditure per capita only for the proposed Wairarapa Unitary Authority.
27. As a unitary authority, the local communities of Wairarapa would continue to enjoy adequate political representation. Options 2 and 3 provide for eight councillors to represent Masterton, three for South Wairarapa, and three for Carterton, plus a Mayor.
28. Irrespective of what the rest of Wellington thinks, given the scope of the proposed amendments to the Local Government Act (2002), Wairarapa ratepayers will ultimately be in a position to decide their own destiny (subject, of course, to the consent of the Local Government Commission).
29. What clearly emerges is that in each of the options canvassed there is a direct inverse relationship between scale and political representation at a local level. The Trust strongly recommends investigation of a further alternative solution that has more chance of gaining broader public acceptance.

A further option

30. In two previous submissions on regional governance the Trust concluded that the status quo is not a realistic option. Similarly, extending the sharing of services and agreeing to collaborate (Option 1) does nothing to address underlying structural shortcomings in regional governance. On the other hand, Options 2, 3 and 4 would radically reorganise the structure of regional government to 'fix the problem' at the expense of disenfranchising and possibly alienating Wellingtonians and other ratepayers in the region.
31. According to the PriceWaterhouseCoopers report⁴, the nub of the problem is the "inherent planning dysfunctionality of the current legislative framework". A further, pragmatic option could give effect to concerted action on behalf of the region without totally dismantling the machinery of local democracy. However, at the moment there is no statutory provision for such a solution in either the Local Government Act (2002) or the proposed amendments.


³ <http://www.mstn.govt.nz/events/latest/news-item.php?id=ln0219>

⁴ PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Wellington Region Councils Governance Review* (October 2010).

32. Assuming the Government does not seek to abolish regional councils, the legislation could be amended to clearly spell out the respective responsibilities and powers of regional and local councils. Regional government would be mandated to prepare a spatial plan in consultation with the local councils – which is what happens in practice with the Regional Policy Statement – with the crucial addition of ‘binding powers’ to enforce it. District planning⁵ would take place under the umbrella of the spatial plan, in the process providing for clearer alignment of regional and local decision-making. Importantly, a regional strategy with statutory backing, combined with a metropolitan staging plan, would provide the certainty and timeliness necessary to foster conditions for business investment and employment growth.
33. This would shift the balance of power under the current two-tier structure but avoid the abolition of all local councils while retaining provision for community boards. Effectively, this would model the transfer of planning powers that has occurred in Auckland without dismantling all local authorities or precluding boundary adjustments that make sense to ratepayers *e.g.*, the amalgamation of all the ‘Hutt’ councils makes geographic, economic, demographic and logistical sense. The shift in additional responsibilities must be accompanied by more effective accountability, that in turn demands closer and constant public scrutiny of the expanded activities of the regional body. This could be actively encouraged by getting ratepayers to elect the Chair of the Regional Council and by consolidating the rates for all regional and local government services under the one authority. Rate revenue would be redistributed to local authorities according to formulae measuring operational needs.

Postscript

34. The Board is conscious that it needs to keep abreast of these developments because the Trust will have to adapt its focus and constitution in response to any local government reorganisation.
35. The Trust would welcome the opportunity to appear before the panel of councillors considering submissions.



Toni Izzard,
Acting Chair

⁵ The three Wairarapa councils have produced a combined district plan.

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should:

- Remain the same, or Change?

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option?

Please tick one

- We should aim for Option 1 We should aim for Option 2
 We should aim for Option 3 We should aim for Option 4
 Don't know
 We should aim for another option. Please tell us:

Now we have some more detailed questions about your preferred option.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option?

Have an population - it was for efficiency was why we had 1 council
 I believe we should be better off
 The cost should be lower - almost 50%
 provide the services better
 Example where should be for example the private services - combining a dual structure the services from various organisations in each party
 How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option?
 Very strongly Quite strongly I do not feel strongly about it

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option?

Yes, please tell us: *Skills and how to deal with positive research contact - support a conflict*
Rate case can solve
 No *There was some really good ideas related to the council's role in a broader sense (like to be ready than local)*

IF YOU CHOSE OPTIONS 2 OR 3 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.
 Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council?
 Yes, please tell us: _____

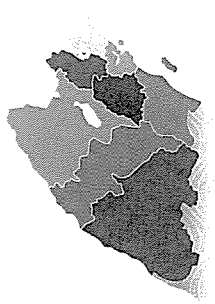
 No

Under option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District?
 All of Kapiti should remain part of the new Wellington council
 Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council (for example, the south part of Kapiti)
 Kapiti should not remain in the new council
 Other, please tell us: _____

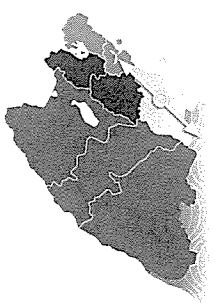
 Unsure

IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 4 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.
 Under this option local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for?
local boards to be responsible for the water supply and other services
to provide a better service

The four options



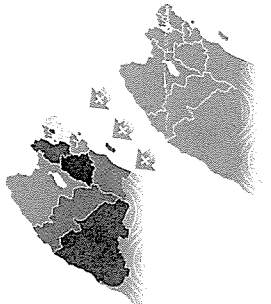
OPTION 1 – shared services or collaborative model. No change to existing boundaries for councils, but we would agree to formally share or bring together the management of certain services.
 The focus would be on cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale.



OPTION 2 – merge all existing councils into three unitary councils:
Wellington Capital and Coast Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua City and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.
Hutt Valley Council – combining Hutt and Upper Hutt cities into another unitary authority.



OPTION 3 – merge all existing councils into two unitary councils:
Wellington Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua, Hutt and Upper Hutt cities and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.
Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into another unitary authority.



OPTION 4 – merge all existing councils into one council for the whole region, with 10 local boards elected to look after 'local' services. As with the new Auckland Council, this new single council would be the only entity that could set and collect rates, and would make the major decisions for the entire region.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1063

Sharon Bennett

From: paul.bruce@paradise.net.nz
Sent: Monday, 2 July 2012 10:38 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Paul
Last Name: Bruce
Street Address: 11 Kopiko Way, Brooklynm
Suburb: Wellington
City: Wellington
Phone: 04 972 8699
Email: paul.bruce@paradise.net.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Another option

Another option - details: None of the above. I dont support the creation of unitary Councils and the disestablishment of the Regional Council.

However, I would like to see an enhanced regional council, and increased powers passed downward from city councils to community boards where ever possible, along the lines of the principle of subsidiarity. I would also like to see more use of deliberative interactions at community level, rather than top down consultation.

I would like to see Capacity abolished, and the three waters, potable, waste and storm water passed over to the Regional Council. The administration of local water distribution and sales by a CCO is a duplication of responsibility, and wastes scarce resources while not improving accountability.

I would also like to enable the Regional Council to conduct a regional spatial plan, to inform economic development, integrated transport and land planning.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: There has been a lack of cooperation between district and city councils. However, this is not sufficient reason to amalgamate or form a super city structure with the creation of new CCOs, and further loss of accountability and separation of powers.

However, I would like to see the large number of CCOs destablished, and accountability returned to council committees.

Capacity should be abolished, and the three waters, potable, waste and storm water passed over to the Regional Council.

The administration of local water distribution and sales by a CCO is a duplication of responsibility, and wastes scarce resources while not improving accountability.

I would also like to empower the Regional Council to conduct a regional spatial plan, to inform economic development, integrated transport and land planning.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: I would like to see the large number of CCOs destablished, and accountability returned to council committees.

Capacity should be abolished, and the three waters, potable, waste and storm water passed over to the Regional Council.

The administration of local water distribution and sales by a CCO is a duplication of responsibility, and wastes scarce resources while not improving accountability.

I would also like to empower the Regional Council to conduct a regional spatial plan, to inform economic development, integrated transport and land planning.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council: Yes

If yes, please specify: I dont support the creation of unitary Councils with the disestablishment of the Regional Council, as this would lead to decreased accessibility and the loss of the useful separation of regulatory functions between local and regional.

A proposed Wairarapa unitary authority would also be too small to function effectively.

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District: Other

If other, please specify: It is up to Kapiti residents to decide if they would prefer to combine with the district to the north, or remain as is.

Under this option, local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for: Local boards should keep most of the present powers of city and district councils.

The areas that could usefully be passed to Wellington Council (regional) are the catchment based functions around the three waters (potable, waste and storm water), land management and transport, coastal waters.



**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1160

Sharon Bennett

From: paul.blaschke@xtra.co.nz
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 11:57 a.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Paul

Last Name: Blaschke

Street Address: 34 Pearce St

Suburb: Vogeltown

City: Wellington 6021

Phone: 027 246 2848

Email: paul.blaschke@xtra.co.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Another option

Another option - details: I would like to see an option that is similar to Option 2 but ALSO RETAINS the current regional council.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: I am very concerned that most options presented do not allow for the retention of the regional council (apart from option which is not sustainable). Regional councils have essential functions under the RMA and other legislation, including responsibility for integrated management, some land management, management of natural hazards, contaminants and hazardous substances, many aspects of water management, flood management and integrated transport management. If many of these issues are taken over by a unitary authority it is very difficult to achieve the separation of decision-making which was one of the main reasons for the territorial/regional local government model adopted in the RMA.

I don't believe these functions are adequately discharged under many current unitary councils. Wellington region is quite large and diverse especially compared to Auckland and the unitary council option would be unlikely to succeed in sustainable management, especially of our physical resources.

I think a regional structure based on a unifying regional council and 3 or 4 strong territorial councils (depending on the decision taken for Kapiti Coast) would achieve most of the objectives of more effective management sought by proponents of reform.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

If yes, please specify: No particular implementation options because I want to retain strong local councils as well as the regional council. The allocation and implementation of functions would stay largely as they do now. However, under larger Wellington-Porirua, Hutt and Wairarapa councils, it would be important to retain a strong ward system and possibly to strengthen the role of current community boards to take on some of the roles of the local boards as proposed under option 4.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council: Yes

If yes, please specify: As discussed above

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District: Unsure

If other, please specify: I think this mainly a matter that Kapiti residents should choose. The district is growing fast and it seems that in the ledium to long term Kapiti would be a viable council on its own alongside a Wellington-Porirua, Hutt and Wairarapa council. There are good arguments for it to stay in the Wellington region, or to be part of the Manawatu - Wanganui region. There don't seem to be good arguments to split it into two regions unless there was strong local preference to do so.

Sharon Bennett

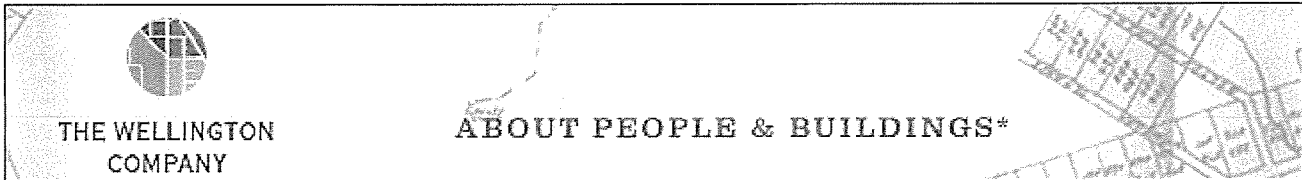
**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1163

From: Ian Cassels [Ian.Cassels@twc.co.nz]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 12:27 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: FW: Message from KMBT_C360_C36004500
Attachments: SKMBT_C360_12070613250.pdf

Please find attached our brief submission.

Ian Cassels
Managing Director
The Wellington Company Limited

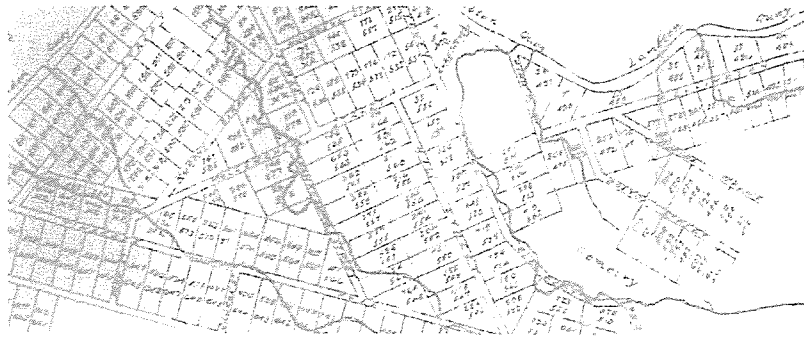


Level 12, icentre, 50 Manners Street, Wellington
PO Box 24 379, Manners Street, Wellington 6142
T. 04 802 4291
M. 021 390 871
F. 04 802 4298
E. ian@thewellingtoncompany.co.nz
W. www.thewellingtoncompany.co.nz

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From: copier@twc.co.nz [mailto:copier@twc.co.nz]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 1:26 p.m.
To: Ian Cassels
Subject: Message from KMBT_C360_C36004500



ABOUT PEOPLE & BUILDINGS
T. 04 802 4291
F. 04 802 4298
WWW.THEWELLINGTONCOMPANY.CO.NZ
INFO@THEWELLINGTONCOMPANY.CO.NZ
LEVEL 12, BNZ TRUST HOUSE
50 MANNERS ST
PO BOX 24 379, WELLINGTON
THE WELLINGTON COMPANY LIMITED



**THE WELLINGTON
COMPANY**

SUBMISSION ON WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM OPTIONS PAPER

To : Wellington City Council
From : The Wellington Company

Background

- 1: The Wellington Company is a major owner, developer and ratepayer in Wellington.
- 2: It contributes widely to a range of community initiatives.
- 3: It has developed a strong understanding of the needs of this city and region.

Preferred Option

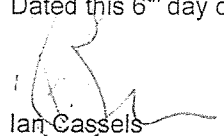
We prefer option 1. The position is supported as follows:-

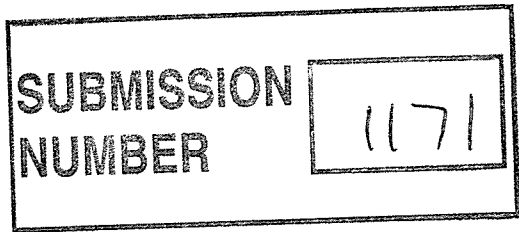
- 1: Wellington must act now on it's international connectivity, its earthquake issue and deal with the threat to its city's vitality. The city and region can't afford distraction at this time.
- 2: Wellington City Council has the appetite, resource and ability to do what needs to be done.
- 3: Auckland was dysfunctional and had no choice but to amalgamate. Wellington is not in that position

We believe that there is merit in consideration of option 4 but only once a range of meshing issues have been resolved and not for 6 years.

We wish to be heard should the opportunity arise.

Dated this 6th day of July 2012


Ian Cassels
Managing Director



Sharon Bennett

From: rob.armstrong1@xtra.co.nz
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 2:53 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Robert
Last Name: Armstrong
Street Address: 52 Sunrise Boulevard.
Suburb: TAWA
City: Wellington
Phone: 04-232-5762
Email: rob.armstrong1@xtra.co.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Another option

Another option - details: A combination of options 3 and 4 with variations, as per details set out below.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: I believe that Wairarapa should not be included in an enlarged metropolitan governance structure, as it is a separate community from the rest of the areas considered, whether geographically, economically, ethnically, socially or culturally.

I also believe that some form of a more localised representation should be retained. My preference is for several local/community boards. There should be a total of eight, representing approximately 50,000 residents each. They would include four from Wellington, two from the Upper and Lower Hutt cities, and two from Porirua and Kapiti. They should have a level of delegated responsibility similar to that operating in Auckland, and/or that which previously operated in Christchurch (when it had, as I recall, twelve Wards and six Community Boards). The best example in Wellington of a successful Community Board is Tawa, though it has had no financial ability other than in a small

historical grants area. However with an enlarged responsibility for a greater electorate, the new Boards would need funding for more localised issues, such as social services, playgrounds, community grants, and more.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: Widespread consultation is essential to outline the positive aspects of an enlarged governance arrangement. I believe that if my suggestion for local boards is well understood, the often expressed fear of lack of local representation will greatly diminish.

I believe consultation is also important to ensure better understanding of the need to remain a high quality, competitive capital city with an international outlook, able to be credibly heard at all higher levels of government. We cannot allow our Capital City to revert to a relative backwater over the years to come (as has happened with Dunedin, and many capitals of States in the US (like Albany and Sacramento).

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council: No

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District: Other

If other, please specify: I think an appropriate cut-off point for Kapiti would be the northern end of Waikanae. That is the effective outer end of the greater Wellington conurbation, whereas areas north of there tend to look as much north as south for their essential services and sense of community.

Under this option, local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for: Councillors know that there is a range of services which, although provided throughout the city, are seen by residents as being more of a local nature. Accordingly the local board could prioritise spending on local parks and reserves, maintenance of local public facilities (libraries and community buildings), as well as street enhancements and local retail/commercial infrastructure.

Do you have any other comments: I believe the only thing to fear about amalgamation is fear itself. I have had some experience of this in 1989 when the last local body restructuring occurred. I would be happy to elaborate when speaking to the councillors at the upcoming hearings.



Sharon Bennett

From: hugh@infosmart.co.nz
Sent: Friday, 29 June 2012 8:03 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Hugh
Last Name: Barr
Street Address: 12 Versailles St
Suburb: Karori
City: Wellington 6012
Phone: 934 2244
Email: hugh@infosmart.co.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Another option

Other option - details: Big changes are counter-productive, taking 4-5 years to replace institutional memory. Changes that give proven improved efficiency are required.

I prefer Option 1, modified by amalgamation of the 3 Wairarapa Councils. Any amalgamations of city services region-wide should require robust Cost-benefit analysis, to show they really do make savings from economies of scale, which are verified once provided eg what reduction in rates is predicted.

Amalgamations reduce democracy, defined as citizens per councillor, which separates the citizens from their representatives. Any gains should more than compensate for this democracy loss.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: (a) Wellington is a region of six separate cities, usually in separate valleys, separated by high hills. This is not like Auckland (though it has harbours). Or like Christchurch, which has the advantage of being a round (compact) flat city. The Wellington region's cities are relatively isolated from each other, and so physically distinct. All except Masterton have populations over 40,000. Wellington is the third-largest population NZ city, Lower Hutt the 7th largest, Porirua the 13th largest, Kapiti Coast the 14th largest, Upper Hutt the

sixteenth largest. So five of the six cities are of significant size relative to NZ's population. Their geography makes these six cities specific communities of interest, and distinct within the Greater Wellington area. Hence continuing to manage their own district affairs, and have the regional council address common interests such as public transport, (roading), water supply to

the four large cities, regional parks, flood protection etc is a sensible status quo, that has to be shown to be bettered, if there are to be amalgamations.

(b) Of course no-one expects this amalgamation do be done rationally, even on the Key National Government's criteria. But it is sensible to point this is more a shotgun wedding, not a rational amalgamation.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: Central Govt has either to show the region's citizens have voted for their option, which the citizens are unlikely to get, because they are unlikely to vote for it. So it is likely to be a Key Regime dictatorial decision. Hence the need to show without the usual Key phoney figures that there are real benefits, to counteract the loss of democratic representation.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council: Yes

If yes, please specify: My specific option was chosen is because I don't consider either 2 or 3 is better than the status quo.

In Option 2, the water supply will be split between the western and eastern Unitary Authorities, and in Options 2 and 3, public transport will also be split between the "Wellington" and "Wairarapa" councils. The Regional Council is needed to do these things, and employ the appropriate skilled staff. There are significant diseconomies of scale in splitting them. There are also diseconomies of scale from splitting staff, for regional parks, flood protection, emergency services, etc.

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District: All of Kapiti should remain part of the new council

Do you have any other comments: I am making this submission because of my three-year experience as a Wellington City Ward regional councillor on the GWRC. This showed me the effectiveness and efficiency of having a regional council to do appropriate regionwide responsibilities such as drinking water provision, public transport, regional parks, flood protection, emergency response, etc.

1) The three Wairarapa Councils should amalgamate, because of the small size of two of them. There may need to be safeguards put in to stop Masterton dominating, to the detriment of the smaller groups.

2) These amalgamations are being proposed by the Key Government, under the smokescreen of "efficiency" whereas this is just another step by Key in implementing the international neocorporative agenda of disenfranchising communities, and removing power from them. Rewriting the Local Govt Act 2002 has much to do with this neocon agenda, and little to do with improved "efficiency", as have most of the significant decisions of the Key Govt, such as tax breaks for the rich, higher GST, attacks on the NZ Public Service, and signing NZ up for the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement.

3) These changes should NOT be used by Key to privatise community services, as seems likely. It is another part of the Neocon Agenda, of taking power away from local communities, and giving it to unanswerable corporates.

4) It is important that community services presently provided by local councils continue to get funded eg NZ International Festival of the Arts, Cuba St festival etc.

5) Unfortunately, there has always been tension between national governments and local bodies.

Local bodies do not always do what National governments want them to. It's called "democracy".

Makes you wonder why NZers fought in the Second World War, when we get a leader like John Key.

Do you have any other comments?

Of course - but I await developments

1046

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



Wellington City Council is eager to find out how Wellingtonians want their city and region to be governed in the future.

You have a chance to tell us whether you want changes to local government in Wellington and, if so, what you want that change to look like. We have summarised four options for you to comment on.

How to make your submission:

- ▶ Use this pull-out submission form, write your comments on the centre pages, then fold, fasten and send via Freepost (you don't need a stamp) OR
 - ▶ Go online to Wellington.govt.nz and fill in the submission form OR
 - ▶ Email to reform@wcc.govt.nz
- Please contact Wellington City Council on 499 4444 for more information.

I am making a submission

- As an individual
 - On behalf of an organisation
- Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors

- Yes
- No

Enter your name and contact details

Mr/Ms/Ms/Miss/Dr (circle which applies)

First name* Michael

Last name* Fewster

Street address* 277 Tinakori Rd

Thorndon

Wellington

Phone (Atebit) (04) 499 9991

Email _____

* Mandatory fields

Fold, fasten and post this form to Wellington City Council using the Freepost address below

Fold

Freepost Authority Number 21199



Wellington Governance Submission (COST01)
Freepost 21199
Wellington City Council
PO Box 21199
Wellington 6140



Sir

If yes, please provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged.
How long do you have? - not long!

Submissions close at 5pm, Friday 29 June 2012. When we have received all submissions, we will analyse them and make the results public. Officers will report to the Council in August 2012, recommending the next steps.

Privacy statement

All submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made available to elected members of the Council and the public. Personal information supplied will be used for the administration and reporting back to elected members of the Council and the public as part of the consultation process. All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington. Submitters have the right to access and correct personal information.

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should:

Remain the same, or Change?

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option?

Please tick one

- We should aim for Option 1 We should aim for Option 2
 We should aim for Option 3 We should aim for Option 4
 Don't know
 We should aim for another option. Please tell us:

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

Now we have some more detailed questions about your preferred option.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option?

I've believed so since 1950. Wellington's lower Upper Hutt, Porirua and Otaki should be one unified local Government unit.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option?

Very strongly Quite strongly I do not feel strongly about it

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option?

Yes, please tell us: Ensure Wg't City has a majority on the enlarged Council by insisting on number of members in target areas is based on population.

No

IF YOU CHOSE OPTIONS 2 OR 3 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS – OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council?

Yes, please tell us: _____

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

No

Under option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District?

- All of Kapiti should remain part of the new Wellington council
 Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council (for example, the south part of Kapiti)
 Kapiti should not remain in the new council
 Other, please tell us: _____

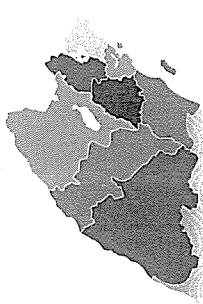
Unsure

IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 4 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION – OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

Under this option local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for?

To keep their happy & a training ground for future councillors and to present the large Council with suggestions.

The four options



OPTION 1 – shared services or collaborative model. No change to existing boundaries for councils, but we would agree to formally share or bring together the management of certain services.

The focus would be on cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale.



OPTION 2 – merge all existing councils into three unitary councils:

Wellington Capital and Coast Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua City and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

Hutt Valley Council – combining Hutt and Upper Hutt cities into another unitary authority.

Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into a third unitary authority.

Greater Wellington Regional Council would be abolished.



OPTION 3 – merge all existing councils into two unitary councils:

Wellington Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua, Hutt and Upper Hutt cities and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

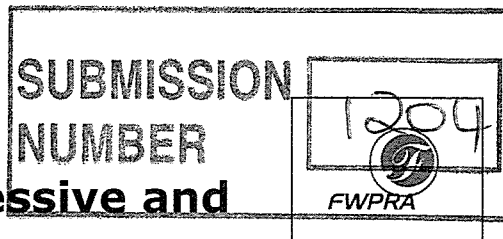
Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into another unitary authority.

Again, the Regional Council would be abolished.



OPTION 4 – merge all existing councils into one council for the whole region, with 10 local boards elected to look after 'local' services. As with the new Auckland Council, this new single council would be the only entity that could set and collect rates, and would make the major decisions for the entire region.

Federation of Wellington Progressive and Residents' Associations



C/- 134 Hanson St
Newtown
Wellington

Phone 3898202
Mobile 021791337

4 July 2012

Governance Reform,
Wellington City Council,
PO Box 2199,
Wellington 6140

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON - JULY 2012

This submission is being made on behalf of the Federation of Wellington Progressive and Residents Association

The Federation would like to make an oral submission

Introduction

The impetus for change comes from the present Government's ideological stance that local democratic traditions impede economic development and, therefore, that local government should be reformed by creating Councils that cover more extensive territorial districts, and by removing Regional Councils. This would reduce the number of Territorial Authorities and Regional Councils in New Zealand.

The Government has indicated that such a restructuring of Local Government in New Zealand will:

1. Make considerable cost savings
2. Make the rules that a citizen has to follow in terms of building codes, planning issues, etc more common across a larger area
3. Reduce the rates payable by ratepayers
4. Reduce the number of Councils that Central Government will need to deal with

The Federation notes that empirical evidence to support these claims or to substantiate whether dealing with a number of Councils is a burden on the Government has not been presented to the residents of the Greater Wellington region. The Federation doubts strongly that such evidence exists.

Local Government reform is not untried in New Zealand; if obvious benefits were gained by residents in previous mergers, those data should be readily available.. The same putative benefits

were advanced for the Local Government reforms of the 1980's. Indeed, for those residents who were interested in those reforms and had even longer memories, the same reasons were given to support reforms in Local Government some twenty years earlier. Residents are still waiting for those outcomes to materialise.

It is worth considering the model being advanced for Local Government reform for the Greater Wellington region. The amalgamated unitary Auckland Council has not yet delivered cost savings or demonstrable benefits for residents and the history of one of the formerly independent councils that was dissolved to form the Auckland Council suggests that it never will. The history of Manukau City Council should stand as a warning for Wellington's residents.

In 1964 the then National Government proposed amalgamation of the boroughs of Otahuhu, Papatoetoe, Howick, Manurewa and Papakura with the county of Manukau. The proposal was successfully rejected by the residents of Otahuhu, Howick and Papakura, but put to a public ballot in Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Manukau County on 10 April 1965. The proposal was rejected by 7,404 votes to 5,985, with only Manurewa Borough having a majority in favour.

Therefore, because the rules of democracy work differently when Central Government is telling Local Government what is good for it, Manukau County and Manurewa Borough were merged to form Manukau City in September 1965. Papatoetoe and Howick remained independent until the next round of reforms and were merged with Manukau City in 1989.

Far from cost savings or rates reductions, the residents found that the new Council regarded neither the Borough Offices nor County Hall to be adequate for the status of a new city. New Council offices were built on a green-field site; staff numbers increased and so did rates.

An issue that appears to be consistently overlooked in proposals for restructuring Local Government is the costs that are incurred in the restructuring process appear always to be greater than any realised benefit.

In respect of the arguments advanced for amalgamation, the Federation asks :

1. If considerable cost savings will be made, quantify these and provide data to the public as to just where these savings will be made.
2. If the rules that a citizen has to follow in terms of building codes, planning issues, etc are made more common across a larger area, quantify how this will benefit the average citizen. District Plans are required under the RMA to take into account the communities in which they are applied. Explain how the residents will benefit from having a single District Plan that encompasses the many very different communities that exist within the Greater Wellington region.
3. If the rates payable by ratepayers will reduce, quantify the reduction and explain how the new rates would be set. Experience over the years shows that rates do not decrease. Indeed it may well be likely that rates will increase and applied as a common formula across the new Council area.
4. It is self-evident that reducing the number of Councils will reduce the number of Councils that Central Government will need to deal with, but is this merely an inconvenience or a genuine burden on the taxpayer ? Explain the benefit to citizens. Will this mean that

Central Government will “persuade” Councils to do as Central Government demands?
This is certainly the effect of the dissolution of the Canterbury Regional Council and Central Government's relationship with Christchurch City Council.

The reform initiative is clearly an extension of the reform of the Auckland Councils in 2010. The Federation believes that it is too soon to assess the success or otherwise of the reforms and, in particular, whether they delivered:

- cost savings or
- reduced the rates payable by ratepayers

While the reforms might have delivered clearer building codes and common planning rules set across a larger area, it is not clear that these would have any meaningful affect on the average resident in any given part of the city or that the change would benefit anyone other than a major developer with projects spread across several former civic boundaries.

The Federation has real concerns that the drive for Local Government reform yet again puts the interests and wishes of the majority of residents beneath considerations of convenience and potential financial benefits for an already powerful minority.

There are also real issues of popular representation to deal with. Auckland Councillors are not available to interact with constituent residents. They are overwhelmed by reports and governance issues to such an extent that they are now primarily directors of a large corporate entity, rather than the representatives of the communities that elected them.

Community Boards are suggested as an alternative. These need to be resourced and empowered to respond to the needs of a community. This has not happened. These Community Boards have in the past often been left under-resourced and thereby unable to be effective in their representative role or able to engage with the communities for whom they are responsible.

“Why are we debating local government?” we have been asked. Is the fact that we have not had major changes since 1989 really a sound justification for a major policy? How healthy is a debate where the Government has already told us what we want and signalled that we will lose the right to at least have a poll before our wishes are ignored? How will removing “layers of bureaucracy” achieve efficiencies when territorial authorities and Regional Councils perform differing functions with very little current duplication, or is the aim merely to reduce the resources available to protect public assets from the developers who seem to be potentially the most likely beneficiaries of these reforms?

It is clear that Central Government requires territorial local authorities to accept reform and if Councils do not take the initiative in this matter, Central Government will impose reform on them, as it has with Auckland and, to a lesser degree, Canterbury. Indeed, the Local Government Amendment Bill currently before Parliament gives Central Government more powers to assert its wishes at the expense of the long-held rights of residents in this country to have a real say in the governance and management of their communities and in the provision of services to those communities.

Options

In response to the question, “Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should remain the same or change?”, the Federation believes that there is little point in residents of the Greater Wellington region expressing a wish to remain the same. The status quo will not be tolerated by the present Central Government.

In considering the four options, from the statements made by Central Government, it is looking to one Council, on the model of a “Super City”, becoming the Authority for the whole regional area. Option 1 will, therefore, in the view of the Federation, not be acceptable to Central Government. While it would potentially deliver the cost savings and possible rate reductions advanced in support of amalgamation, it would not satisfy the ideologically predetermined outcome. To follow the model of Option 1 will most likely result on Central Government stepping in and imposing a model that does not meet the needs of the residents of the Greater Wellington region

The Federation believes that Central Government will be looking for one Council to cover the area currently the jurisdiction of the Greater Wellington Regional Council. This is Option 4.

However, the Federation understands that the Councils and residents of Wairarapa have already stated a preference that those Councils join and become a unitary authority. The Federation believes that the Councils and residents of an area must be respected for the stance that they take and the option they choose. The Federation does not have a view on what should happen to the Kapiti area. The Federation believes that, like Wairarapa, Kapiti Council and residents should be able to determine their own future. Whether this is with a Wellington-Hutt Valley-Porirua grouping or a merger to the North is something they should decide.

The Federation cannot support the right of the Wairarapa Councils and residents or the Kapiti Coast Council and residents to determine their future, however, without asking for the same rights for the Councils and residents of Wellington, Hutt, Upper Hutt and Porirua. The Federation is concerned that issues such as democracy, representation and the like are dealt with in a meaningful way so that those fundamentals of Local Government are preserved.

For these reasons, while the Federation would support the merger of all existing Councils within the region into one Council, with the only authority to set and collect rates or make major decisions, it does not support the concept of an elected Council with ten elected boards. This option would not remove “layers of bureaucracy” if the boards are to have any meaningful role or responsibilities. The Federation believes that each locally elected board should hold the right to elect the unitary Council, to ensure that the unitary Council remains directly accountable to the communities it serves. The Federation opposes a directly elected unitary Council for the whole region as being likely to be less representative and responsible.

General

An important measure in preventing salary bills from escalating without any specific effective control, and in line with the amalgamation's forecast that such an grouping would reduce costs, is

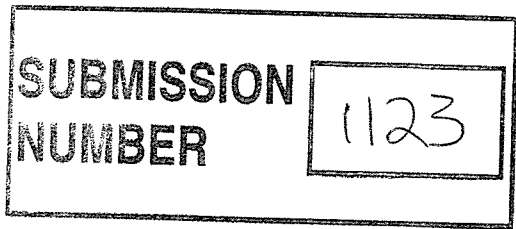
a provision that, if a significant amalgamation occurs, then the salary of the Chief Executive should be restricted to no more than a specific multiple of the salary of the lowest paid employee in the organisation. A suggested ratio is that the Chief Executive's salary, including any other other benefits, must not be more than fifteen (15) times the salary, including other benefits, of the lowest paid full time employee of the organisation. Such a provision will prevent excessive salaries for senior staff, and if their salaries do escalate there will be a commensurate salary movement at lower levels within the organisation which could be expected to reflect general wage and salary movements in the community, and also help to prevent a further increase in the large gap between rich and poor incomes which has developed in New Zealand over recent years to the detriment of many social indicators in New Zealand - ref Wilkinson and Pickett's The Spirit Level (Penguin).

The Federation wishes to make an oral submission.



Tom Law
President

Federation of Wellington Progressive and Residents Associations



Sharon Bennett

From: doug.weir@clear.net.nz
Sent: Thursday, 5 July 2012 2:16 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Doug
Last Name: Weir
Street Address: 139 Clouston Park Rd
Suburb: Clouston Park
City: Upper Hutt
Phone: 027 817 5642
Email: doug.weir@clear.net.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Option 3

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: The region is made up of two 'communities of common interest', one that is predominantly urban (west of the Rimutakas) and one that is predominantly rural (east of the Rimutakas). Governance should reflect these communities of interest, not the current legacy structure that seems to be based on nothing more than parochialism. The two-council structure would be efficient, effective and sustainable, and enable the 'new' Wellington to be an important player on the national stage as what is rightfully NZ's second-biggest city (not Christchurch!), while ensuring that the rural focus of Wairarapa was retained.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: Not an absolute concern to me, but local boards could be used to provide a supporting local tier in the 'new' Wellington if this was felt to be desirable to maintain identity and local democracy.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council: Yes

If yes, please specify: I have major concerns about the removal of the Regional Council under Option 2. Public transport in particular would suffer from segmentation, leading to the complete loss of a coordinated network, unless it and all other transport functions were to be placed into an 'Auckland Transport' style CCO. The situation and solution for water would be similar, but I do NOT support Option 2 because there would be no coordination of planning and we would ultimately end up in the old Auckland situation.

I don't have the same concerns about Option 3, as most RC functions naturally fall into urban or rural and can be allocated accordingly.

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District: Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council

If other, please specify: The urban parts of Kapiti (Waikanae southwards) are part of the Wellington urban area and should be added to the 'new' Wellington. The rural parts would be more appropriately allocated to the Horopohenua district.

Do you have any other comments: This consultation process is the exact example of all that is dysfunctional about local governance at present. The councils couldn't agree on a process, so they have all done their own thing, coming up with options that haven't been through a robust design process. I'd like to see all councils work together to come up with appropriate options, then jointly test these with the public. Participation in the Regional Council's independent panel process would be a good start - I urge you to join it and help create a 'new' Wellington that we can all be proud of.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1092

Sharon Bennett

From: dhthorp@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, 4 July 2012 5:23 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: David
Last Name: Thorp
Street Address: 198 Pembroke Rd
Suburb: Wilton
City: Wellington 6012
Phone: 475 9077
Email: dhthorp@gmail.com

I would like to make an oral submission: No

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Another option

Another option - details: A single Wellington Council with six local councils, with functions and delegations as envisaged by the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance for Auckland, but not applied in Auckland. The six local councils would be centred on the existing Kapiti, Porirua, Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and Wairarapa areas.

The local council would be a local representative body, which operates within the larger local authority and which oversees the delivery of services and acts as an advocate for the residents, ratepayers, and communities of its area.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: Give special attention to the functions of local councils to be specified in statute, retaining those functions with local councils that should not, or need not, be centralised. Functions should be centralised only where there is a clear advantage in doing so.

Under this option, local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for: Option 4 overlooks the significant difference in what the Royal Commission proposed for Auckland and what was implemented.

The dissipation of the people's voice through the multitude of powerless 'boards' should be rejected. See above, for (few) local councils rather than (many) local boards.

Do you have any other comments: Wellington City should oppose the change to the scope of local government functions as is currently proposed.

Its counter position should be to seek to have more powers delegated from central government including the power to decide how it raises its revenue; important decisions being made by suitable democratic process.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1144

Sharon Bennett

From: barrie@sul.co.nz
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 8:43 a.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Barrie

Last Name: Saunders

Street Address: 1/25 Tennyson Street

Suburb: Te Aro

City: Wellington

Phone: 04 914 1753

Email: barrie@sul.co.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: No

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Option 3

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: There is a natural linkage between these regions. I see the Wairarapa as an optional extra for the people of that region to decide whether they merge three entities there or join in super wellington

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: That money is wasted on consultants and time wasted on endless committees.

Maybe we can learn from CERA.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council: No

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District: All of Kapiti should remain part of the new council

Do you have any other comments: While local boards or councils is one way of ensuring there is local input into very localised decisions, these processes can easily be captured by the few who have the time to engage. Most people elect Councillors and expect them to get on with the job. If they ignore the views of people they can be voted out. There are ways of ensuring voter opinions are tested without setting up local councils or boards.

I do favour wards based on existing authority boundaries for electing members of the new super Wellington Council.

201

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



Do you have any other comments?

Get the functions right & the form will follow. The main missing ingredient in local government is participation. This current process does at least highlight the importance of local govt. More representatives with the resources to reach out further can help regenerate interest.

Fold

Fold, fasten and post this form to Wellington City Council using the Freepost address below

Fold

Freepost Authority Number 2199



Wellington Governance Submission
(COST01)
Freepost 2199
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

Wellington City Council is eager to find out how Wellingtonians want their city and region to be governed in the future.

You have a chance to tell us whether you want changes to local government in Wellington and, if so, what you want that change to look like. We have summarised four options for you to comment on.

How to make your submission:

- ▶ Use this pull-out submission form, write your comments on the centre pages, then fold, fasten and send via Freepost (you don't need a stamp) OR
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- ▶ Email to reform@wcc.govt.nz

Please contact Wellington City Council on 499 4444 for more information.

Enter your name and contact details

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr (delete which applies)

First name: Pat
Last name: BOSTER

Street address: Unit 10
Sherwood Mews
2-8 Bicknell St
Mt Cook, Wgtn 6021

Phone / Mobile: 04-384-9321
Email: pat.boster@actix.co.nz

* Mandatory fields

I am making a submission

- As an individual
- On behalf of an organisation

Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors

- Yes (probably)
- No (depending on suitable date)

If yes, please provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged.

How long do you have?

Submissions close at 5pm, Friday 29 June 2012. When we have received all submissions, we will analyse them and make the results public. Officers will report to the Council in August 2012, recommending the next steps.

Privacy statement

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Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should:

- Remain the same, or Change?

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option?

Please tick one

- We should aim for Option 1 We should aim for Option 2
 We should aim for Option 3 We should aim for Option 4
 Don't know

We should aim for another option. Please tell us:

Given the hierarchy of jurisdictions from regional transportation water supply through city's suburban hub enhancement to the successful council/citizens interaction, a new inner tier (equivalently resources) is needed.

Now we have some more detailed questions about your preferred option.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option?

Democracy requires people to not feel that politics is being done to them but that they can help shape what happens. From the citizen viewpoint this is basic

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred options?

- Very strongly Quite strongly I do not feel strongly about it

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option?

Yes, please tell us:
 More mechanisms for involving local people be needed - incl. citizens' Education input/advocacy at all high schools.

IF YOU CHOSE OPTIONS 2 OR 3 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council?

Yes, please tell us:

No

Under option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District?

- All of Kapiti should remain part of the new Wellington council
 Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council (for example, the south part of Kapiti)
 Kapiti should not remain in the new council
 Other, please tell us:

Whatever
 It should be up to the people that live there.

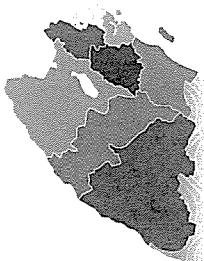
Unsure

IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 4 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

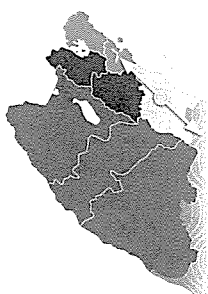
Under this option, local boards ^{should} also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for?

Tawa, Makara (+ others?) have community boards. Many of the "behind the scenes" functions could be dealt with at this "subsidiary" level. I would like to see local board members have regular clinics/consultations with the public regarding actively involved residents e.g. the sort of issues many local Māori whānau get into. This will need adequate resourcing.

The four options



OPTION 1 – shared services or collaborative model. No change to existing boundaries for councils, but we would agree to formally share or bring together the management of certain services.
 The focus would be on cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale.



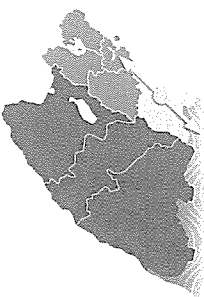
OPTION 2 – merge all existing councils into three unitary councils:

Wellington Capital and Coast Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua City and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

Hutt Valley Council – combining Hutt and Upper Hutt cities into another unitary authority.

Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into a third unitary authority.

Greater Wellington Regional Council would be abolished.

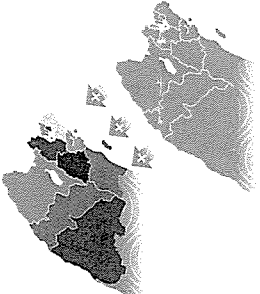


OPTION 3 – merge all existing councils into two unitary councils:

Wellington Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua, Hutt and Upper Hutt cities and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into another unitary authority.

Again, the Regional Council would be abolished.



OPTION 4 – merge all existing councils into one council for the whole region, with 10 local boards elected to look after 'local' services. As with the new Auckland Council, this new single council would be the only entity that could set and collect rates, and would make the major decisions for the entire region.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1030

Sharon Bennett

From: ckeenan@paradise.net.nz
Sent: Friday, 29 June 2012 4:04 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Chris

Last Name: Keenan

Street Address: 94 Sidlaw Street

Suburb: Strathmore

City: Wellington 6022

Phone: 027 668 0142

Email: ckeenan@paradise.net.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Option 4

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: Option 4 provides the most economies of scale. It also provides the most options for unified service delivery and cost savings. It also provides the option to establish a strategic vision / spatial plan to focus growth and Council expenditure.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: Service delivery across the ranges- I would prefer more comprehensive reform with Wairarapa Councils moving into a unified "Ngati Kahungunu" block with Hawkes Bay Councils and Wellington Councils expanding to take in Wanganui, Palmerston North etc through to perhaps Taihape. My preferred Model would have a maximum of eight Councils across NZ. Given that one Council now manages half NZ's populace, it is absurd that we need even this many to manage the rest.

Under this option, local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for: Local Boards should have minimal discretionary budget but have as their primary responsibility engagement with communities to ensure that views can be considered.

Do you have any other comments: Yes - given the large proportion of rural land I would suggest at least 20% of councillors be rural and representative of the rural community. They should be supported by a Rural expert Advisory Panel following the same model as the Auckland Council has used, with a wider Rural Industry Liaison Group with a peak "Rural Advisory Panel".

1219

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



Wellington City Council is eager to find out how Wellingtonians want their city and region to be governed in the future.

You have a chance to tell us whether you want changes to local government in Wellington and, if so, what you want that change to look like. We have summarised four options for you to comment on.

Unexpected hold ups slowed this submission

I am making a submission

- As an individual
- On behalf of an organisation

Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors

- Yes 897.0583
- No

If yes, please provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged.

How long do you have?

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 - ▶ Go online to Wellington.govt.nz and fill in the submission form OR
 - ▶ Email to reform@wcc.govt.nz
- Please contact Wellington City Council on 499 4444 for more information.

Enter your name and contact details

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)

First name* Ron

Last name* England

Street address* 8/16A

Lyndhurst Road

TAWA

5028

Phone / Mobile 897-0583

Email r7were@yahoo.co.nz

* Mandatory fields

Do you have any other comments? *for safety

Expecting population growth and anticipating double rail lines north of Waikanae, suitable road improvements, new two-way road and rail tunnels from Pakarua Bay to Paekakariki, highway from Kawakoro to Gvernada, transport thence to South Island and to Wellington, Centreport, thence to South Island would improve greatly AND maintain links in natural disasters

Fold

Fold, fasten and post this form to Wellington City Council using the Freepost address below

Fold

Freepost Authority Number 2199



Wellington Governance Submission (COST01)
Freepost 2199
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should:

Remain the same, or Change?

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option?

Please tick one

- We should aim for Option 1 We should aim for Option 2
 We should aim for Option 3 We should aim for Option 4
 Don't know
 We should aim for another option. Please tell us:

Now we have some more detailed questions about your preferred option.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option?

Community spirit motivation, benefits all residents of an area. Geography, climate, employment options, suitable size, life-styles, links to other centres, are factors. These three local authority areas have them

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option?

Very strongly Quite strongly I do not feel strongly about it

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option?

Yes, please tell us: Encourage easy and safe pedestrian and public transport use

No

IF YOU CHOSE OPTIONS 2 OR 3 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS – OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council?

Yes, please tell us: Overall, a regional body is necessary to oversee transport/water supply, waste recycling, power supply, emergency management, planning and building codes. Also necessary, triple bottom-line – social, environmental, Genuine Progress Index (GPI) instead of GDP with Carbon and Biological Footprints for guidance

Under option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District?

- All of Kapiti should remain part of the new Wellington council
 Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council (for example, the south part of Kapiti)
 Kapiti should not remain in the new council
 Other, please tell us: Kapiti – Desirable characteristics for urban areas – population size, geography etc should be researched before any governance decisions

Kapiti Coast DC was working towards GPI Index now replaced by the Regional Progress Index

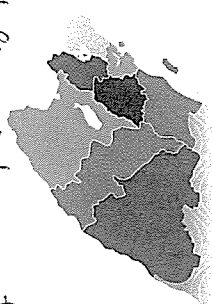
Unsure

IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 4 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION – OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

Under this option local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for? From Over Rags Transmision Gully has steep terrain, requiring lots of earthworks, and ongoing carbon cost.

A few years back, Wellington Regional had a feasibility study done for double tunnels between Pukerua Bay and Paekakariki

The four options



OPTION 1 – a single council



OPTION 2 – merge all existing councils into three unitary councils:

Wellington Capital and Coast Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua City and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

Hutt Valley Council – combining Hutt and Upper Hutt cities into another unitary authority.

Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into a third unitary authority.

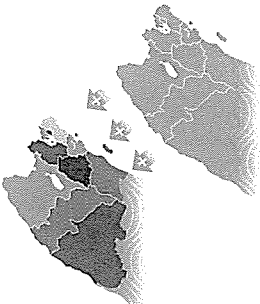
Greater Wellington Regional Council would be abolished.



OPTION 3 – merge all existing councils into two unitary councils:

Wellington Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua, Hutt and Upper Hutt cities and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into another unitary authority. Again, the Regional Council would be abolished.



OPTION 4 – merge all existing councils into one council for the whole region, with 10 local boards elected to look after 'local' services. As with the new Auckland Council, this new single council would be the only entity that could set and collect rates, and would make the major decisions for the entire region.



Sharon Bennett

From: madeleine@diaspora.gen.nz
Sent: Thursday, 28 June 2012 11:33 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Madeleine
Last Name: Rashbrooke
Street Address: 18b Adams Tce
Suburb: Aro Valley
City: Wellington
Phone: 04 972 2758
Email: madeleine@diaspora.gen.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: on behalf of an organisation

Organisation Name: Aro Valley Community Council

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Option 1

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: The Aro Valley Community Council favours option1: keeping the existing councils in place but with formal arrangements to share services across councils in the region.

The main reason we support this option is that we believe that this arrangement best allows for representation of our community's needs while also achieving efficiencies via co-operation.

We see considerable advantages in the Wellington region's local and regional authorities working more closely together, and would like to see a more co-operative – and less competitive/antagonistic – approach to joint projects and overlapping areas of responsibility. This sort of agreement alone should see cost savings and better outcomes for major projects such as water supply, transport and emergency response.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any other comments: We are very concerned about the one-off cost associated with any of the other options which involve disestablishment of the Greater Wellington Council and amalgamations of local authorities. No credible evidence has been put forth that supports the assertion that 'super cities' will result in lower rates or even lower increases in rates, so major changes to our region's councils would appear to be a poor investment with a low rate of return.

A further concern is the disruption to vital Greater Wellington council programmes such as pest eradication, the efficiency of which might take months or years to recover from changes to the responsible regional government agency.

Fundamentally, we believe that it is important that communities are represented by local authority councillors with whom they have direct contact and can establish productive working relationships. The Aro Valley Community Council values having one or more of the Wellington City Council's Central Ward councillors attending its meetings and participating in community events. This arrangement means we feel informed about what is going on in our city, and are able to raise issues of concern to our community and be confident that they will be addressed. In a 'super city' arrangement, it seems highly unlikely that we would have this level of interaction with the three councillors representing all of the current Wellington City Council area. With a much smaller number of elected representatives, much of what the city and regional councillors currently do would have to be abandoned.

While we believe that greater co-ordination across the region would be good, it needs to be recognised that the different areas of the Wellington region have quite different values, cultures and environments. Local identity is important, and it is difficult to see how a 'super city' could accommodate, balance and advocate for the different needs of Wellington city, suburban Hutt Valley, multi-cultural Porirua and rural Wairarapa areas. Therefore we favour Option 1, which preserves the individual identities within a framework of greater co-operation.

Subs must close at midnight.

Do you have any other comments?

Work wise is preparing to be useless and should be made efficient. Significant gains are made in the nighting and generalisation of shared services, get April release, overloads and expensive sufficient to hold costs and improve delivery of services. Share markets and cyclists purchased for usung pavements.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



999

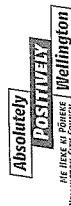
Wellington City Council is eager to find out how Wellingtonians want their city and region to be governed in the future.

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Fold, fasten and post this form to Wellington City Council using the Freepost below

Fold

Freepost Authority Number: 2199



Wellington Governance Submission (COST01)
Freepost 2199
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140



10

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- ▶ Email to reform@wcc.govt.nz

Please contact Wellington City Council on 499 4444 for more information.

Enter your name and contact details

Mr Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)

First name* KRAFT

Last name* D'BOURZA

Street address* 128/70 TORY STREET

PENTREY CITY

WELLINGTON

Phone / Mobile 043853218

0274415331

Email kraft@xtra.co.nz

* Mandatory fields

I am making a submission

- As an individual
- On behalf of an organisation

Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors.

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged.

How long do you have?

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812

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



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You have a chance to tell us whether you want changes to local government in Wellington and, if so, what you want that change to look like. We have summarised four options for you to comment on.

Do you have any other comments?

REORGANISATION CAN BE DISRUPTIVE & CAUSE LOSS OF TIME & KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCE.

WE DONT NEED ANYTHING MORE THAN THE CREATION OF A BODY ABOVE ALL THE COUNCILS EXISTING AT PRESENT.

Fold

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Wellington Governance Submission (COST01)
Freepost 2199
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Wellington 6140



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I am making a submission

As an individual

On behalf of an organisation

Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors

Yes

No

Enter your name and contact details

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)

First name* ALICE

Last name* WOOD

Street address* 23 TRINITY TER

TAMU

WELLINGTON 5028

Phone /Mobile 232 6024

Email _____

* Mandatory fields

If yes, please provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged.

How long do you have?

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Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should:

- Remain the same, or Change?

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option?

Please tick one

- We should aim for Option 1 We should aim for Option 2
- We should aim for Option 3 We should aim for Option 4
- Don't know

We should aim for another option. Please tell us:

A BODY ABOVE THE COUNCILS WITH
 REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH FOR
 "THE MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN
 SERVICES"

Now we have some more detailed questions about your preferred option.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option?

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option?

- Very strongly Quite strongly I do not feel strongly about it

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option?

Yes, please tell us: _____

No

IF YOU CHOSE OPTIONS 2 OR 3 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council?

Yes, please tell us: _____

No

Under option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District?

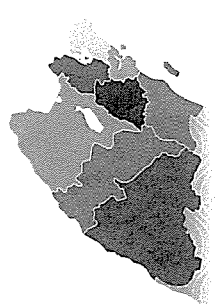
- All of Kapiti should remain part of the new Wellington council
- Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council (for example, the south part of Kapiti)
- Kapiti should not remain in the new council
- Other, please tell us: _____

Unsure

IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 4 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

Under this option local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for?

The four options



OPTION 1 - shared services or collaborative model. No change to existing boundaries for councils, but we would agree to formally share or bring together the management of certain services.

The focus would be on cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale.



OPTION 2 - merge all existing councils into three unitary councils:

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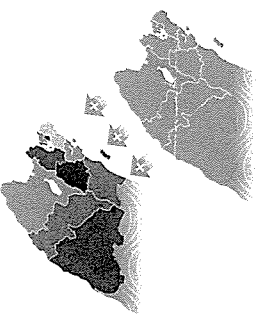


OPTION 3 - merge all existing councils into two unitary councils:

Wellington Council - combining Wellington City, Porirua, Hutt and Upper Hutt cities and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

Wairarapa Council - combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into another unitary authority.

Again, the Regional Council would be abolished.



OPTION 4 - merge all existing councils into one council for the whole region, with 10 local boards elected to look after 'local' services. As with the new Auckland Council, this new single council would be the only entity that could set and collect rates, and would make the major decisions for the entire region.

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

1161

Sharon Bennett

From: Kay_Scarlet@yahoo.com.au
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 12:08 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Kay
Last Name: Jones
Street Address: 87 Ellice Street
Suburb: Mt Victoria
City: Wellington
Phone: 04 3853911
Email: Kay_Scarlet@yahoo.com.au

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Option 1

Another option - details: ¶Keep the existing councils in place, but make formal arrangements to share services across councils in the region There needs to be greater co-ordination of infrastructure planning and development particularly in relation to transport and on developments that affect supply or demand of transport.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: Having a democratic voice in territorial and regional government is important for maintaining connections, for ensuring accountability, for testing the "fit" of proposed solutions to identified problems and for getting buy-in from the local contributors to the costs of services and solutions.

International research has shown that regional co-ordination of transport and development planning has a much more successful and cost effective long term outcome than allowing individual projects to proceed without consideration of costs elsewhere. The transport planning around large scale developments in the Wellington region is not working well for future proofing supply and demand.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: Planning to meet accessible transport needs given issues over fossil fuel supply, environmental and climate impacts, and public transport needs of people with disabilities or impairments given our ageing population.

Do you have any other comments: Democracy is not just an add-on. Reducing the options for voters and ratepayers to connect with people who represent them, and shrinking the pool of representatives which would reduce diversity, would result in poorer decision making. NZX has recently increased its reporting requirements on diversity, not because it sounds nice but because more diverse boards (more gender mix, more cultural and ethnic diversity etc) make better decisions that include more alternative viewpoints.

The Auckland City experiment may work for that area but Wellington has a different geographic profile. A strengthened regional council, with more planning connectedness, and clear territorial responsibilities would suit our local issues better than the alternatives.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

273

Sharon Bennett

From: monica1@clear.net.nz
Sent: Saturday, 2 June 2012 2:09 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: David
Last Name: Wanty
Street Address: 48 McLintock St
Suburb: Johnsonville
City: Wellington
Phone: 04-3815775
Email: monica1@clear.net.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Option 3

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: If you lived in Auck, Chch or Dunedin it would be illogical for Hutt Valley to be separate from western greater Wgtn. This makes opt 2 prob worse than 1 with little economies of scale re governance.

On the whole Kapaiti should be integrated with greater Wgtn.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Quite strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: Local Board representation is required for the Wellington Council.
Allow Wairarapa Councils to choose their own destiny.

KCDC might be overlay this option against on the water issue but ways to prevent this becoming an impediment should be considered

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the

functions currently performed by the Regional Council: No

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District: All of Kapiti should remain part of the new council

Do you have any other comments: Abolishing some of the Regional Council functions and removing a layer of bureaucracy that could live without is a great idea.
Need Boards with funds/powers for area improvements. Could start now with one for Wgtn northern suburbs

1148

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



Wellington City Council is eager to find out how Wellingtonians want their city and region to be governed in the future.

You have a chance to tell us whether you want changes to local government in Wellington and, if so, what you want that change to look like. We have summarised four options for you to comment on.

Do you have any other comments?

Multiple horizontal lines for writing additional comments.

Fold

Fold, fasten and post this form to Wellington City Council using the Freepost address below

Fold

Freepost Authority Number 2159



Wellington Governance Submission (COST01)
Freepost 2199
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140



Enter your name and contact details

Mr/Ms/Ms / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)

First name* Paul
Last name* S. AUSTIN

Street address* 32 Buckley
Rd Southgate
Wgtn

Phone / Mobile 0274-184-005
Email Paul.S.austin@gmail.com

* Mandatory fields

How to make your submission:

- ▶ Use this pull-out submission form, write your comments on the centre pages, then fold, fasten and send via Freepost (you don't need a stamp) OR
- ▶ Go online to Wellington.govt.nz and fill in the submission form OR
- ▶ Email to reform@wcc.govt.nz

Please contact Wellington City Council on 499 4444 for more information.

I am making a submission

- As an individual
- On behalf of an organisation

Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged.

How long do you have?

Submissions close at 5pm, Friday 29 June 2012. When we have received all submissions, we will analyse them and make the results public. Officers will report to the Council in August 2012, recommending the next steps.

Privacy statement

All submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made available to elected members of the Council and the public. Personal information supplied will be used for the administration and reporting back to elected members of the Council and the public as part of the consultation process. All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington. Submitters have the right to access and correct personal information.

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should:

Remain the same, or Change?

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option?

Please tick one

- We should aim for Option 1 We should aim for Option 2
 We should aim for Option 3 We should aim for Option 4
 Don't know
 We should aim for another option. Please tell us:

Now we have some more detailed questions about your preferred option.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option?

TRY TO ENSURE THAT WITH SERVICES REMAIN A TOP PRIORITY FOR WITH CITIZENS, AND THAT OUR VOICES ARE HEARD.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option?

Very strongly Quite strongly I do not feel strongly about it

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option?

Yes, please tell us: *That any shared services agreed to with other councils are not diminished to us in depth.*

No

IF YOU CHOSE OPTIONS 2 OR 3 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council?

Yes, please tell us: _____

No

Under option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District?

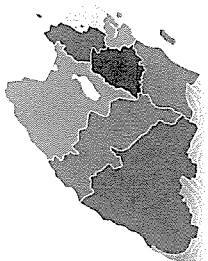
- All of Kapiti should remain part of the new Wellington council
 Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council (for example, the south part of Kapiti)
 Kapiti should not remain in the new council
 Other, please tell us: _____

Unsure

IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 4 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

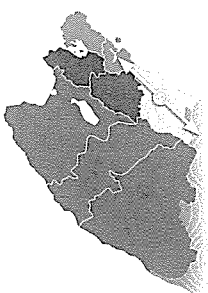
Under this option local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for?

The four options



OPTION 1 – shared services or collaborative model. No change to existing boundaries for councils, but we would agree to formally share or bring together the management of certain services.

The focus would be on cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale.



OPTION 2 – merge all existing councils into three unitary councils:

Wellington Capital and Coast Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua City and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

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Mairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into a third unitary authority.

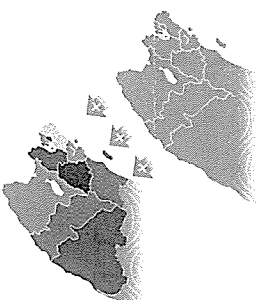
Greater Wellington Regional Council would be abolished.



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OPTION 4 – merge all existing councils into one council for the whole region, with 10 local boards elected to look after 'local' services. As with the new Auckland Council, this new single council would be the only entity that could set and collect rates, and would make the major decisions for the entire region.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

774

Sharon Bennett

From: Ponter.Amor@xtra.co.nz
Sent: Sunday, 24 June 2012 5:40 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Cr Daran

Last Name: Ponter

Street Address: 14 Spingfield Tce

Suburb: Kelburn

City: Wellington

Phone: 027540689

Email: Ponter.Amor@xtra.co.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Another option

Another option - details: The discussions to date about local government reform in the Wellington region has been unduly focused on structural change (i.e. amalgamating authorities). There has been little attention to the rationale for change (i.e. an understanding of what is inherently broken). There is certainly a lack of empirical evidence to suggest the benefits of structural change.

I believe that authorities should always be open to change - to adapting to the changes within their own communities. We can always improve the way in which we deliver services and represent our communities. But nothing in or current state of affairs suggest the needs for the radical type of reform that Fran Wilde, Chair, Greater Wellington Regional Council, and other regional councillors have proposed.

I am in favour of Option 1 because I believe more can be done to forge greater co-operation and collaboration between councils. We have tried in the pastbut not hard enough. Perhaps we need to be directed more strongly this area by legislation.

I also believe that if local communities, such as the Wairarapa or Hutt Valley want to amalgamate then they should do so. A single district council for the Wairarapa makes a lot of sense to me. But if they don't want to be part of a Super City then they shouldn't be forced.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: Wellington simply is not the basket case that Auckland was. There is no clamour for large scale reform in the Wellington Region because there is no evidence to suggest that there is anything inherently wrong with our current structures.

Sure, we can always do better as local authorities, but there is nothing in what we currently do to suggest that we need to be one Council.

Proponents of the Wellington Super City talk about the region benefiting by being able to:

- a)"talk with one voice" - especially with Central Government;
- b) Do integrated planning (one district plan, one events plan, one long term plan etc)
- c) Undertake more co-ordinated economic development planning and promotion; and
- d) More efficiently and effectively manage our regions' assets and services.

I say all of these things can be done now, with a stronger dedication to co-ordination and collaboration and less positioning on the parts of the region's leaders.

I certainly have a view that a regional council structure serves a very useful purpose for the co-ordination and delivery of certain functions and services, such as public transport, environmental management, soil and rivers control work.

My plea to all Council's in the region, including Fran Wilde and the Greater Wellington Regional Council is to come together and make only one submission to the Local Government Commission. One submission that recognises the aspirations and concerns of communities across the region. If we fail to co-operate on this single task then we will surely place ourselves squarely in the hands of the Local Government Commission to decide on an option that perhaps none of us agree with.

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: All councils need to co-operate to put forward a single submission to the Local Government Commission.

We need to have a clear understanding of what the issues are (problem definition) and our communities should be consulted on the preferred option before it is submitted to the Local Government Commission. Council's must insist on the Local Government Commission holding a referendum on the option they identify (despite what the proposed legislative reform says).

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

590

Sharon Bennett

From: j-mikoz@paradise.net.nz
Sent: Saturday, 16 June 2012 2:43 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Local Government Reform Options

The following details have been submitted from the Local Government Reform Options form on the www.Wellington.govt.nz website:

First Name: Jim

Last Name: Mikoz

Street Address: 3 Ruskin Rd

Suburb: Newlands

City: Wellington

Phone: 04 9384692

Email: j-mikoz@paradise.net.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: as an individual

Organisation Name: both Wellington Recreational Marine Fishers Association

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should: change

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option: Option 3

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: We can not continue having a regional council that destroys the environment both land rivers streams intertidal and the marine environment and then makes themselves unaccountable for their disasters and fails to repair their errors. Then when the errors are pointed out at a resource consent hearing councilors appointed as commissioners abuse the presenters

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option: Very strongly

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option: Yes

If yes, please specify: Water management on subdivisions construction sites storm water outlets or where waste water outlets are positioned all impact severely on the marine world. Reason is the lack of consultations or leadership from the regional council. Their environment plans is a hidden

disaster as they can not see what they are doing wrong

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council: Yes

If yes, please specify: no concerns at least we will be able to communicate without threats

Under Option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District: All of Kapiti should remain part of the new council

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1185

Sharon Bennett

From: Warwick Taylor [warwick.weatherman@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 4:35 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: `Submission from Wellington Residents' Coalition
Attachments: Wellington City Council Reform submission.doc

Hi,

Please find attached the submission of the Wellington Residents' Coalition on local government reform.

We would like to make an oral submission please. Please phone me on 9344-626 (home), 894-6364 (work) or (022) 1758-362 (mob).

Regards,
Warwick Taylor
Convenor

Submission of the Wellington Residents' Coalition on Local Government Reform

Principles

The Wellington Residents' Coalition bases its submission on the following principles:

- support for participatory democracy;
- that public services should be operated directly by publicly elected bodies; and
- that there should be no lessening of representation.

Participatory Democracy

Participatory democracy is a system that allows citizens to actually participate (rather than merely be consulted on) in decisions affecting them. Such a system could work by having, for example, neighbourhood councils open to everyone in a neighbourhood. Those councils would have representatives on a community council, which in turn would have representatives on territorial (for example city) councils. The territorial councils would have representatives on regional councils. Decisions on each matter could be made at the appropriate level.

Operation of Public Services

We have consistently opposed the corporatisation and contracting-out of Council activities. The creation of the Auckland Council has led to the creation of more council-controlled organisations and the transfer of many public services to those organisations. If this is anything to go on, those options for the merging of councils will result in transfer of many if not most public services to unelected bodies.

The option involving the existing councils sharing services will also result in (and is right now resulting in) more corporatisation of public services and job losses. We therefore do not support this option.

Consultation and the Local Government Amendment Bill

The Local Government Amendment Bill not only proposes to make it easier for larger councils to swallow up smaller councils but it also seeks to limit the activities of local bodies.

We are concerned that the Council has consulted on regional governance arrangements to pre-empt what may happen if the Local Government Amendment Bill is passed. If this is the case it is a sign of spinelessness. Instead of trying to pre-empt a change in legislation the Council should as representatives of the people of Wellington, be opposing the legislation. The Council should write a submission to the Local Government Select Committee opposing this Bill.

Conclusion

The Wellington Residents' Coalition asks that the Wellington City Council:

- not adopt any of the options;**
- institute a system of** participatory democracy in the City; and
- oppose the Local Government Amendment Bill.

451

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



Wellington City Council is eager to find out how Wellingtonians want their city and region to be governed in the future.

You have a chance to tell us whether you want changes to local government in Wellington and, if so, what you want that change to look like. We have summarised four options for you to comment on.

How to make your submission:

- ▶ Use this pull-out submission form, write your comments on the centre pages, then fold, fasten and send via Freepost (you don't need a stamp) OR
 - ▶ Go online to Wellington.govt.nz and fill in the submission form OR
 - ▶ Email to reform@wcc.govt.nz
- Please contact Wellington City Council on 499 4444 for more information.

Enter your name and contact details

Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)

First name: Sarah Russell

Last name: Eden

Street address: 22 Campbell St

Karori

Wellington

Phone / Mobile: 021 413 024

Email: _____

* Mandatory fields

Fold, fasten and post this form to Wellington City Council using the Freepost address below

Fold

Freepost Authority Number 2199



Wellington Governance Submission
(COST01)
Freepost 2199
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140



A/ How could the WCC. yet. it is so windy
 KARORI PARK what was the real cost???

B/ Has the people involved still got a job with council
 or why???

The WCC Has put the rate payers into DEBT
 which seems to be growing all the time.

1/ STOP all overseas travel / stop LAMBTON Harbours Deal
 company - not needed. 3/CLOSE Zealandia too expensive

4 wages for WCC persona are too high - reduce

5/ A Time & Motion study should be done - then
 staff levels would be at a reasonable size.

6/ too much money spent on Consultants, if we
 want some done we check up ourselves.

7/ The WCC needs to get back to basics to reduce debt.

Do you think the way the councils in the Wellington region are organised should:

- Remain the same, or
- Change?

If you think we should change, which is your preferred option?

Please tick one

- We should aim for Option 1
- We should aim for Option 2
- We should aim for Option 3
- We should aim for Option 4
- Don't know
- We should aim for another option. Please tell us:

Now we have some more detailed questions about your preferred option.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option?

How strongly do you feel that we should take up your preferred option?

- Very strongly
- Quite strongly
- I do not feel strongly about it

Do you have any concerns we should address when implementing your preferred option?

Yes, please tell us: _____

No

IF YOU CHOSE OPTIONS 2 OR 3 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

Do you have any concerns about the newly merged councils being able to absorb some of the functions currently performed by the Regional Council?

Yes, please tell us: _____

No

Under option 2 or 3, what do you think should happen with the Kapiti District?

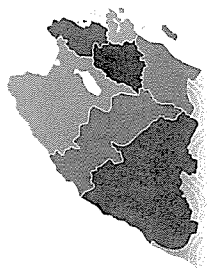
- All of Kapiti should remain part of the new Wellington council
- Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council (for example, the south part of Kapiti)
- Kapiti should not remain in the new council
- Other, please tell us: _____

Unsure

IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 4 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION - OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

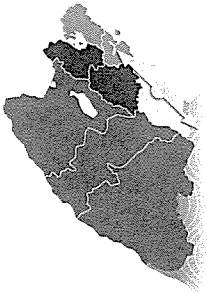
Under this option local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for?

The four options



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The focus would be on cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale.



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Greater Wellington Regional Council would be abolished.

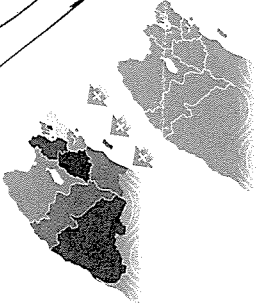


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