

# How did the process start?

The Local Government Commission (the Commission) received an application for council reorganisation in the Auckland Council area from the Northern Action Group for a unitary council for North Rodney. The Commission later received another reorganisation application from Our Waiheke for a unitary council for Waiheke Island. The Commission called for alternative applications and received a number of responses.

See [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz) for full details of the applications and alternative applications.

The Commission is now gathering information so it can identify the reasonably practicable options for local government arrangements in the Auckland Council area.

This is an opportunity for communities in the Auckland Council area to let us know what is important to you about your local government.

We look forward to hearing what you think.

## Timeline of the Commission's process so far

- **August 2015** Commission agreed to assess a reorganisation application from Northern Action Group (the North Rodney application)
- **December 2015** reorganisation application received from Our Waiheke (the Waiheke application)
- **April 2016** Commission publicly notified the North Rodney application and called for alternative applications
- **May 2016** Commission advised it would treat the Waiheke application as an alternative application to the North Rodney application
- **June 2016** alternative applications closed
- **September – November 2016** community engagement

# What is this all about?

The Commission wants to hear your views on local government arrangements in Auckland. The communities' responses will assist the Commission in the next step in this process - identifying the reasonably practicable options for local government in the Auckland Council area. These always include, at least, the status quo. From the reasonably practicable options identified the Commission will then determine its preferred option.

### Q – How does this relate to the council elections in October 2016?

A – This process is unrelated and does not affect the upcoming council elections.

### Q – Who are the applicants?

A – Under the Local Government Act anyone can make a reorganisation application to the Commission. In this case in North Rodney the applicant is Northern Action Group (NAG). NAG is a group of residents based in North Rodney. In Waiheke the applicant is Our Waiheke. Our Waiheke is a group of residents based on Waiheke Island.

### Q – Who is the Local Government Commission?

A – The Commission is an independent body established by legislation. One of the Commission's main roles is to make decisions on the structure of local government. Before making any recommendations for change, the Commission must be satisfied that it will promote good local government. The Commission places great emphasis on working collaboratively with communities and councils to come up with local solutions to local government issues.

### Q – When would any change happen?

A – Change is not inevitable. The Commission is following the steps set out in the Local Government Act and this engagement is early in this process. Further work and engagement will be needed before change, if any, happens.

# What does local government look like in Auckland?

Auckland Council is unique in the context of New Zealand local government and was established by legislation in 2009<sup>1</sup>. Auckland Council has a shared decision-making model where the governing body and local boards both make decisions.

Auckland Council is a **unitary council**. This means it has the responsibilities of both a district and a regional council including:

-  - Local water supply, sewerage, stormwater, and roading and transport infrastructure (including footpaths)
- Libraries, public swimming pools, recreation and community centres
-  - Emergency management/civil defence
- Building consents
- Community development and advocacy
-  - Resource consents and planning for land use under the Resource Management Act
- Regulatory activities like noise control and dog control
- Environmental health such as food licences
-  - Environmental management such as quality of air and water
- Flood protection
- Pest management
-  - Land management
- Transport planning and funding
- Regional economic development
- Regional parks

Some of these functions are carried out by council controlled organisations.

### Local boards:

- make decisions on local matters
- provide local leadership
- develop and propose local bylaws
- provide local input into region-wide strategies and plans, including those of council controlled organisations

<sup>1</sup> | Local Government (Tamaki Makaurau Reorganisation) Act 2009, Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009, Local Government (Auckland Transitional Provisions) Act 2010.

## What do you think?

We would like to hear from you. Tell us what you think about local government in your local area.

### For example:

1. What do you like about the way council services are delivered in your local area now?
2. Is there anything about the way council services are delivered in your local area that you would like to change?
3. Do you think there would be any advantages in changing local government arrangements in Auckland?
4. Do you think there would be any disadvantages in changing the current local government arrangements in Auckland?
5. How satisfied are you with your ability to influence decision-making about issues that affect your local area?

## Your feedback counts

Please fill in the on-line questionnaire to let us know what you think.

You can complete it at [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz) until 11 November 2016

## How can you talk to us?

You can attend a drop-in centre and/or community meeting to talk to Commission representatives about your views.

### Drop-in centres (any time between 11am and 4pm)

Tue 20 Sept	Wellsford War Memorial Library
Wed 21 Sept	Warkworth Library
Mon 26 Sept	Matakana Cinemas
Tue 27 Sept	Kumeu Library
Wed 28 Sept	Oneroa, Waiheke Community Library
Thu 29 Sept	Ostend War Memorial Hall

### Community meetings (7pm start)\*

Tue 20 Sept	Wellsford District Community Centre
Wed 21 Sept	Warkworth Shoesmith Hall
Mon 26 Sept *8pm	Matakana Cinemas
Tue 27 Sept	Kumeu Community Centre
Wed 28 Sept	Oneroa Morra Hall
Thu 29 Sept	Ostend, War Memorial Hall

## What happens next?

We will collate feedback from the meetings and on-line questionnaire.

The Local Government Commissioners will then identify and notify the reasonably practicable option or options for local government in the Auckland Council area. If there is more than one reasonably practicable option, the Commissioners will then need to determine a preferred option. Further work and engagement will be needed before change, if any, happens.



Local Government  
Commission  
Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

# Local Government in Auckland

## What do you think?

[www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz)