



Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement (2025–2028)

Carterton District Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Masterton District Council, Porirua City Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council

1. Purpose

This agreement meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 to:

- Encourage cooperation between councils in the Wellington region.
- Support regional planning and community wellbeing.
- Promote effective consultation and coordination.
- Strengthen relationships between councils.

2. Parties to the Agreement

This agreement is between:

- Carterton District Council
 - Greater Wellington Regional Council
 - Hutt City Council
 - Kāpiti Coast District Council
 - Masterton District Council
 - Porirua City Council
 - South Wairarapa District Council
 - Upper Hutt City Council
 - Wellington City Council
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3. Protocols

All councils agree to work collaboratively and in good faith for the effective governance and development of the region. To give effect to this the following Protocols are agreed.

A. Collaboration

Parties agree to collaborate and coordinate their activities with one another. Collaboration may be undertaken on a regional or sub-regional basis as appropriate to the issue.

The Chief Executives' Forum will provide guidance and direction on which collaborative mechanism is best placed to lead on any issue or opportunity, taking into account agreed terms of reference.

The following collaboration mechanisms will be maintained:

Regional and sub-regional forums:

- Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum
- Wairarapa Combined Council Forum
- Te Awa Kairangi Combined Council Forum
- LGNZ Zone Four (or equivalent sub-regional forums)

Joint Committees:

- Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC)
- Regional Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM)
- Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Committee

Other collaborative Committees:

- Regional Transport Committee

Councils will seek greater alignment across these established forums and committees by:

- Coordinating meeting dates and aligning agendas
- Supporting the administration of the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum through the WRLC Secretariat, to be funded by the Wellington Regional Council
- Supporting alignment of agendas through the Chief Executives' Forum.

B. Communication and Consultation

Parties agree to maintain open communication and trust, including through the following:

- Application of a 'no surprises' approach whereby early notification (prior to any public announcement) is given between parties concerning: (a) significant new policies or programmes; (b) potential disagreements; (c) actions likely to impact significantly on other Parties.

- Respecting each of the Parties' autonomy and accountability.
- Representing dissenting views fairly when disagreements occur and refraining from publicly criticising other Parties.
- Communicating with central Government on collective regional issues through an agreed spokesperson and/or using a position agreed collectively.

Where possible collective regional decisions will be made on a consensus basis. Where this is not possible a majority vote will apply, with dissenting views clearly recorded.

C. Process for new Regional Council activities

The Regional Council will provide early advice to the Parties (via the Chief Executives Forum and Mayoral Forum) when proposing any significant new activity, in addition to other requirements specified in s16 of the Local Government Act.

D. Mana Whenua Partnerships

All Councils agree to work towards a genuine partnership with mana whenua based on Te Tiriti principles. Mana whenua will continue to be members of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee and will meet as an iwi caucus with the Mayoral Forum as required to discuss issues of joint interest and seek alignment.

4. Areas of Joint Work

The Parties will work together on issues where it is agreed that the Region and the communities within it will benefit from a regionally collaborative approach. For this Triennium this will include the following:

Shared Services and Governance Structures

- Developing a preferred option for the form and function of local government in the region that delivers long-term enduring outcomes. Working with Government to enable its successful implementation.
- Identifying opportunities for joint service delivery models and support existing shared delivery of services

Legislative Reforms

- *Local Water Done Well Reforms* – putting in place the formal governance structures and foundation documents and establishing the new CCOs
- *Resource Management Act Phase 3 reform* – developing a shared regional view of how to implement the new planning framework
- *Local Government (System Improvement) Amendment Bill* – responding to the proposed changes from an aligned regional perspective

- *Emergency Management Bill* – developing a shared approach to new requirements to inform joint planning through Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO)

Issues of particular regional significance

- Climate adaptation planning and response – developing a regional framework to guide local adaptation planning (through the WRLC) and respond to the National Adaptation Framework
- Regional economic development – reviewing the approach to regional economic development and how we maximise regional impact on job creation from collective action
- Regional spatial planning – developing an aligned regional response to the RMA Reform proposals for a regional spatial plan, including the option of sub-regional spatial planning elements and how we will build on the work already undertaken to develop a Future Development Strategy through the WRLC
- Cost efficiency in service delivery – opportunities to deliver high quality services to the community for less.

5. Servicing the Agreement

This Agreement will be administered by the Wellington Regional Council who will:

- Act as the administering authority
- Respond to any media enquiries on the Agreement
- Coordinate development and signing of the next Agreement.

This Agreement remains in force until it is replaced by another agreement.

6. Reviewing the Agreement

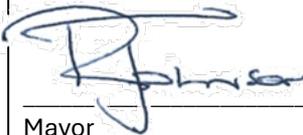
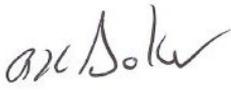
Any council may request a review of this agreement by writing to the administering authority. A review must begin within four weeks of the request.

7. Dispute with the Agreement

If a decision of a Party is significantly inconsistent or expected to have consequences that will be significantly inconsistent with this Agreement, that Party must clearly identify and provide reasons for the inconsistency in accordance with s.6 of the Act.

All disputes that cannot be resolved, will be referred to non-binding arbitration. If councils cannot agree on an arbitrator, one will be appointed by the President of the Wellington Branch of the NZ Law Society.

This agreement is signed by the following on behalf of their respective councils:

Carterton District Council	 _____ Mayor Date: 4 March 2026
Greater Wellington Regional Council	 _____ Chair Date: 4 March 2026
Hutt City Council	 _____ Mayor Date: 6 March 2026
Kāpiti Coast District Council	 _____ Mayor Date: 4 March 2026
Masterton District Council	 _____ Mayor Date: 4 March 2026
Porirua City Council	 _____ Mayor Date: 4 March 2026
South Wairarapa District Council	 _____ Mayor Date: 4 March 2026
Upper Hutt City Council	 _____ Mayor Date: 4 March 2026

Wellington City Council

Andrew Little

Mayor

Date: 4 March 2026