

Do you have any other comments?

SO PLEASE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL JUST SAY THE WAY THINGS ARE, WELLINGTON IS A FABULOUS CITY AND OUR AREA IS ALSO GREAT SO PLEASE DON'T CHANGE,

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



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

First name* MARIE

Last name* LIBEAY

Street address* FLAT 32

14 BATHCLOR ST

NEWLANDS 6037

Phone /Mobile 0272142731

Email

* Mandatory fields

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.

568

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:

I DON'T THINK WELLINGTON NEEDS TO BECOME A SUPER CITY. BY WORLD COMPARASONS WELLINGTON IS A SMALL CITY.

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

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

AS ABDOUE

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: I THINK FOR THE SAKE OF

THE WELLINGTON REGION IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WELLINGTON CITY, PORIRUA, HUTT & KAPITI AND THE WAIRARAPA AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL HAVE THEIR OWN IDENTITIES.

No

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

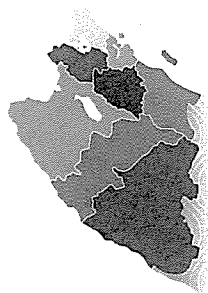
- All of Kapiti should remain part of the new Wellington council
 Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council (for example, the south part of Kapiti)
 Kapiti should not remain in the new council
 Other, please tell us:

Unsure () ()

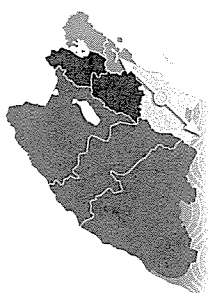
IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 4 AS YOUR PREFERRED OPTION PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION – OTHERWISE PLEASE SKIP THIS BOX.

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.

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.

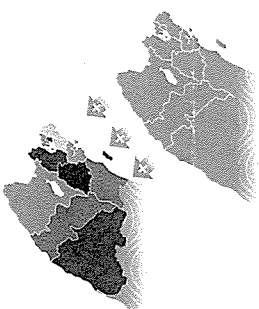


OPTION 3 – merge all existing councils into two unitary councils:

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**

1058

Sharon Bennett

From: jocelynfrances@wellhealth.health.nz
Sent: Monday, 2 July 2012 11:08 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: Jocelyn Frances

Last Name: O'Kane

Street Address: 76 Ghuznee Street

Suburb: Wellington

City: cbd

Phone: 04 385 3518 021 164 3350

Email: jocelynfrances@wellhealth.health.nz

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: on behalf of an organisation

Organisation Name: Wellington Council of Social Services - Welcoss

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

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

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: Keep the distinct flavour of each area while working to streamline the things that impact on all of the area - transport, roads, housing, and infrastructure

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: The pull towards a more total amalgamation or a super city on the scale of Auckland is very strong with powerful vested interests.

Auckland was a series of villages that got rolled into a big town - Wellington is very different with distinct communities that are geographically separate.

Know that amalgamation does not mean greater economies of scale - it costs more.

Do you have any other comments: Wellington City Council has an enlightened approach to the provision of social services including social housing - and we know that this funding builds communities.

This is not shared around the region - eg approach to social housing very different in each area. Wellington city has much to lose in any big amalgamation.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1119

Sharon Bennett

From: joe_alaifea@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, 5 July 2012 10:28 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: Joe
Last Name: Alaifea
Street Address: 214 Coutts St
Suburb: Rongotai
City: Wellington
Phone: 0274150438
Email: joe_alaifea@hotmail.com

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

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: Start the changers slowly with other regions sharing services, sharing resouces, both administration, and human resouces etc.

Take lessons from Auckland the "Guinnie Pig" of this experiment.

Cost effective and delivery of services and infrusture needs to be the focus of WCC.

A army of council workers (admin, service providers, labourers, works etc) that will be use for the all services and emergency service.

Change, and decide what public really wants 'RATES INCOME' go to

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: Wellington to have, to develop, and maintain a good effective infrasture that will service ALL the Wellington Public.

That Wellington Council treats EVERYONE the same

Do you have any other comments: 'CHANGE':

to improve,

to be more cost effective,

to economise,

to be more effecient

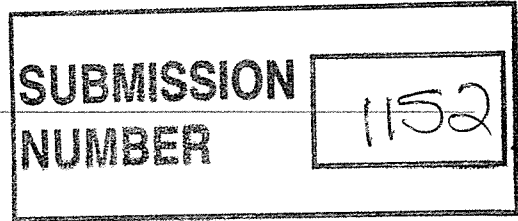
to lesson the duplication of resouces

TO IMPROVE MY LIVING STANDARD IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF AOTEAROA.





Sharon Bennett



From: Murray Gibb [murray.gibb@waternz.org.nz]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 9:53 a.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Subject: Submission Local Government reform Wellington
Attachments: 120706_Letter Accompanying Submission Wellington reform.pdf; 120706_Submission Local Government Reform Wellington.pdf

Good morning Allan
Please find attached a submission and accompanying letter on local government reform in the Greater Wellington area.
Regards

Murray Gibb | Chief Executive



Greenock House | Level 12, 39 The Terrace
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Tel: +64 4 472 8925 | Fax: +64 4 472 8926

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Ref: BRD/CEO/1_120706_Submission Wellington Local Government Reform_itr

6 July 2012

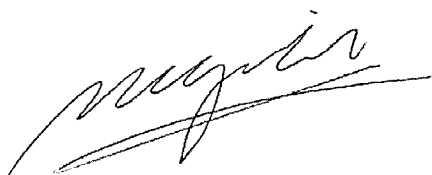
Attention: Allan Prangnell
Freepost WCC
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140.

Local Government Reform Wellington

Dear Sir

Please find attached a submission from Water New Zealand on local government reform in Wellington. We suggest that water services in the Greater Wellington Council area be rationalised into one publicly owned entity. We are available to make an oral submission to further support the case for rationalisation of these services.

Yours sincerely



Murray Gibb
Chief Executive
Water New Zealand

Water New Zealand Submission Revised Local Governance Arrangements Greater Wellington Region

Introduction

Water New Zealand's organisational interest is restricted to sustainable management and development of the water environment, and not local government arrangements. Our members include practitioners with very extensive knowledge of the various governance and management arrangements employed both locally and internationally in providing three water services.

Consultation on future local body governance in the Wellington region is currently being facilitated via separate council led initiatives. This discussion occurs against a backdrop of the *Better Local Government* reform package, initiated in March, aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the sector.

Reform of water services has been on the policy radar since the last round of local government reforms in 1989. While there has been little progress to date this is likely to change as a result of the Government's *Fresh Start for Freshwater* Policy initiative, the Land and Water Forum's reports and recommendations, and the aforementioned *Better Local Government* reform package.

Furthermore, the requirements of drinking water suppliers to comply with the Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act are being progressively phased in over four years from July 2012. The cost of complying with this legislation is problematic for smaller suppliers.

Given this agenda, it is timely to review the way water services in the wider Wellington region are delivered. The locally led reviews provide an opportunity for local government leaders to promote more efficient and economical water services in the region.

Water New Zealand recommends that water services in the region be rationalised. We support continued public ownership of these services.

Current situation

At present all nine local bodies are involved in supplying water services to the area from Masterton and Kapiti south to, and including, Wellington. Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa and Kapiti all run their own water services. Greater Wellington Regional Council supplies bulk water to Upper and Lower Hutt, Wellington and Porirua. Wellington and Lower Hutt retain ownership of their water infrastructure, but own a separate company, Capacity, that manages it.

Capacity also contracts to manage water services for Upper Hutt, which retains ownership of its water infrastructure. Porirua runs its own retail supply and wastewater plant. Capacity

buys waste water services from Porirua for its Wellington serviced customers from Johnsonville north.

These arrangements continue despite some water, stormwater and wastewater networks in the region crossing several local political boundaries.

Problem Definition

Existing arrangements do not provide for the most efficient and economical provision of water utility services. Water managers in the region are aware that alternative structures have the potential to improve these services.

1. **Governance:** With the exception of Capacity, governance is provided by elected officials in multiple purpose entities. Competing demands for services under these arrangements does not allow the single focus required in order to provide optimal levels of water service.
2. **Planning:** Despite sharing of some networks, each utility has its own plan and own projects within its own boundaries, often with little or no joint planning. There is no coordinated or strategic approach despite the interconnected networks in parts of the region.
3. **Scale:** The potential to deliver services more efficiently and effectively, through greater use of dedicated in-house resources and retention of institutional knowledge, is not being fully realised. Instead supplier each independently contracts out many of the same services, often using the same contractors and consultants, duplicating and replicating costs. Across the region this is an inefficient way of procuring goods and services.
4. **Service levels:** Mandatory compliance with the Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2007 is being implemented from 1 July 2012. Of the more than 20 council-owned supplies in the region, 6 currently meet the New Zealand Drinking Water Standard¹.
5. **Asset management:** There is little aggregated information on the performance of water utilities in water asset management in New Zealand. In a review of eight local authorities' (including Kapiti) planning for forecast demand for water², the Auditor General stated (p8); *"five of the local authorities had incomplete asset management information. Two had better information, but it was still not complete. The eighth had a lot of information, but did not make the best use of it."*

There is likely to be room for improved asset management on the part of suppliers.

6. **Transparency:** With the exception of the management of water services for Upper and Lower Hutt and Wellington, the Councils currently combine monopoly ownership, governance, management, pricing, customer representation and (some) regulation for water services within the region. These combined functions do not conform with good regulatory models.

The practice of bundling water and sewerage charges with rates means that non-metered customers have little idea of the cost of water services, or their value. Often

¹ Ministry of Health, Annual Review of Drinking - Water Quality in New Zealand 2010-11. <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/annual-review-drinking-water-quality-new-zealand-2010-2011>, accessed 5 July 2011

² Office of Controller and Auditor- General, Local Authorities: Planning to Meet the Forecast Demand for Drinking-Water 2010 <http://www.oag.govt.nz/2010/water> , accessed 5 July 2012

they don't have any readily available information on whether rates income apportioned to water services is being subsidised, or is subsidising other council activities.

This does not apply to the provision of bulk water by the Greater Wellington Regional Council, which is required to ring fence and separately report income and expenditure on water services.

7. **Funding:** Councils are multiple service entities facing competing demand for capital from more visible and electorally attractive social infrastructure. Security of funding is essential for the provision of good quality water services.
8. **Pricing:** Decisions on pricing may be dominated by the political imperative to keep rates down rather than reasoned analysis of the balance between investment needs and customer interests.
9. **Customer Representation:** Councils provide customer representation while at the same time determining the level of service the latter receive and what they will pay for that service. In practice this provides weak feedback on consumer aspirations and satisfaction. Separating customer representation from service provision is good practice, and is the approach adopted by other utilities in the gas, telephony and electricity industries.

These conflicting roles for councils result in:

- confusion between the roles and responsibilities of ratepayers and customers;
- weak feedback on performance; and
- a blurring of accountability with business matters and regulatory issues.

They do not encourage water and sewerage service providers to think commercially and concentrate on customers' needs.

Previous reform initiatives

While reform of water services in the Wellington region has been on the political radar for many years, progress to date has been slow. Several reviews of the metropolitan Wellington arrangements have been undertaken since 1997. All have recommended rationalisation.

Ernst and Young Review 1997

In 1997 Ernst and Young was retained by the four Wellington metropolitan territorial authorities and the regional council to conduct a review of water supplies. The objective was to assess the best option for the rationalisation of the water supply and reticulation in the Wellington metropolitan area compared with then current arrangements.

The reviewers strongly recommended placing water services in one local body trading enterprise because it would:

- provide for efficiency gains through economies of scale;
- allow for a more commercial approach; and
- allow for more contestability round delivery of functions.

Benefits included increased levels of customer services and water quality, significant savings in operating costs and improved transparency.

Price Waterhouse Coopers Feasibility Study 2001

Commissioned by the Wellington and Hutt City Councils along with the Wellington Regional Council, Price Waterhouse Coopers reported in 2001 on a feasibility study into integration of water, wastewater and stormwater services into a Trust. The PwC analysis suggested substantial performance benefits along with operational savings from rationalisation into one business, along with savings in capital expenditure by the bulk supplier.

Wellington and Hutt City Council Report July 2002

This report noted that since 1997 there had been five investigations into various forms of rationalisation of water services in the Wellington metropolitan area. Ten structural options were considered. The best fit was considered to be a regional joint management unit in the form of a council controlled non-profit organisation. This would allow operations, maintenance and asset management planning functions of the participating councils to be brought into one unit. Key benefits included economies of scale achieving financial savings, along with improved service levels.

Establishment of Capacity

Capacity Infrastructure Services was established in 2004 as a council controlled trading organisation owned by Wellington City Council and Hutt City Council. Capacity manages, but does not own the water, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure. Control over policies, rates and user charges remain with its client councils. Capacity contracted to manage the Upper Hutt City Council's three waters infrastructure in 2008.

This initiative has gone part way to sharing expertise in water services across the region and coordinating operations. Some cost savings have been achieved. The failure to transfer assets into Capacity, coupled with the inability of its governance to set strategies and policies, means that it remains a flawed business model.

Price Waterhouse Coopers Report February 2010

In February 2010 PWC provided a report for the Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council on the merits of outsourcing their water infrastructure to Capacity, or a similar entity. PWC concluded:

- that integration of water services between the Porirua, the two Hutt, the Wellington Regional Council and the Wellington City Council would produce benefits;
- benefits would best be achieved through amalgamation;
- the extent of the benefit would depend on the extent of the amalgamation; and
- the amalgamated entity should have a business-like focus and this would be achieved through a company structure.

Recent Initiatives

In the past few months the Wellington, Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils have voted to support the expansion of Capacity to include the shareholding membership of Porirua and Upper Hutt cities.

Evidence for reform

There is good evidence from reform of water services in other jurisdictions that efficiencies and economies, along with improved customer services levels, can be achieved by scaling up water utilities.

When the United Kingdom entered the European Union, Scotland faced significant problems in meeting expected service levels. Its water infrastructure had suffered from decades of neglect and deferred investment. Over 200 local authority-owned water businesses were subsequently amalgamated into 16 in 1986, three in 1997 and finally one in 2002.

Scottish Water, a publicly owned company, operates and maintains the water and wastewater assets on behalf of the Scottish Parliament for the whole of the country. Since reform, service levels have been brought up to required standards, operating costs have been reduced by 40 per cent, and Scottish Water currently has the fourth lowest prices of all the water utilities in the United Kingdom.

Scotland's independent drinking water inspectorate reported 99.89 per cent of water samples tested in 2010 met regulated standards.

In England and Wales 50 million consumers are serviced by 34 privately-owned companies, formed as a result of reforms undertaken in 1989. Operating in a heavily and intrusively regulated environment, the industry has been able to address previously deferred investment and improve service levels. The independent regulatory framework has allowed the companies to invest more than £98 billion in maintaining and improving assets and services, and meet national and European regulatory standards.

The independent drinking water quality regulators for England and Wales reported that over 99.9% of all water samples tests tested in 2010 met the requirements of the EU Drinking Water Directive.

Current iterations of both countries' national infrastructure plans,^{3,4} indicate no priority expenditure requirements in the water utility sectors, and provide very good evidence for the success of the reforms undertaken there between 1986 and 2002.

Other reforms

In Victoria, Australia, reform of water services took place in the 1990's. Utilities were removed from local government and placed into 19 state owned enterprises, servicing a population of 5.4 million.

³ HM Treasury, National Infrastructure Plan 2011. http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_infrastructure_plan291111.pdf accessed 18 May 2012.

⁴ The Scottish Government, Infrastructure Plan 2011. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/364225/0123778.pdf> accessed 18 May 2012.

More recently in Tasmania water and sewerage services were removed from local councils and divested in three new regionally based companies. A common services entity was created to service these regional companies. The companies began operation in 2009 and are independently run, but owned by local councils. There are now moves to rationalise these utilities into a single one. Tasmania's population is 515,000, slightly larger than that serviced by the Wellington Regional Council.

The Republic of Ireland is currently planning to rationalise its water services. The current system operated by 34 county and city councils will be merged into one entity, Irish Water from 2015, servicing over 4.6 million customers.

Conclusions arising from international comparisons

There is no evidence from any of these reforms that placement at arm's length from, or loss of local political control, has had any detrimental effects on service levels. There is ample evidence to the contrary. Neither is there any political appetite for disaggregation of reformed utilities back into previous component parts.

Common features of reforms include:

- Rationalisation of governance, control and management;
- Move to more commercially focused structures;
- Independent regulation (covering economic and environmental matters, customer representation and drinking water quality); and
- Improved service levels.

At present New Zealand lacks independent economic, drinking water and customer representative regulation. Within the context of the current local review, it would be sensible to be mindful of trends in other jurisdictions and potential future arrangements at a national level for regulation of water services.

With Auckland governance reforms, a single water utility now services a population of 1.5 million people. Consolidation in Auckland has allowed for a strategic regional approach, which is likely to result in more coordinated long term planning than that provided by the previous councils.

Public or private goods?

There is confusion on the status of water services which clouds debate. Drinking and wastewater services satisfy the economic tests for private goods. There is rivalry in consumption and non-payers can be excluded. The public good elements for these services (health and fire fighting) are mandated by independent regulation and do not require local political input.

Benefits

Reforms undertaken elsewhere provide good evidence for the benefits that would accrue from rationalisation of water services in the region. These include efficiencies and economies of scale and improved service levels.

Locally there is a great deal of expertise spread throughout the various entities. Bringing them together would make better use of existing capability, and also ensure that smaller centres can share the benefit of this often expensive expertise.

For smaller utilities, finding and retaining expertise is currently problematic. These entities have to contract out services at considerable cost. By contrast fully integrated utilities can achieve capacity gains through in-house deployment of specialised staff for technical water, asset management, logistical, planning and financial management expertise, along with laboratory services.

Jurisdictions that have rationalised have found that consolidation provides more viable operating units able to attract and retain high quality management while affording good scientific support. Critical mass allows for employment of staff in-house to provide services.

Not only are contractor and consultancy costs reduced, but buying power is strengthened, allowing for improved procurement practices from suppliers, and as a result, reduced input costs. Savings can be put toward deferred investment and bringing existing substandard water infrastructure up to speed.

We conclude that for the Wellington region rationalisation of water services is appropriate. We would be happy to offer further information on request and are available to make an oral submission.

Wendy Walker – Director Citizens Engagement: Wendy Walker
Wellington City Council.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

468

Sally Dossor – City Solicitor

[Sally.Dossor@wcc.govt.nz]
[Wendy.Walker@wcc.govt.nz]

8th June 2012

Rosamund Averton
12/17 Brougham Street,
Mount Victoria,
Wellington 6011.

Telephone: 3851 495

Local Government Reform – WCC Stage 1 due 29th June 2012

I make this submission as an individual and would like to be heard.

I have read the material provided including the full version of the options proposed and have done much background reading including of the article in the "Policy Quarterly" IPS May 2012.

I appreciate that this matter of significance to all citizens of Wellington is being consulted on and trust that all the input provided will be directed to any feedback to the LGC.

At this time last year I made a submission to Wellington Regional Council on their "local body governance review".

After events in Christchurch I consider that overt emphasis should be given to ensuring the continuing autonomy of local government and citizens involvement.

Governance both at the local and national level have been matters of ongoing interest to me since the 1970's and I have contributed to the framing of various proposed reviews as a member of a Parliamentary Review body and for many years as a NZ chapter member of Australian Study of Parliament Group.

Introduction:

I understand the options presented were intended to be open. But regret that this has meant a complete absence of comment about the role and or value

of citizens' engagement in the future governance of Wellington as a region (ie:Wellington City – Hutt Valley – Wairapa).

Responses to the (un-numbered) questions posed in the proposal document:

1. I support change but am not averse to the status quo with refinement.
2. **If** there is to be any change to the governance of Wellington then I prefer Option 2.

With provisos ensuring increased public engagement in all decision making. To guarantee community involvement that ensure each citizen has a voice that directly the actions of its elected representatives whilst sharing, where appropriate, administrative services.

3. I support Option 2 because it will allow local authorities to retain their identities. Infrastructure projects will continue to be carried out locally by people with local knowledge informed and directed by Citizens' Committees in my ideal world.

4. I feel strongly that Option 2 is the best option of those presented but excluding subsidiarity.

5. It is important that my preferred option is not captured by any vested interest group.

6. I have no qualms about the ability of the newly merged entity being able to absorb the present functions of the Regional Council.

7. The ultimate fate of Kapiti citizens should be determined by binding referendum of them. Some might prefer an amalgamation with Palmerston North.

Commentary:

Option 1-is essentially a modified version of the status quo however there is the implication that further agreements to share or collaborate "more" leading to "economies of scale" which may save money, not a proven concept.

If this is the preferred option of the majority then policy setting and all operations, activities of a regional body must be open to public consultation and then considered in public with all documentation posted out to those interested and wishing to be informed. Neither regional nor territorial bodies should be allowed to hold any discussions, debates or workshops that exclude the citizenry as a whole. All proposals should be considered in public. The only exception being matters relating to the hiring, performance management or de-hiring of individuals. What is "commercially sensitive" needs further clarification by the Office of the Auditor General.

Option 2 – the amalgamations proposed have some merit. Any amalgamation should be an open public process. “Transitional Governance Groups” (WRC 2011) must include members of the communities affected by any changes. Ideally the members of the group would be selected by ballot, the membership sponsored by local communities. Funding for any transition activity would need to be funded by Central Government to avoid any possibility of skewing the appointment, transition process.

The TGG’s will appoint the CEO’s. I envisage that each unitary council will have its own Chief Executive and each will have its own staff all reporting to elected representatives with a single figurehead Wellington Mayor directed by citizens. This process should be separate from any more general election or appointment system, final appointments to be confirmed by local community groups directed by interested and informed individuals.

Option 3 will lessen citizens engagement by distancing the two unitary authorities from their constituents. I do not support this option.

Option 4 is unacceptable as it increases the distances from Option 3 to an unacceptable remove from the people and from any policy setting, decision making potentially leading to the establishment of an autocracy. Excluding the majority of citizens from any engagement is anathema to me.

Other comments:

The only involvement with Central Government should be in regard to funding and ensuring that any new legislation is properly considered and open to public submissions; there should be no “central government appointees” to avoid the impression that the process has been, or is likely to be removed from the purview of citizens. Protecting the special role of a local (unitary) or territorial authority in this review must be paramount. “Local government provides an essential check on the power of central government” (Policy Quarterly – IPS May 2012).

Elected representatives (including mayors) must only be allowed to offer themselves for election thrice. No elected representative should serve their community for more than nine years within their lifetime. Legislation should ensure that the role of mayor be re-defined. In future mayors (a new title should be considered) must will only be ciphers representing the views of citizens.

Both elected Mayor and Councillors must protect their independence from the seductive ready made responses presented by non-elected officials, contractors etc. Citizens must be engaged in all decision making from preliminary postulation to setting. Outputs of this engagement must be used to direct and guide all actions of any new territorial/unitary authority.

Conclusion:

All of the options will be costly in terms of the "wellbeings" entrenched in LGA. Each will require transition funding and the setting up of a form of transition governance entity; that entity must include representatives of the citizenry, it will need to be funded adequately and to be given assistance with budgeting and also with managing its delegated authority to act for the betterment of all citizens. Appointment to this body to be by self nomination or nomination by an existing community body.

Any decisions made about our local governance arrangements must be honest, transparent and reflective of the wishes of citizens.

I can find no reference to the following: a) Who will be studying these submissions and writing the report to SPC, Council ? b) Who will peer review any output before presenting it to elected representatives prior to submitting to the LGC?

I support Option 2 but would like consideration given to the introduction of full subsidiarity* as described below.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Rosamund Averton.

Appendix:

Subsidiarity:.....:

It appears that no consideration has been given to Subsidiarity. A system predicated on the full involvement of citizens in a "representative democracy" and my preferred option for local governance.

Ideally there would be a single Mayor for the entire region with each "ward" of approximately 4,000 citizens electing its own "Community Council" (CC) with a paid and elected local Chairman who would take (CC) decisions to a "Central Community Forum" chaired by the Mayor. The forum would then instruct the various CEO's to implement projects from a centrally monitored budget, funds obtained from general rates and supplemented by an IRD administered "local government tax" (LGT) . Projects would be administered and monitored by the Community Forum in collaboration with Council staff/officials.

The Mayor would have a figurehead role promoting the goals of the various "CCs" only. Members of Community Councils would be paid to compensate them for administering the budgets for all community/infrastructural projects. Those budgets and projects would be determined by the Community Councils. The Mayor would be unpaid as a figurehead only. CEO's and other Council

staff would be remunerated according to the determination and budget of the collective Community Councils.

Community Council elections should be managed and monitored by the Regional "Electoral College" bulk funded from the tax income gained by the by Central Government to ensure that no candidates are disadvantaged financially. All advertising would be funded by the same body.

This form of "subsidiarity" would therefore achieve a centrality of both Opex and Capex funding with all projects being matched to the wishes of local representatives and then prioritised by the Central Community Forum.

Council Staff would be responsible for the implementation, managing, monitoring and reviewing of all projects but answerable to the CCF.

Local democracy leads to community cohesion as is apparent in Christchurch.

Wellington City Youth Council
Submission on Regional Governance Organisation

SUBMISSION NUMBER 2012	1168
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Submitted by: Benjamin James Ogilvie
Contact: 027 738 7688

In this submission any mention of "The City Council" refers to the Wellington City Council, and any mention of "The Youth Council" refers to the Wellington City Youth Council.

The Youth Council also wishes to make an Oral Submission.

1 Governance change for the Wellington region

The Wellington City Youth Council holds the view that local government is greatly important to the governance of New Zealand. Proper organisational structure is of course essential for the success of local government as it is for all organisations, and therefore is greatly important for the success of the Wellington Region and New Zealand as a whole.

While The Youth Council is not inherently opposed to organisational reform of local government, we are of the opinion that the current organisational structure in Wellington is not in urgent need of major reform and therefore is somewhat opposed to current proposals for major reorganisation. This opinion comes from our view that any and all local governance structures for the Wellington Region should:

- 1.1 Be strongly representative and reflective of local communities' identities (where members of those communities identify as being from),
- 1.2 Be accessible to its constituents in terms of councillors and council meetings,
- 1.3 Be capable of representing both local and regional interests without unduly favouring either,
- 1.4 Be efficient in its use of resources.

As these principles are quite well-served by current organisation of Wellington's local government, The Youth Council sees little reason for major structural change to current local government organisation in the Wellington region.

2 Support for Option 1

The Youth Council is not inherently opposed to change in local government organisation in Wellington, and is of the opinion that changes should be made if local communities are widely supportive of it.

Having assessed the four options presented in the Wellington City Council's discussion document, The Youth Council supports Option 1 for the following reasons:

- 2.1 Local councils are still as representative and reflective of local communities' identities as they are now.
- 2.2 Councillors and important council meetings where decisions are made remain accessible to constituents.
- 2.3 The continuance of The Regional Council allows regional interests to be maintained while also allowing local communities relatively high levels of autonomy over decisions that are unlikely to have major region-wide effects.
- 2.4 Efficiency of service delivery could be greatly improved through this option, as especially in backroom functions such as IT systems where economies of scale are easily achievable and can result in rates decreases or improved service delivery across the region.

- 2.5 Expensive, difficult, and lengthy reform processes are avoided.

Therefore The Youth Council recommends strongly that should there be widespread support for change The City Council aim for Option 1 as it is presented in The City Council's discussion document, attempting where appropriate to increase shared services across the region as old systems come up for renewal or revision.

3 Options 2, 3, and 4

The Youth Council views the other options set out by The City Council's discussion document as less desirable for the following reasons:

- 3.1 All three remaining options require a decrease in how reflective the proposed councils would be of local communities' identities. All three options do this to a different extent, and Option 2 and Option 3 are obviously far better in this regard than option four.
- 3.2 Options 2, 3, and 4 are likely to make the representation of small community groups much harder. Fewer councils would likely result in fewer councillors and therefore larger numbers of electors necessary to elect each, increasing the likelihood for smaller voices to be drowned out by larger ones.
- 3.3 Related to this is the increased difficulty of access to councils and council decision-making processes under the other options. The increased centralisation of publicly accessible meetings means that residents are prevented from attending by travel expenses and times, to potentially quite great extent.
- 3.4 The only way around these would be the creation of community boards which had the ability to both make meaningful decisions on local issues and also influence the city and/or district councils which they existed under. The implementation of this would likely be expensive, difficult, and potentially still result in representation worse than under current organisation.
- 3.5 A concern with Options 2 and 3 of The City Council's discussion document is that under unitary councils without separate regional governance decisions of regional importance would be difficult to implement. Actions in the interest of the region as a whole which could perhaps be less than ideal for some individual councils would be difficult, if not impossible to make. This is due to local councils being primarily concerned with their constituents, rather than the constituents of their neighbours.

The Youth Council therefore would strongly recommend that none of Options 2, 3, or 4 be chosen, or at the very least be implemented with serious thought of how to counteract these disadvantages.

4 Recommendations

The Youth Council recommends that The City Council take into account our preferred arrangement of local governance and our critique of the alternatives presented while the Council considers its own stance on local government reorganisation.

Sharon Bennett

SUBMISSION NUMBER	10914
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From: Barbara Mitcalfe [bmitcalfe@clear.net.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 July 2012 9:30 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Cc: Chris Horne
Subject: Submission: Local Government Reform in Wellington
Attachments: WCC.Local Govt Reform.July 2912.doc

Our submission is attached.

Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne

Barbara Mitcalfe
15 Boundary Road
WELLINGTON 6012
Ph/Fax: 475-7149

J. Chris Horne
28 Kaihuia Street
WELLINGTON 6012
Ph: 475-7025; Fax: 475-7253
jchorne@paradise.net.nz

4 July 2012

reform@wcc.govt.nz
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
WELLINGTON

SUBMISSION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON –
What do you think?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the document. We would like to speak in support of this submission.

Option 1

We support this option because it would enable Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to continue the work it does so effectively in, for example:

- ▲ the protection of indigenous ecosystems, and the restoration of degraded ecosystems
- ▲ establishing and managing our network of regional parks and forests
- ▲ the integration and promotion of public transport
- ▲ the provision of a reliable supply of potable water.

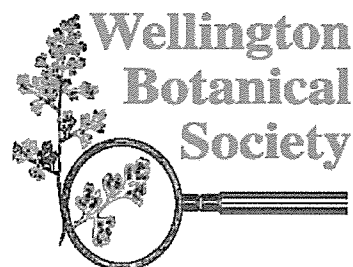
We believe that the above services should not be split among the existing Territorial Local Authorities.

We support in principle, the region's existing Territorial Local Authorities sharing staff, back-office facilities, information technology, waste disposal facilities, mobile machinery, etc, where this can be shown to save money and still provide the level and range of services which meet the community's needs, without compromising the welfare of the region's future communities.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne

PO Box 10-412
Wellington 6143
New Zealand



30 June 2012

Charities Commission Registration CC10518

SUBMISSION TO WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL ON OPTIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON

Submitter: **Wellington Botanical Society**

Contact details: Bev Abbott, 40 Pembroke Rd, Northland, Wellington 6012

bevabbott@xtra.co.nz

Phone 475 8468 (H) (back Monday 23 July 2012).

SUMMARY

1. Wellington Botanical Society encourages Council to adopt and enhance Option 1.
2. We see Option 1 as providing a sound basis for more effective local government throughout the region as it would:
 - retain the benefits of a two-tiered system and the expertise of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW)
 - avoid the disruption of a rushed change in structure, particularly if changes are to be implemented in time for the next local body elections, scheduled for October 2013.
3. From our particular perspective, we also see Option 1 as offering the best prospect for protecting the region's indigenous biodiversity.
4. Nevertheless, we anticipate that Option 1 as currently described is unlikely to be acceptable to central government as it offers only shared-service arrangements, cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale. Additional non-structural enhancements will be required if the downsides of involuntary amalgamations are to be avoided. Enhancements could include commissioning an independent review of Wellington City's governance and management systems with a view to providing ratepayers, residents and central government with a more robust assessment of the costs and benefits of the various amalgamation opportunities. Other enhancements could focus on a concerted effort to identify smarter ways of working.

INTRODUCTION

5. The Wellington Botanical Society welcomes this opportunity to contribute to Council's investigation into 'how Wellingtonians want their city to be governed in the future'. We have also given some thought to how we want the region to be governed.
6. We would like to present key points from our submission to the committee of Council that hears oral submissions.
7. This submission is made in accordance with two of the Society's objectives:
 - *To make, or to join or to cooperate with any other group in making representations on any existing, draft or proposed legislation, regulation or planning document having any repercussions on the preservation or protection of the flora of New Zealand.*
 - *To advocate (for) the preservation of lands and waters under protected area statutes in their natural state.*
8. The starting point for developing this submission was the high level question, "What implications do central government's proposed reforms for local government have for the health of Wellington's indigenous ecosystems?"
9. We are very concerned about central government's intention to amend the purpose statement of the Local Government Act 2002, particularly:
 - the removal of the requirement for councils to "...promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future"
 - its replacement provision "to meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses". (Note that the draft legislation does not define the terms 'local infrastructure' and 'local public services').
10. Council has asked Wellingtonians to show their preference for one of four structural options which have been described at a 'fairly high level'. The following even briefer descriptions have been included here to assist members when considering drafts of this submission.
 - Option 1 – the shared services or collaborative model where the focus would be on cost-sharing and providing better services through economies of scale
 - Option 2 – abolish GW and merge all existing councils into three unitary councils (Wellington Capital and Coast Council, Hutt Valley Council, and Wairarapa Council)
 - Option 3 – abolish GW and merge all existing councils into two councils (Wellington Council and Wairarapa Council).
 - Option 4 – abolish GW, merge all existing councils into one unitary council, and create 10 local "boards" to look after local services.
11. Council may also like to consider a fifth option – retaining Greater Wellington, reducing the five western councils to two or three larger city councils, and advocating for a combined district council for the three district councils in the Wairarapa.

DISCUSSION

Concerns about planning

12. The Society's wish is to see healthy populations and ecosystems of indigenous species throughout the Wellington region. The current responsibilities for the governance and management of these ecosystems are split between the Department of Conservation, GW several local councils and the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust. Our participation in statutory and non-statutory planning processes has given us insights into how each agency manages indigenous biodiversity. We share some of central government's frustration about the local government's planning processes.
- Each agency generates a multiplicity of statutory and non-statutory planning documents, as well as separate decision-making processes.
 - Some of these plans have to be reviewed at relatively short statutory intervals, whether or not there is a valid reason for undertaking a review at the specified time.
 - Tight submission deadlines can be challenging for small NGOs, particularly when deadlines from different agencies or parts of agencies overlap.
 - There is a recent tendency for reviews to "start again" from basic principles instead of reviewing the progress made, and identifying the reasons for any less than satisfactory progress.

Working Smarter

13. The previous paragraph may sound like a strong argument for amalgamations, but that is not our intention. We see Option 1 as providing incentives for Wellington's public sector agencies with conservation mandates to work smarter, not harder. We think a convincing argument can be mounted that the down-time and resources required to implement options 2, 3 or 4 would be better invested in developing new ways of working collaboratively under Option 1.
14. Working smarter could involve:
- adopting a network approach to the development of open spaces across tenure boundaries (based on the GW Parks Network Plan)
 - investing in thorough preparation for the implementation of the Regional Policy Statement (when appeals to the Environment Court are resolved)
 - further rationalisations of governance and operational responsibilities for blocks of land
 - streamlining some decision-making processes, for example, was consultation with the public as part of the Draft LTP really necessary before introducing new operational arrangements for parts of Belmont Park?)
 - advocating for increased clarity about the roles and responsibilities of central and local government
 - developing better aligned and integrated information management systems based on GW's scientifically-based environmental indicators (see box 1 below).

Box 1: WCC and GW approaches to Ecosystem Quality Indicators¹

Wellington City Council's current measure for the enhancement of biodiversity and native species health is primarily perceptual, i.e. "residents' perceptions that the natural environment is appropriately managed and protected".

Greater Wellington sets out its measures in *Progress with Community Outcomes 2009. Pages 15-17.*

- *Ecosystem health in Parks and Forests:* GW has begun to carry out vegetation plot assessments which look at the age-class structure of trees in an area. Together with bird counts in selected areas, these assessments provide the basis for considering whether there are changes in ecosystem quality.
- *Ecosystem health in harbour, estuary and beach environments:* GW began monitoring coastal ecology in 2004 with broad-scale surveys being undertaken of coastal habitats and fine-scale sediment, and ecological assessments undertaken at representative locations of selected estuaries and sandy beaches.

Concerns about Options 2, 3 and 4

15. The Society's main concern about options 2, 3 and 4 is that they all result in the disestablishment of GW.
16. Council's discussion document addressed only some of the implications of removing the regional council. It focused on service delivery functions such as bulk water supply and public transport, and how these services could be carried out if GW were disestablished. (Mechanisms include CCOs, CCTOs, joint committees, and contracts for services). The descriptions left us with many concerns about the complexity and limited accountability in the associated governance arrangements.
17. Options 2, 3 and 4 are also likely to generate the tensions and conflicts faced by unitary councils with conflicting roles and governance responsibilities. Each unitary council will be responsible for setting and enforcing its own rules for the protection of the environment. Where rules have been breached, smart penalties are required to avoid punishing ratepayers by reducing the resources that would have been invested in other forms of environmental management. Retaining GW with its oversight responsibilities lessens, but does not remove this problem entirely. From time to time, GW will still be gamekeeper and poacher.
18. A further concern about Option 4 is the diversity of the communities involved, i.e. rural/semi-urban/macro cities, and likely levels of angst about the ability of smaller communities to influence decision-making.
19. We would like Council to disseminate additional information about the implications of disestablishing GW, including, for example, identification of the gaps in capability and/or capacity that Wellington City Council may need to address if GW were to be disestablished.

Greater Wellington

20. GW plays a significant role in the protection and conservation of indigenous ecosystems throughout the region. It is also showing significant leadership in integrated environmental planning under the Resource Management Act. Their five-yearly state of the environment reports are becoming more comprehensive over time and provide a source of scientifically-based information about the state of natural resources throughout the region. This role does not necessarily endear them to polluters and public agencies with environmental management responsibilities.

21. GW has recently created a Biodiversity Department to bring together functional responsibility for all GW's biodiversity activities. A coordinated focus across diverse functional areas is expected to create opportunities and reduce threats to indigenous biodiversity. GW's Biodiversity Department is also planning to produce a regional strategy that establishes a regional vision, objectives and priorities for management. This initiative creates an opportunity to integrate objectives and strategies from documents such as Greater Wellington's draft Regional Policy Statement, the Regional Strategy and the Regional Pest Management Plan.
22. We are not reassured by statements suggesting that if GW were to be disestablished, all GW staff would be transferred to the new unitary authorities. Legislation can include such provisions, but in practice, the internal restructurings to achieve cost-savings that often follow amalgamations, can result in significant loss of capability and institutional memory.
23. We hope Council will recognise the benefits to its own biodiversity programmes of retaining GW's expertise and mandate.

OTHER FACTORS THAT MAY BE RELEVANT

24. A quick environmental scan identified a range of issues and opportunities that may have implications for the future roles and activities of local government. We urge Council to consider the following as it makes a decision about its preferred option:
 - the Land and Water Forum which has been receiving a positive press
 - any decisions announced following public consultation in 2011 about the Draft Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and the proposed Environmental Reporting Bill
 - any early themes emerging from submissions on the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill
 - further shifts in private and public sector thinking following the release of the report of the Green Growth Advisory Group (*Greening New Zealand's Growth*) and the first report from Pure Advantage
 - any themes emerging from the process initiated by GW and Porirua City Council
 - any early themes emerging from early stages of the review of the Conservation Management Strategy for the Wellington Conservancy 2005-2015
 - recent changes in the Department of Conservation's business model and potential reductions in the capacity of the Department of Conservation in Wellington, Kapiti and the Wairarapa as a result of the next round of DOC restructuring (2012/2013)

CONCLUSION

25. Our preference is for an enhanced Option 1.

Do you have any other comments?

Councillors should remain open till 8pm Mon-Fri

Fold

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

FREEPOST (see over ->)

Fold

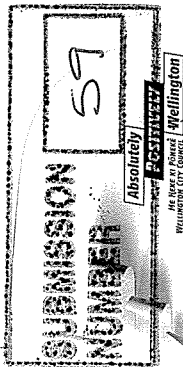
Freepost Authority Number 2199



10-

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

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 then 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

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/Miss/Dr (circle which applies)

First name* Carla

Last name* DEBSON

Street address* Quays Court Flats

Flat 17/15 Kyx St

Wellington

WCCINGJW 6022

Phone /Mobile 380-6477

(0) Day from 7am

Email lit

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

How long do you have?

Submissions close on 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.

* Mandatory fields

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?

Financial
 broader sense of community
 greater efficiency
 greater sense of unity
 Kaiti copying

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 Kaiti District?

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

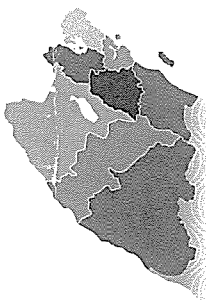
Unsure

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

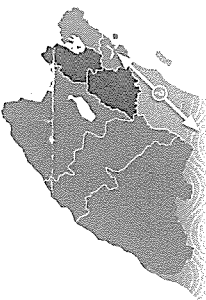
Under this option local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for?

pest management
 Air
 forestry (keep native trees)
 ship mooring across country
 roads
 libraries (+ further keep library funds)
 when Ariva Service (Kaiti-outer Hutt)

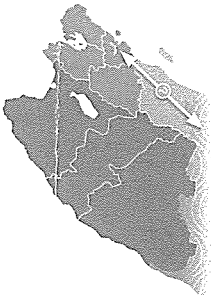
The four options



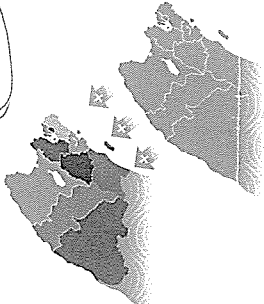
OPTION 1 – shared services or collaborative model. No change to existing boundaries for councils, but we would agree to formally share or bring together the management of certain services.
 The focus would be on cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale. (See page 15)



OPTION 2 – merge all existing councils into three unitary councils:
 Wellington Capital and Coast Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua City and Kaiti 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 Kaiti 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. (See page 21)

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



Do you have any other comments?

Reflect officers views
Respect club views
I came 2 read Ethnic Forum @ MFL (Cion course)
I live in a nice flat + just buy it!!

Fold

(FREE - see over ->)

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



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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* Celia
Last name* DeLacy

Street address* Burrows Court Flats 1
Flat 17/15 Fox St
Murphy
Wigram 6022

Phone /Mobile 380-6477
Email _____

* Mandatory fields

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.

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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: _____

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

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

Financial
made it "lighter"
more sense of community
check out sense of unity
more practical ability
Efficiency
Improved Effectiveness
Ambiguity isn't Awareness
Need for lower level to expand

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: _____

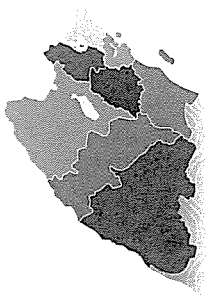
- Unsure

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

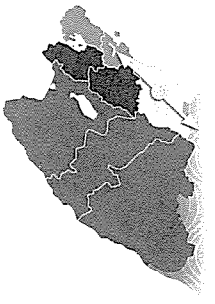
Under this option local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for?

water
past central
No walking
No cutting trees down
Finance items + Events + people
Te Papa (no financial cuts as proposed)
Community Gardens
Libraries - keep all Events (maintaining)
Safety + Signposts

The four options



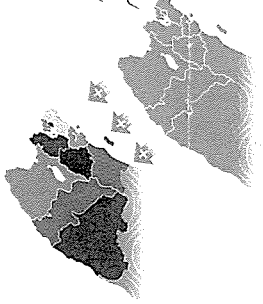
OPTION 1 - shared services or collaborative model. No change to existing boundaries for councils, but we would agree to formally share or bring together the management of certain services. ✓
The focus would be on cost sharing and providing better services through economies of scale. ✓



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. ✓



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. ✓

947

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON



Do you have any other comments?

*Wairarapa merged with Hutt city with no real problems
no I doubt if there would be any problems if the two
Hutt City's became one.*

Fold

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

Fold



Freeport 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.

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- ▶ 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.

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* Mandatory fields

Enter your name and contact details

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

First name* *PAUL*
Last name* *LEWIS*

Street address* *965 COAST RD
WILMINGTON
5373*

Phone / Mobile *(04) 364 5918*

Email *d.j.lewis@actra.com*

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?

*Both existing councils are in the Hutt valley.
 As a rural rate payer I would have a huge increase in rates on Wainui Plains not have a rural differential. Being a large city from services & mobility many use should be rural lower*

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: *There must be a reduction in the rateable value of rural properties*

 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 I think it would be an advantage*

- No

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

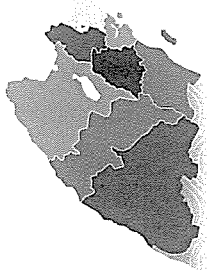
- All of Kapiti should remain part of the new Wellington council
 Only part of Kapiti should remain part of the new council (for example, the south part of Kapiti)
 Kapiti should not remain in the new council
 Other, please tell us:

- 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.

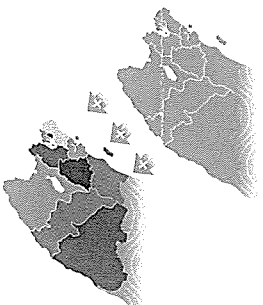


OPTION 2 – merge all existing councils into three unitary councils:
Wellington Capital and Coast Council – combining Wellington City, Porirua City and Kapiti Coast District into one unitary authority.

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**

1157

Sharon Bennett

From: eileen.b@clear.net.nz
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 11:43 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: Eileen

Last Name: Brown

Street Address: 113 Daniell Street

Suburb: Newtown

City: Wellington

Phone: 04 3801246

Email: eileen.b@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: remain the same

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 evidence about the effectiveness of amalgamations has been overstated and there should be a through review of how Auckland City Council is operating and its effectiveness and the views of Aucklanders before Wellington were to proceed with any amalgamation.

All of the other options would result in reduced elected representation at a local government level

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 there is a proposal developed which ensures strong community input into how council related services can be shared more effectively across the region and that this proposal takes account of the impacts on staff and the effects on them of more shared services.

Do you have any other comments: Thanks to the Council for undertaking this process and increasing the awareness among Wellington citizens about the local Government reforms that are being pushed forward by Central Government without adequate evidence and with lack of input from the communities of interest they will affect.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

905

Sharon Bennett

From: johnrimington@clear.net.nz
Sent: Tuesday, 26 June 2012 10:35 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: John

Last Name: Rimington

Street Address: 50 Chester Road

Suburb: Tawa

City: Wellington

Phone: 04 232 7358

Email: johnrimington@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: Another option

Another option - details: Predominantly keep the existing structure but

a) encourage/explore amalgamation of the three Wairarapa authorities plus the two Hutt authorities, and

b) enhance powers of Regional Council as a regulator of the environmental pollution, provider of regional strategic planning, and

c) explore greater Regional (or regional) provision of infrastructural services such as water, sewerage, waste and transport, and

c) encourage existence of Community Boards and explore greater powers (by delegation) in local decision making, and

d) explore the option of local Councils being the responsible authority for social (State) housing.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: No evidence has yet been presented on the need for a major restructuring (super city, etc) other than ephemeral postulations such as 'having an equal say to Auckland'.

I see a need to improve environmental regulation plus enhance long term strategic planning for the Wellington Region. Some services such as waste, water, sewerage and transport are delivered more efficiently by a cross regional approach - but including strong local representation.

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

Do you have any other comments: I have previously taught (1980s) on the structure of UK Local Government. I was Minister for Local Government and the Environment in the Isle of Man (2004-6) and have practical knowledge in this area - although within a small jurisdiction.



P.O. Box 19091
Wellington

Tel 0210787747

6 July 2012

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

1205

Wellington City Council
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN WELLINGTON

My response is as follows:

- That Wellington City Council's responsibilities and boundaries to remain the same.
- That Greater Wellington Regional Council's responsibilities and boundaries to remain the same.

I wish to make an oral submission.

Yours sincerely


Victor Davie

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

1188

Sharon Bennett

From: Huggins, Tom [T.J.Huggins@massey.ac.nz]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 4:41 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Cc: innermostgardens@gmail.com; christina@sustaintrust.org.nz
Subject: Submission on Behalf of Local Food Network

Attachments: Local Food Network 2012-05-reform-submission.pdf



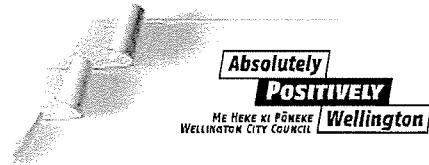
Local Food Network
2012-05-ref...

Please find a submission on the Local Government Reform attached.

Regards,

Tom

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:

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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 / Ms / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)

First name* Thomas

Last name* Huggins

Street address* c/- Massey University

PO Box 756

Wellington 6140

Phone /Mobile 04 801 5799 x62456

Email t.j.huggins@massey.ac.nz

* Mandatory fields

I am making a submission

- As an individual
 On behalf on an organisation

Name of organisation The Local Food Network

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 on 6 July 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:

Four horizontal lines for text input.

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

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

We believe only back-office aspects of Wellington City Council can be effectively shared across the region, in addition to parts already shared. Our urban agriculture communities enjoy a close relationship with elected representatives (including the Mayor) and with council personnel (including the community resilience team). These relationships have been essential to initiating and continuing many of our community gardens and associated activities. We do not believe we would receive the same level of support, or even communication, from a regional level.

Three horizontal lines for text input.

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: It appears that some kind of change is inevitable. Option 1 is our preferred option for this inevitable change, bearing in mind our need to personally connect with our city council and have our voices heard amongst the many decisions they are called upon to make. Sharing council services such as council housing and community resilience would not meet our needs. Our essential contacts in council would end up being spread over a wide geographic area, much too far from the grass roots of our communities.

- 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. (See page 15)



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

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

Greater Wellington Regional Council would be abolished. (See page 17)

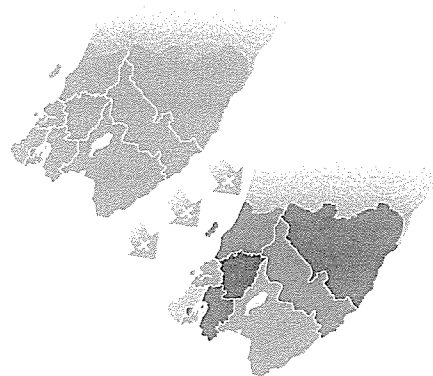


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Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into another unitary authority.

Again, the Regional Council would be abolished. (See page 19)



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. (See page 21)

Do you have any other comments?

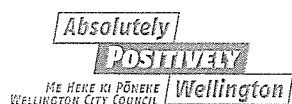
The Local Food Network includes members of urban agriculture and other local food initiatives, who are mostly located within Wellington City. This group was formerly known as the Urban Agriculture Steering Group.

Fold

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

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

1158

Sharon Bennett

From: Aumaga Sa'obao [aumaga_saoao@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 11:41 a.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform; Janette Wallace Gedge
Cc: vekenasio@ymail.com; aumaga_saoao@hotmail.com; rev.ttofilau@xtra.co.nz;
tfilemoni@phswgtn.org.nz; fptui@xtra.co.nz; ana.too@hotmail.com;
seu.collins@xtra.co.nz; joe_alaifea@hotmail.com; paan46_pipcnewtown@clear.net.nz;
ida.faiumu_isaako@ccdhb.org.nz
Subject: Reform Submission - Samoan Community Wellington
Attachments: Samoan community Wellington collective submission WCC - 5 July 2012.doc

To Whom It May concern

Please find attached is the Samoan Community Wellington submission on the Local Government Reform in Wellington.

Regards

Leaupepe Anthony Leaupepe on behalf of the Samoan Community Wellington

6/07/2012

Local Government Reform in Wellington

Submission on behalf of:

Contact name: Leaupepe Anthony
Leaupepe, Violeti Ekenasio
Email: aumaga_saoao@hotmail.com;
vekenasio@ymail.com

**Organisation: Samoan community,
Wellington**

Title/position: Samoan Representatives WCC
Pacific Advisory Group

**To: Wellington Governance Submission
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140**

Date: 5 July 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Wellington City Council Local Government Reform discussion document. We would also like to present an oral submission to the Wellington City Council.

Members of the Samoan community in Wellington met at the ASB Cobham Drive Stadium on Friday evening 1 July 2012 and Tuesday evening 03 July 2012. The meeting was organised and initiated by the two Samoan Representatives on the WCC Pacific Advisory Group (Leaupepe Anthony Leaupepe & Violeti Ekenasio)

In attendance were Church leaders, family leaders (fathers and mothers), men and women, some of whom are matai title holders who are well respected and are very active within the Samoan Church communities and within their own fields of work. These people attended because they care and are concerned with any change that is likely to be effected.

As Samoans, we are positive that the Wellington Council are already sharing some services with Porirua. We highly commend the Wellington City Council staffs who attended the meeting and their commitment to run these consultations in the communities closer to home, as often the majority of our people are not comfortable in going into Council chambers and building, where they will have to pay for parking.

Furthermore, we believe that this part of Aotearoa New Zealand should observe with sensitivity any lesson that could be learned from the *Auckland Supercity* roll-off and not to hurry but less haste with care. The Samoan community puts to the Wellington City council that any change if change is inevitable, has to be good for all.

1. CONCERNS

The Samoan community have had the opportunity to analyse and discuss the background information provided to us by Council staff. The following concerns were raised should there be change/changes:

- i) We would not like to be deprived of the Pacific Advisory Group (P.A.G.) if there is change in the future. We would like the **Terms of**

- Reference** for the P.A.G to be amended to align closer to the governance level of the Council;
- ii) 'Community Board' is not an option for us, and we would not entertain such an idea;
 - iii) Any change would see the Services currently under the jurisdiction of the W.C.C. (Water, transport, Waste Management etc) being relinquished to agencies/contractors that will impact negatively on us as dwellers and rate payers in Wellington. **It is our desire that such services be retained and would remain within the Wellington City Council for ease of access;**
 - iv) Such negative ways we could be affected by a Change are the:
 - Rise in costs that does not consider the disparity in the income levels between the well-to-do and the lower income earners,
 - The difficulty to access such services and providers
 - A multiplicity of other charges that are currently part of our Rates being teased out separately
 - v) We could be swallowed up in a conglomerate of change resulting in the Wellington City Council /and Wellington as a city losing 'its character'. **Our wish is for Wellington to retain its 'uniqueness'**
 - vi) As a 'people', any change might bring in a Multi-layer Structure in the Governance and Management that would see our concerns our issues, and our people at the bottom of the heap. **WE PREFER LESS LAYERS AND A DIRECT ACCESS TO OUR COUNCILLORS.**
 - vii) Any change and merger will undoubtedly mean job losses for some people. We are concerned that some of our pacific people will be amongst them.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Samoan Community makes the following recommendation for consideration should there be change/changes:

- A '**vote at large system**' or review of the election system that would allow for some Samoan/Pacific representation in the Council in the future. Of note, Samoan people make up the majority of Pacific Island population in the Wellington region.
- Allocation of tagged funds to be called "**Pacific development funds**" to support community development towards upgrading church owned facilities like halls, church-centred buildings. These buildings and centres are often used by the community at large for civil and society enhancing purposes.

Faafetai

Members of Samoan Community – Wellington City

527

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.

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- ▶ Email to reform@wccc.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* MARGARET
Last name* GAZLEY

Street address* 28/274 BRUNNAR 132

Phone / Mobile 384 6147
Email _____

* Mandatory fields

Do you have any other comments?

Proceding WITH STEEL

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



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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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?

*STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP FOR THE
 REGIONAL REGION & BEYOND IS WANTED
 IN THE LONGER TERM WITH IDEAS
 TO COMBINE WITH ANOTHER COUNCIL
 AND THE WORTHIER REASON FOR
 THIS CHANGING OF THE REGIONAL
 REGIONAL*

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:
*EXISTING THAT THE LOCAL BOARDS
 HAVE SIMILAR LEADERSHIP WITH
 STATE & REGIONAL INTERESTS*

No *WITH THE COUNCIL*

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: _____

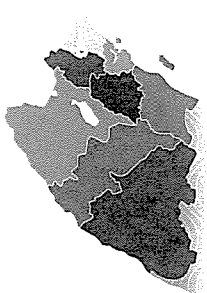
 Unsure

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?

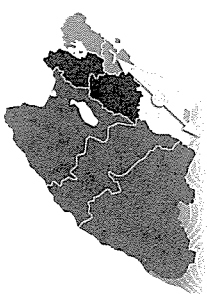
EVERYTHING THAT IS LOCAL

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

Greater Wellington Regional Council would be abolished.

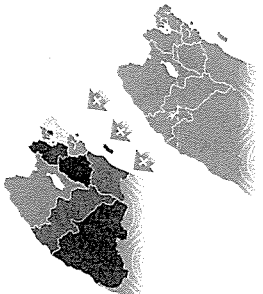


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Wairarapa Council – combining South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils into another unitary authority.

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

1193

Sharon Bennett

From: lancecgunderson@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 4:56 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: Lance
Last Name: Gunderson
Street Address: 10 Goring St
Suburb: Thorndon
City: Wellington
Phone: 021 568 213
Email: lancecgunderson@gmail.com

I would like to make an oral submission: Yes

I am making this submission: on behalf of an organisation

Organisation Name: Thorndon Residents 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 4

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: For the reasons covered in detail in the document emailed to review@wcc.govt.nz at 4.30pm Friday 6 July 2012. To be read together as a single submission.

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: No

Under this option, local boards would also have elected representatives. What would you want local boards to be responsible for: Local Boards should be responsible for providing a community-centric decision which reflects the majority viewpoint of the communities residents on any matters affecting local communities BEFORE council 'consults' beyond the local community.

If the majority of the community (rather than the board) is opposed, the decision should not be passed by the board. Nothing about us without us!

Boards will need to be a lot more transparent, responsive and proactive in discovering their communities views than councils have been, if they're to be any better at serving the community. Remember, government exists for the citizen, NOT the other way round.

Do you have any other comments: This online form is part of the Thorndon Residents Association submission.

We seek time for a delegation to speak to the submission.

Sharon Bennett

From: Lance Gunderson (DPT) [Lance.Gunderson@dompost.co.nz]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 4:30 p.m.
To: BUS: Local Government Reform
Cc: 'Thorndon Residents' Association'; 'lancecgunderson@gmail.com'
Subject: Thorndon Residents Association submission to Wellington City Council on Local Government Reform - plus separate online submission form
Attachments: TRA WCC Local Govt Reform submission (FINAL).doc

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Wellington Local Government Reform

Thorndon Residents Association (TRA) Submission to Wellington City Council (WCC) 6 July 2012
thorndonresidents@gmail.com (Ph: 021 568 213 – Lance Gunderson).

Preferred Option: 4. This page forms part of the TRA online submission.

TRA request time for a delegation to speak to this submission.

Rates have increased considerably more than the rate of inflation every year in the decade since the Local Government Act 2002 was passed, which is completely unsustainable for households in the present economic climate – predicted to last many more years.

Officer numbers and salary spend are the most significant revenue-cost component of TLA budgets, yet elected mayors and councils have no direct power to constrain either. Elected officials – councillors and mayors – if not reluctant chief executives, must begin to set the policy agenda and drive a political programme of action which is community-centric, restrains rate increases, prioritises core expenditure and trims bureaucracy. Communities also want to see far effective expenditure: for example \$120,000 for a complete solution to make the Thorndon pool a multi-functional community facility, instead of suggesting a \$320,000 “feasibility study” before any action is even contemplated.

Despite council debt in the Wellington region ballooning in the decade since 2002, vital capital expenditure on regional infrastructure has either not occurred, or been insufficiently committed to essential public infrastructure. For example, we still face paying for long-awaited and hugely necessary roading improvements such as Transmission Gully, the Otaki-Wellington Airport transport corridor, or expansion of Wellington’s inadequate regional airport. Major infrastructural expenditure needs a co-ordinated and committed response, preferably from a unified regional local government, to avoid the continuous delays, and patchwork provision of such essentials as roads, air transport connections to markets, water supply and waste treatment.

Auckland City enjoys a single unitary council of 21 members, with a streamlined officer structure, serving the needs of 1.5 million people. In Wellington City alone there is a large bureaucracy and 15 councillors serving just 200,000 residents. There is also manifestly excessive and costly duplication of local government structures across the region: 9 full councils and 9 attendant bureaucracies are replicated in a region with a population of less than 500,000. The result is management in silos, massive duplication of effort and expense, conflict and competition between authorities, and the sub-optimisation and waste of scarce resources. Wellington – and the region – experiences poorer outcomes overall. Rather than efficient solutions to shared challenges, local government delivers stagnation, political stand-offs, or duplication and patchy provision of essential public services: everything from economic development, to infrastructure, to libraries.

Past experience has betrayed a lack of transparency in local government decision-making: vocal but unrepresentative minorities shape officer advice, leading councillors to propose decisions which don’t reflect the majority will of the community. 21st century local government needs to focus big-picture, strategic planning regionally, but follow the community’s lead on local decision-making. Subsidiarity should be the guiding principle, with decisions made as close as possible to communities they directly affect. Council decisions need to follow a mandate from the community as to which local services are valued, what decisions have support – and which don’t. Residents and citizens organisations have the skills and motivation to provide elected representatives with clear community advice. Officer capture is a poor basis for progressing enduring, community supported change.

Finally there are reasons why participation in local elections has fallen off in Wellington: there is a voter perception of powerlessness to influence the wider elected council when one’s vote is quarantined in a ward system. Wellington voters can only directly elect 3 councillors from a total of 15 – yet all councillors have a vote on every decision affecting any voter. The undemocratic council ward system is long-overdue for abolition: councillors should be elected “at large”, on proper manifestos, subject to judgement on their performance at the ballot box. It should also hardly need to be said that, for the record, council debates should be properly recorded, rather than lost in the ether as soon as they’re uttered. Rich and extensive information is simply being lost and thus endlessly reinvented with each iteration of a topic. Please, begin by capturing your own valuable information first! Low cost digital technology already exists to record and share council debates and proceedings.

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

1029

Sharon Bennett

From: royalist0007@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, 29 June 2012 4:01 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: Aidan

Last Name: Work

Street Address: 113/70 Nairn St

Suburb: Te Aro

City: Wellington

Phone: 0221 8969 17

Email: royalist0007@gmail.com

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 favour retaining all the current Councils, except for the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The 'supercity' idea will be totally disastrous, as has been proven up in Auckland.

What is the main reason/s that you chose this preferred option: I don't believe in duplicating jurisdictions in the same area.

Of course, I am an opponent of a 'supercity', as the Auckland experiment has proved to be totally disastrous.

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

Do you have any other comments: I am an opponent of any proposals to reserve separate 'Maori seats' on a local council as I regard apartheid as totally immoral & totally repugnant to my Royalist

belief system.

Parliament is trying to remove the right of the public to a referendum process at local level. To me, that is not only totally offensive, but totally anti-democratic. Imposing a local government system without public consent will NEVER ever find support from me under any circumstances.

True Royalists like me believe very strongly in constitutional government - which is elected by the people, serves the people, & obeys the wishes of the people. If the local government refused to do this, then the people should have full rights to remove both the local government & to remove individual Councillors when it is warranted.
