

# Overview

- What's happening in the region
  - Some Councils engaging directly with their communities
  - GWRC and Porirua City Council 'Independent Panel'
- Wellington City Council – early consultation on the need for reform and scale of reform preferred
  - Four options
  - Region-wide survey
- Next Steps

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# What's happening in the region

- All councils, with the exception of Porirua and the Regional Council, have agreed to consult with their communities directly on options
  - Most based on Wellington City Council's four options
  - Wairarapa focussing mainly on amalgamation of their area, but watching progress on this side of the hill
- GWRC and Porirua City Council have set up an 'independent panel' to investigate and recommend on governance reform

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# GWRC Independent Panel

- GWRC and PCC have established an independent review panel
  - Chaired by Sir Geoffrey Palmer; also Sue Driver, Wira Gardner and Bryan Jackson
  - Panel to report on governance arrangements for the region by October 2013
  - Panel asked to also engage with the community
  - Outcome of panel findings likely to be sent to Local Government Commission

# Wellington City Council options

- Key features of discussion document:
  - Asking whether people think changes are needed
  - Four options, from staying the same (but more shared services) through to full ‘super city’
  - What is driving people’s views on the need for change and their preferred options
- A regional survey
  - Survey of 3,300 residents across the region
  - Based on the four options and reasoning behind people’s decisions
  - Some councils also asking specific questions of their residents

# Option 1: Councils remain, shared services formalised



# How to govern and manage shared services

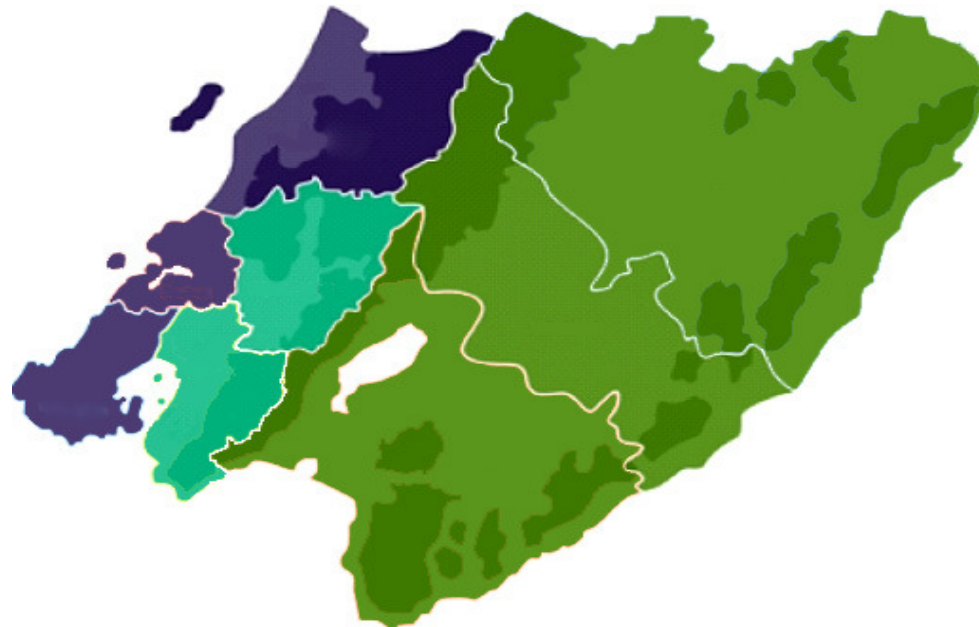
- Questions asked about how this might work
- 3 broad ways to manage
  - Jointly owned CCO (e.g. Capacity for the 3 waters)
  - Joint Committee of elected representatives (e.g. regional amenities fund)
  - Contract, either:
    - have a lead Council that delivers the shared service under contract to other councils (e.g. one council to send all the rates bills); or
    - Councils jointly contract a service from an external provider

# Removing the regional council

- Option 2 and 3 remove the regional council (Options 4 merges everyone)
- The Regional Council provides services that extend across local boundaries
  - they fund and manage public transport services and planning
  - build and maintain flood protection works
  - are responsible for harbour safety, control pest plants and animals
  - monitor and regulate the use of the natural environment including waterways, air and land
  - carry out land management to prevent soil erosion.
  - the Regional Council also manages regional parks and reserves and supplies bulk drinking water to the four cities
- Some of these functions can be absorbed by the new unitary authorities under options 2 and 3, others would probably need some form of shared service arrangement
- Many staff from GWRC would likely transfer to new unitary authorities

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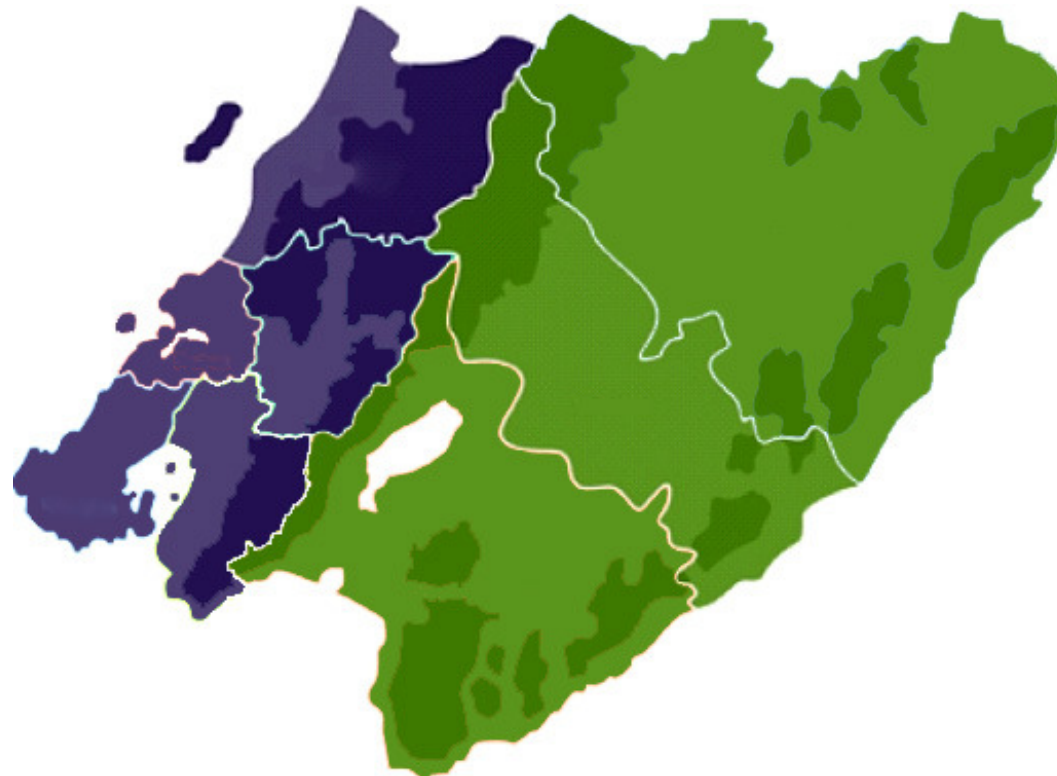
# Option 2: nine councils become three Unitary Authorities



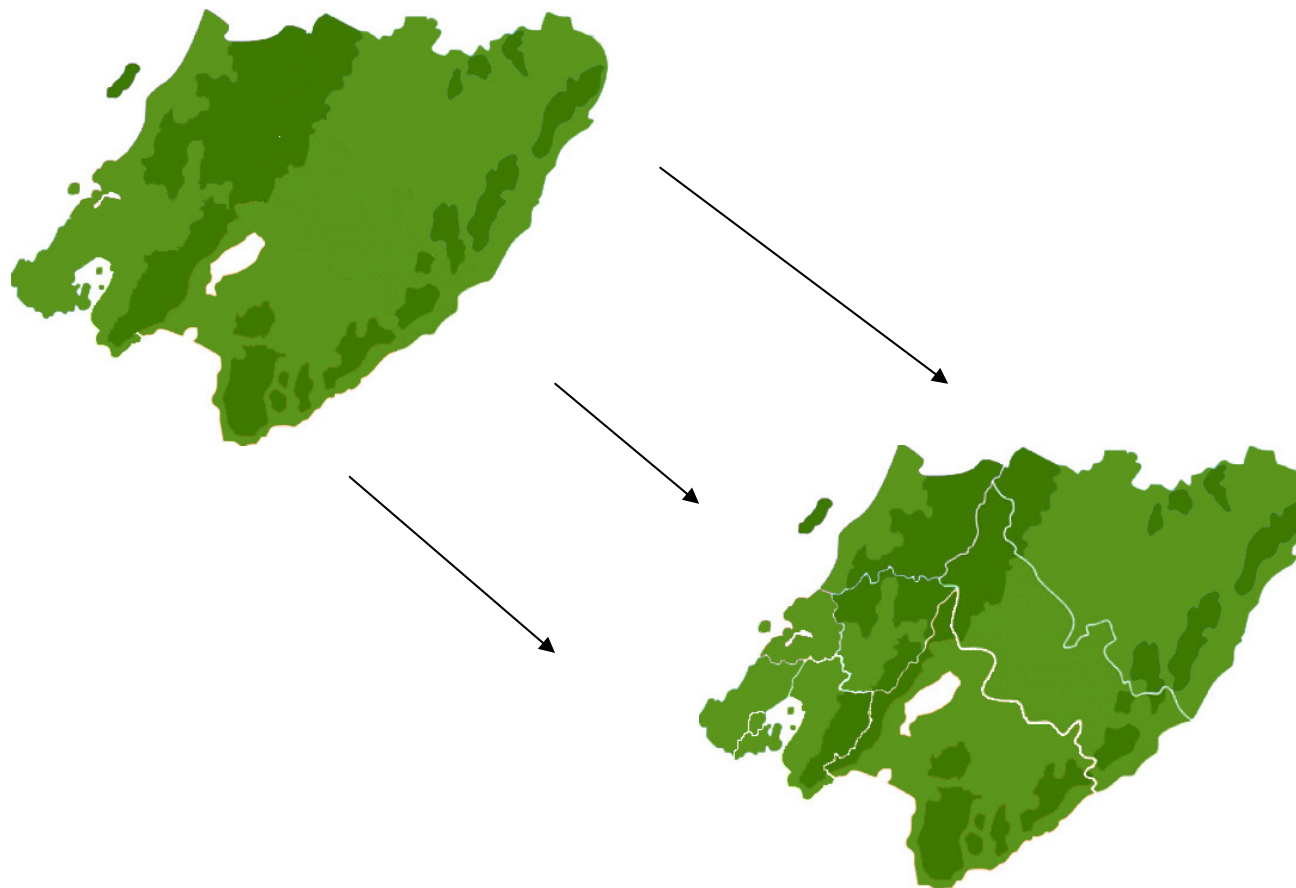


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# Option 3: nine councils become two Unitary Authorities



# Option 4: One council + 10 boards



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# Next Steps

- Officers will report back to SPC in early August on consultation outcomes and with advice on the next steps
- Three likely options:
  - Do nothing
  - Develop preferred proposal/s in detail, and consult on those
  - Develop preferred proposal and submit to LGC
- Will depend on the timing of Government reforms, feedback from the public and further analysis to inform this Council's view on regional governance.

# Questions:

- **What particular ERG-related functions and services have significant implications for the choice of a preferred structural option?**
- **Option 1: Shared services model**
  - What mechanisms are available for implementing the shared services model? (e.g. CCOs, CCTOs, Mayoral forums, committees chaired by GW). Are there any others?
  - What environmental services are currently delivered through different types of shared service mechanisms? How well are these working, and how do you know?
  - How does WCC work with other Councils to protect the natural environment? (e.g. Wellington Harbour, Porirua Harbour, contribution to Regional Policy Statements, Regional Plans, monitoring environmental indications, e.g. fresh water quality).
- **Options 2 or 3: Disestablishment of Greater Wellington Regional Council**
  - What new environmental management capabilities would WCC have to develop if GW were disestablished? Which would be the biggest challenge/stretch?