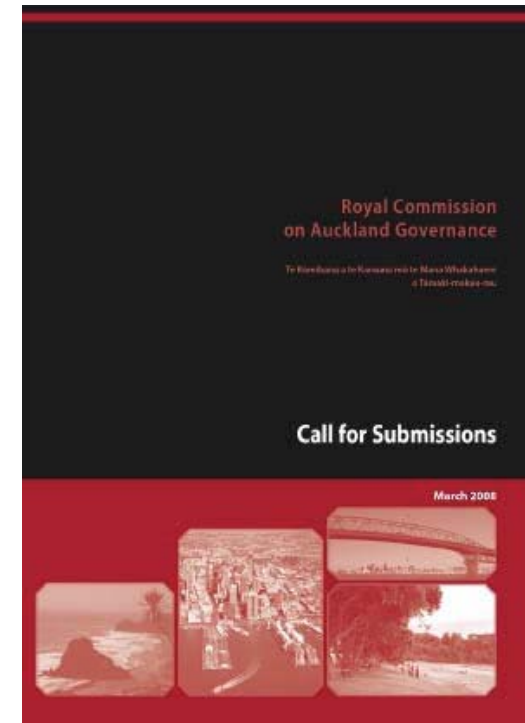


Enhancing the 'local' in Auckland's governance



28 April 2009



Royal Commission
on Auckland Governance

Te Kōwhiriwhiri i te Kōwhiriwhiri ki Te Māori Whakahaere
o Tāmaki Makarau

Call for Submissions

March 2008

Overview of presentation

1. The evolution of community governance 1989-2009
2. Contemporary local governance and the Royal Commission's proposals for Auckland
3. The government's response – proposals for enhancing local governance

Evolution of community governance 1989-2009

1989 amendments to LGA 1974

37 K Purposes of local government – The purposes of local government in New Zealand are to provide, at the appropriate levels of local government

- Recognition of the existence of different communities in New Zealand
- Recognition of the identities and values of those different communities...
- Recognition of communities of interest:...
- For the effective participation of local persons in local government.

Community governance 1989-2009

1989 amendments to LGA 1974

- Special consultative procedure
- Annual planning process

1996 amendments to LGA 1974

- Long term (10 year) Fiscal strategy

LGA 2002

The purpose of local government is-

- To enable local democratic decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities;
and
- To promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future.

LGA 2002 cont'd

- Governance principles
- Principles of consultation
- Maori contributions to decision-making
- Community engagement in long-term planning





Part 2

Contemporary local governance and the Royal Commission's proposals for Auckland

Community governance 2009

- 2008 research highlights good awareness of long-term community planning processes
- Embeddedness of public participation in open government – emergent shared governance
- Sub-local representation
- Increasing urgency of improving Maori contributions to local decision-making



RCAG recommendations re local governance

- Shared governance (2 tiers: unitary Auckland Council and 6 local councils)
- Maori seats safeguarded
- Focus on local engagement and place-shaping role



Shared governance

- Legislative requirements to “ensure close cooperation” between Auckland Council members and local councils including
 - Meeting together several times a year for purposes of strategy formulation
 - Attendance by local council chairs at Auckland Council meetings with speaking but not voting rights and Auckland councillor attendance at local council meetings (speaking but not voting rights)
 - 3 yearly governance agreement

Community engagement

Consultation may be viewed as a “legislative requirement undertaken reluctantly, instead of an opportunity to engage communities in forward planning” (Vol. 1 Report p297)

“Engagement must reach the right people, those with a genuine concern and knowledge about a particular issue. Achieving this requires agility, in terms of how, when, and where local government interacts with its communities.”
(Vol. 1 Report p 305)

Māori participation in governance

- 3 seats on Auckland Council – 1 with manawhenua status; 2 elected by voters on Māori Electoral Roll
- Bringing local government into the 21st century – guaranteed representation



Forum

- Consistent with LGA 2002



Part 3

Making Auckland Greater and enhancing local governance

Government's high-level decisions

- 20 to 30 Local Boards across the region with prescribed roles and functions
- Status quo for Māori wards/constituencies (possible poll in 2010)



Local Boards

The new system for Auckland governance is much simpler, more co-ordinated and will provide for community representation at grassroots level. The Local Boards will have prescribed roles and functions, but will not replicate the service delivery structures that will be managed by the new Auckland Council....

The Boards will provide the ability for residents and ratepayers to influence decision making, while the Council will fulfil the functions that are most appropriately managed on a regional basis.

- Minister of Local Government

Local Boards – terms of engagement

- will not be separate legal entities
- cannot raise their own revenue or hire staff
- will have an advocacy role and channel local input into the Auckland Council's plans
- can develop local policies for purely local issues (e.g. dog control, liquor licensing and graffiti control)
- can petition Auckland Council for additional services funded by a targeted rate for the local area, a local rate rise or reprioritisation of projects for their area

Conclusions

- Ensure local boards share governance and take on place-shaping role
- Interim solution for fair and effective Maori representation
- Quality local engagement should inform regional plans and policies

Wellington billboard

