

OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT: OUR NEW ZEALAND

**We are.
LGNZ.**
Te Kāhui Kaunihera o Aotearoa.

Local government is changing. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to harness reform to better position councils to improve the lives and well-being of their communities.



OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT: OUR NEW ZEALAND

**We are.
LGNZ.**
Te Kāhui Kaunihera o Aotearoa.

The scope of reform is unprecedented

Direct reforms

Three Waters

Resource Management Act

Future for Local Government Review

Wider reforms

Investment Funding and Financing Act

Urban Development Act

National RM Policy Directives

- Freshwater management
- Urban development

Treaty Rights and Interests

Other influencers

Environmental Social Governance (ESG)

Climate Change Commission

Regional Reforms

- Waka kotahi
- DHBs
- Te Pūkenga

Tax

Potential reform implications

Investment and planning

- How do you plan for the future when there is a level of uncertainty?
- How do councils prioritise investment?
- Will Long Term Plans be replaced with a new mechanism for setting the future direction of a local authority?

Role in place and community

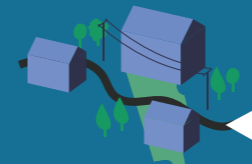
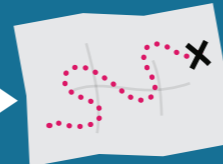
- What is local government's role in working with others to enable community outcomes?
- How does local government provide a voice for communities in discussions with regional entities, central government, and mana whenua?

Funding

- What are the future sources of revenue for councils?
- How do councils operate within smaller balance sheets?
- What is the right level of debt and how important is a high credit rating? Will there need to be changes to the LGFA?

Rate payers perspectives

- How will you adapt to a reduction in revenue while supporting ratepayers facing affordability constraints?
- Will ratepayers in larger urban areas need to subsidise improvements in rural areas?



Local voice

- How do communities get their priorities and concerns heard?
- What does strengthened local democracy look like, including Te Ao Māori perspective and engagement with iwi/hapu?
- How do you take into account local voices when there is a greater focus on regional collaboration?



Planning, housing, infrastructure

- What do reductions in consenting constraints mean for local infrastructure and housing?

Te Ao Māori

- What does local government look like which embeds a Te Ao Māori worldview and works with and for Māori/iwi?

Climate change

- How do councils help New Zealand meet its net zero greenhouse gas target by 2050?
- In particular, what does this mean for waste and transportation?

Organising the sector

- Will the sector need to contract?
- What do councils look like post reform?
- What are the opportunities for regional shared services?

Workforce and skills

- What are the new skills required (e.g. relationship management and digital) and how do councils access them?
- How do you ensure there isn't adverse competition for key skills?
- How do you retain talent in the sector in uncertain times?

How can we seize the opportunities?

What are the key issues/trends over the next 20-30 years to take into account and reflect on?

What would success look like?

What is the combined impact of all of the reforms on local government, at a regional and local level?

What does all this mean for the purpose and role of local government?

How do we collectively ensure that the reforms result in optimal outcomes for New Zealanders?

What are the key opportunities that local government sees for itself – what might a reimagined future look like?