

Regional Deals

Light-Touch Proposal Template Guidance

The purpose of this template is to support the development of proposals for regional deals. The content in this template will help central government confirm alignment with the objectives set out in the [Regional Deals Strategic Framework](#), confirm the proposed areas of work to be included in a potential Memorandum of Understanding between central and local government, and provide early indications for the work required to support a potential regional deal.

The Department of Internal Affairs acknowledges that all parties are expected to treat proposals in confidence as they may contain confidential and commercially sensitive information. All parties will keep the information confidential, unless obliged to disclose it (such as by law under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) or the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)), or until it no longer remains confidential (such as being agreed to in a Memorandum of Understanding). Where a relevant OIA or LGOIMA request is received, each party must consult with each other.

Use this template to complete and submit your “light-touch” Regional Deals proposal, consistent with the [Regional Deals Strategic Framework](#).

Regional Deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government. Deals will be long-term commitments, intended to endure, to promote economic growth and productivity, delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, and improving the supply of affordable, quality housing.

Your proposal should outline the economic objectives and project outcomes that your region is proposing will be delivered. It should also include what actions your region will take to unlock or enable growth, and what policy, legislative or other actions your region needs from central government to assist in achieving the objectives of the regional deals strategic framework.

Light-touch in the context of this template means that you should provide brief answers to the questions. Evidence and data included should be from sources that are already available such as Long-Term Plans (2024-2034), economic development and infrastructure strategies and other pre-existing information. It is not envisaged that regions prepare a full business case or deal proposition at this stage. The intention is to gather initial information that can inform a deal proposition. We also do not encourage the use of external consultants or preparing detailed supporting information to complete the light-touch proposal.

Please complete one application per regional deal, approved by all councils included in the region. Further supporting information may be attached as an appendix.

For further questions, please contact your Department of Affairs (DIA) Partnership Director below or email us at RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz.

<i>Regions</i>	<i>DIA Partnership Director</i>	
Northland/Auckland/Waikato	Vanessa Blakelock	Vanessa.blakelock@dia.govt.nz [021 832 417]

Bay of Plenty/Gisborne Tairāwhiti/Hawkes Bay/Manawatū Whanganui/Taranaki	Caroline Dumas	Caroline.dumas@dia.govt.nz [022 652 5199]
Wellington/Otago/Southland	Warren Ulusele	Warren.ulusele@dia.govt.nz [021 227 8187]
Nelson City and Tasman /Marlborough/Canterbury/ West Coast	Paul Barker	Paul.barker@dia.govt.nz [027 610 7508]

Final proposals to be sent to RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz by 28 February 2025.

Region and Contact Details

Please confirm your region's economic/geographical area and list all the local authorities involved, contact names and roles, emails addresses and phone numbers. Highlight the primary contact point(s) for all future correspondence related to this proposal.

For this section please include:

- *A description of the region's economic/geographical area*
- *Please list all local authorities involved*

Insert details here...

Light-Touch Proposal

1. Executive Summary

Please provide a title for the proposal.

Insert details here...

Present a high-level vision for your region and your region's economic role in New Zealand. Please also include a summary of the proposed regional deal, with clear economic outcomes sought and the actions required to achieve them. List up to five projects/initiatives and clearly state for each project/initiative the outcomes you are proposing will be delivered, aligned with the Strategic Framework. You should also include what your region/councils will be contributing towards your regional deal. Please add what your region is seeking from central government to achieve these outcomes.

For this section please consider:

- *Outline your region's vision for a deal, your region's economic role in New Zealand and the economic objectives for your regional deal.*
- *List the five projects/initiatives your region seeks to be included in the deal and include the project outcomes to be delivered because of your regional deal. Note that more detail on proposed projects/initiatives is to be covered in Section 7.*
- *What is your region/councils contributing towards your regional deal?*
- *What is your region seeking from central government to achieve these outcomes?*

Insert Text Here (maximum 4 paragraphs only):

2. Alignment with the Strategic Framework

Identify how the proposal aligns with the priority objectives of the Regional Deals Strategic Framework to build economic growth, deliver connected and resilient infrastructure, and/or improve the supply of affordable, quality housing. This is required as part of the application.

You may also include alignment to the secondary objectives of greater regional and private sector collaboration, improving local government decision-making and funding and financing, promoting collaborative ways of working between central and local government, and ensuring regions are resilient and sustainable. This is optional.

For this section please include:

- *Alignment with one or more priority objectives*
- *Alignment with secondary objectives (optional)*

Insert Text Here (maximum 4 paragraphs only):

3. What drives growth in your region?

Please identify the areas of growth, existing and potential, in your region and key drivers of that growth. What actions do you intend to take to unlock or enable growth? What do you need from central government to support growth? What is the anticipated growth that would be triggered by a regional deal?

For this section please include:

- *Key Growth Sector(s) (identify which sectors, annual expected growth in revenue and % increase)*

Insert Text Here (maximum 4 paragraphs only, additional information may be attached):

4. Central and Local Government Partnership

Please include:

- details of the proposed councils involved in the regional deal proposal.
- a summary of any current/previous collaboration between the councils involved in this application and central government, including but not limited to any urban, regional or provincial partnerships, etc., including information on how long they have been in existence, broadly the activities they cover etc., and their outcomes. Please note, relationships outside of existing central government partnerships, such as with New Zealand Land Transport, Ministry of Education, Kainga Ora etc., that may need to be engaged as part of a Regional Deal.
- an explanation of how these partnerships/ previous examples of collaboration may support a Regional Deal. This may also include progress towards delivery of current central government funded projects.

Please note that one of the selection criteria in the Regional Deals Strategic Framework is to support delivery of other government work programmes. This could include current and planned progress towards alignment with the following reforms and objectives:

- Water reforms (Local Water Done Well)
- Transport (Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, including Roads of National and Regional significance, Rural roads)
- Increasing Housing Supply (Going for Housing Growth)
- Infrastructure (Alignment with the National Infrastructure Pipeline and/or where appropriate for those infrastructure projects of national significance included in the Infrastructure Priorities Programme)
- Fast-track consenting Bill
- Resource Management Reforms
- Any other central government reforms/objectives that you consider relevant for your deal, such as the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, Medium Density Residential Standards, etc.

For this section please include:

- *Central and local government partnerships (including crown entity and department relationships)*
- *Actions councils in the region can take to achieve reform outcomes*
- *How can central government help councils meet reform expectations*

Insert Text Here (maximum 6 paragraphs only):

5. Commitment to Regional Spatial Priorities

Please confirm if there is an existing commitment to clear regional spatial priorities as set out in a regional plan, growth strategy, Future Development Strategy (FDS) or any similar strategic document.

Comment briefly on how these priorities could be supported by a regional deal?

Comment on how the regional deal could change/improve your spatial plan?

For this section please consider:

- *Is there a commitment to clear regional spatial priorities?*
- *How can the regional spatial priorities support the deal?*
- *How could the regional deal change/improve your spatial plan?*

Insert Text Here (maximum 4 paragraphs only):

6. Capability, Capacity and Readiness to Implement and Deliver

Please outline your region’s readiness to deliver a regional deal. How will the projects/initiatives be successfully implemented and delivered? This can include proven existing partnerships with central government, other councils in the region, private sector and iwi/Māori. Provide examples of delivering infrastructure projects and how these were managed. Please note support from the private sector and iwi/Māori for the regional deal, including what role they may play in funding and implementing projects/initiatives. The proposed governance arrangements between local authorities working together within the regional deal. Please include proposed arrangements with other key actors in your region such as the private sector and iwi/Māori.

For this section please consider:

- *Readiness to implement and deliver a regional deal (including projects/initiatives). This may be demonstrated by including proven existing partnerships, avenues for implementing and funding projects/initiatives, examples of successful implementation and delivery of infrastructure projects.*
- *Proposed governance arrangements between local authorities included within the deal and (optional) with any others, such as the private sector and iwi/Māori.*

Insert Text Here:

7. Regional Deal Priority Projects/Initiatives

Please provide a brief description of priority projects or initiatives that the regional deal could include and how they will contribute to your region's overall vision. Projects or initiatives, including proposed regulatory relief should be aligned with the objectives outlined in the Strategic Framework. For the top five priority projects or initiatives, include an outline of what information is currently available:

- A summary of economic benefits and costs from the projects/initiatives to be included within the regional deal, including both local and national.¹
- The anticipated economic costs and benefits (monetised and non-monetised) – both local and national.
- The anticipated costs, any revenues and a summary of how the project/initiative will be funded.
- how the project/initiative will unlock economic growth or local regulatory relief in your region or otherwise contribute to the vision of your region through a deal.
- estimated timeframes to commence and complete.
- whether the projects/initiatives are included in current council planning, such as in the long-term plan and infrastructure strategy.
- For any proposed infrastructure projects/initiatives, please note if these are included in the National Infrastructure Pipeline and/or the Infrastructure Priorities Programme (as managed by the Infrastructure Commission – Te Waihanga). Include any initiative identifiers from these systems to support easy identification
- how the projects/initiative relate to the central government interventions requested. Note any potential risks and how these will be mitigated.
- If the proposed project/initiative relates to a central government priority and how (note not all projects need to align with government reforms)
- Please note that if the above information is not available, we do not expect analysis to be developed. Only include what is available from pre-existing information.

Insert details here (continue over)...

¹The economic summary should outline the monetised and non-monetised benefits, and costs, to evidence value for money for the overall proposal. The economic proposition should align to the Strategic Framework objectives. Detailed economic analysis is not required for the light-touch proposal, however if supporting material this has previously been developed it can be attached as supplementary material.

Insert details here (continued)...

8. What will your region bring to a regional deal?

Summarise what your region will bring to a regional deal (this may be covered above). This could include (but is not limited to):

- coordination of planning and funding tools;
- planning decisions;
- funding and financing; and
- contributions in-kind.

Insert details here ...

9. What are you seeking from Central Government as part of a deal?

Outline what policy, legislative or other actions the proposal requires from central government to advance or unlock expected economic growth (this may be covered above), deliver connected and resilient infrastructure and or improve the supply of affordable, quality housing. This could include regulatory relief, improved use of existing or new funding and financing tools, better central government coordination. Outline in order of priority, under each category, how each intervention applies to your proposed projects/initiatives.

For this section please consider:

- *Regulatory relief*
- *Improved use of existing or new planning and funding and financing tools*
- *Government coordination*

Insert details here...

10. Further Supporting Information

Additional supporting information may be provided but may be excluded from consideration in the assessment process. Please provide a schedule of any additional supporting information provided.

Insert schedule of additional information here...

11. Approval

As mentioned in the guidance, there is to be one application per regional deal, approved by all councils included in the region.

Please indicate that this regional deal proposal is approved by each local authority included within the deal (listed in Page 1). You could do this by each local authority providing a signatory or have it signed by an authorised person on behalf of all local authorities to be partners to the regional deal.

Approval of proposal
<p>Title of the proposal: Enter Title Here</p> <p>Chair/Mayor names and signatures: Insert names and signatures here</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date: Click or tap to enter a date.</p>