

# Wellington Review Panel Report - findings

# The case for change

- Challenging context, driven by changes in Auckland/Christchurch
- Responding to demand from Central Government to be more effective and efficient
- Doing things that are **Not** being done demands attention and focus – regional and local

# Key regional challenges

- **Leadership** – the Wellington region lacks a single voice
- **Resilience** – potentially our greatest threat
- **Planning** – need to reduce complexity and achieve more effective strategy
- **Infrastructure** – integration and funding, to meet the demand for world class infrastructure
- **Efficiency and effectiveness** – responding to tough global economic conditions

# Key local opportunities

- Authentic engagement with communities on truly local issues - over and above statutory consultation processes.
- Better prioritisation of local issues
- Better community involvement in the planning and design of local places and spaces

# The above reflect key findings from Panel's engagement

- Want to retain a local voice
- Want more authentic local democracy
- Want a stronger regional voice
- Do not want a single “supercity”
- No more rates increases

# Structural Reform

- Guided by assessment of function and issues
- Guided by the principle of subsidiarity - all activities delivered locally unless:
  - The activity is part of a wider network
  - The activity is large in scale or duplicated
  - Decisions affect a wider community
  - The activity spans the region or requires specialist expertise

# Key recommendations



# An integrated two-tier system





# Representation

## Panel's recommendations:

Greater Wellington Council	Number of Councillors
Lord Mayor	Elected at large
Central Wellington	4 councillors
Lower Hutt	2 councillors
Upper Hutt	1 councillor
Porirua	1 councillor
Kapiti	1 councillor
Wairarapa	1 councillor
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

Local Area Council	Number of Councillors
Central Wellington (area of current Wellington City Council)	14
Lower Hutt (area of current Hutt City Council)	12
Upper Hutt (area of current Upper Hutt City Council)	10
Porirua (area of current Porirua City Council)	10
Kapiti Coast (area of current Kapiti Coast City Council)	10
Wairarapa (area of current Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa Councils)	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>

# Representation

## Panel's recommendations:

- Relatively small 1<sup>st</sup> tier council
- 2<sup>nd</sup> tier representation similar to current TA numbers
- Numbers align with the fair representation rule in the Local Electoral Act 2001

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Further consideration needed to determine best fit with roles and responsibilities under a two tier model
- Preference for larger 1<sup>st</sup> tier council and smaller 2<sup>nd</sup> tier
- Is the variable population of some 2<sup>nd</sup> tier councils an issue?

# Wairarapa

## Panel's recommendations:

- Merger of local councils to become the Wairarapa Local Area Council
- No support for Wairarapa to become a Unitary Authority:
  - Funding deficit
  - Capability deficit

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Agree with Panel but Wairarapa's choice whether it wants to push for a Unitary Authority
- Still need to consider a 'Plan B' for Wairarapa

# Names and titles

## Panel's recommendations:

- Greater Wellington Council for 1<sup>st</sup> tier and Local Area Councils for 2<sup>nd</sup> tier
- Lord Mayor elected at large to differentiate from Local Area Mayors elected by peers
- Lord Mayor to emphasise regional leadership as in Australia

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Agree need for a single voice for the region
- Disagree with Lord Mayor title, prefer Mayor
- “Greater Wellington” name may be perceived to be an issue

# Community boards

## Panel's recommendations:

- Perform a useful role in some situations
- Up to Local Area Councils as to whether they are used

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Comfortable with Panel's recommendations

# Maori representation

## Panel's recommendations:

- No Maori wards
- Maori appointees on committees and advisory groups
- Regional leadership group similar to Ara Tahī
- Special representation for natural resource management planning
- Ara Tahī to determine how to accommodate taura here

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Generally support the Panel's recommendations
- May need to investigate a Maori ward to account for taura here.
- Also need to investigate Maori representation on Local Area Councils

# Wellington CBD

## Panel's recommendations:

- Propose a special committee for the Central Wellington CBD
  - chaired by the Lord Mayor
  - Mayor of Central Wellington Local Area Council voting member
  - Other non-council reps

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Important to recognise role of the Wellington CBD and other key centres
- Needs further consideration of what matters would be dealt with by the CBD Committee

# Electoral term limits

## Panel's recommendations:

- Limit 3 terms for members
- Election terms to be 4 years

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Out of scope of Local Government Commission process
- Could refer to LGNZ if there is support



# Voting system

## Panel's recommendations:

- Single Transferable Vote based on predominance in the region

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Support the Panel's recommendation

# Administration

## Panel's recommendations:

- Single administration
- Managed by the CEO of the Greater Wellington Council
- CEO salary set by Remuneration Authority
- Local Area Councils - a Manager and staff to provide administrative support and to deliver local services

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Generally support the Panel's recommendations
- Setting CEO salary fundamental to the relationship between Council and CEO

# Functions – Local Area Councils

## Panel's recommendations:

- Based on principle of subsidiarity
- Defined by statute
- In line with feedback that local area councils should be about:
  - Local engagement
  - Advocacy and brokerage
  - Amenity and design of local places and spaces
  - Delivery of quality local services
  - Developing local strategic policy and informing regional policy

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Generally support but further analysis needed to clarify exact nature of functions
- Will be locked in through the Local Government Commission proposal

# Functions – “Greater Wellington Council”

## Panel’s recommendations:

- Based on the principle of subsidiarity
- Respond to the key drivers for change
- Power of general competence under the LGA

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Support the Panel’s recommendations

# Planning, transport, 3 waters & economic development

## Panel's recommendations:

- Planned, managed and delivered at a regional scale
- All activities guided by a region-wide Spatial Plan
- Consolidation of RMA planning
- Village planning at the local level

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Support Panel's recommendations
- Key question is whether/when to use CCOs?

# Financial management

## Panel's recommendations:

- Single rating system
- All assets, debt revenue held/collected by 1<sup>st</sup> tier
- Capital Value basis for rates
- Rates capped for 3yrs to LTP
- Single uniform funding policy
- LACs to agree their budgets with 1<sup>st</sup> tier

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Generally support recommendations
- More work required on the details – related to functions of LACs
- KCDC & SWDC use land value

# Council Controlled Organisations

## Panel's recommendations:

- Should be left to the new Greater Wellington Council to decide
- Do not favour Councillors on boards of CCOs
- Principles in Report to guide their use – favours commercial activities

## GW/Porirua comment:

- Support recommendations