

AGENDA

Supplementary Reports

Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 11 December 2024

Time: 10:00 am
Location: Council Chambers
Memorial Avenue
Kaikohe

Membership:

Chairperson Harry Burkhardt - Chairperson
Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira
Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania
Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford
Cr Ann Court
Cr Felicity Foy
Cr Babe Kapa
Cr Penetaui Kleskovic
Cr Steve McNally
Cr Mate Radich
Cr Tāmāti Rākena
Cr John Vujcich
Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

Te Paeroa Mahi / Order of Business

5 Ngā Pūrongo / Reports 4
5.2 Regional Deal Te Tai Tokerau Northland 4

5 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS

5.2 REGIONAL DEAL TE TAI TOKERAU NORTHLAND

File Number: A5011748

Author: Roger Ackers, Group Manager - Planning & Policy

Authoriser: Guy Holroyd, Chief Executive Officer

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To receive the process and response to the Governments' invitation to apply for a Regional Deal.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This is a copy of a report that Council will consider at their 12 December Council meeting. FNDC CEO Guy Holroyd will speak with the Committee to seek their views for Council to consider.
- On 21 November 2024, Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Local Government sent a letter to the mayors / chairs of all local authorities inviting them to submit a regional deal proposal (Attachment 1).
- Regional deals are focused on delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, building economic growth and improving the supply of affordable housing. There will be based on a 30-year vision with 10-year strategic plans.
- In terms of boundaries, "regions" should be a configuration of territorial authorities within a defined economic and geographic area and must include the relevant regional council. It is left to territorial authorities to determine how they collaborate with one another.
- In terms of timing, a registration form (Attachment 2) is due by 18 December 2024 and the "light-touch" proposal (Attachment 3) by 28 February 2025. A key part of the "light touch" proposal is for the region to list five projects/initiatives that it wishes to be included in a regional deal, detailing the outcomes expected, the contribution that councils will be making to these, and what the region is seeking from central government to achieve these outcomes.
- Cabinet will then agree on next steps for each region by mid-2025. The intention is to finalise the first regional deal with one selected region by December 2025 with two more deals finalised by October 2026 (ahead of the next general election).
- Staff recommend agreeing to the steps outlined in this report as they make use of existing resource and governance roles within the region and provide an efficient mechanism for responding to the tight deadlines set by government.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka recommend that Council:

- endorse the preparation of a Regional Deal proposal for submission to central government.**
- agree to collaborate with the other three local authorities, Kaipara District Council (KDC), Whangārei District Council (WDC), and Northland Regional Council (NRC) as a single "region" for the purpose of the Regional Deal.**
- approve Northland Inc as the lead organisation responsible for coordinating the development of the Regional Deal proposal, with support from all four councils.**
- approve the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee as the governance entity overseeing the development of the proposal.**

- e) **approve the amendment to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee Terms of Reference as provided in Attachment 4 of this agenda item.**
- f) **agree that the Chair of the Northland Mayoral Forum be the spokesperson of the Regional Deal programme on behalf of the region.**
- g) **approve the Registration form being submitted by Northland Inc. on behalf of Northland Local Authorities (by 18 December 2024), following review by the Chief Executive.**
- h) **note that the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee may be required to meet outside of the normal council meeting cycle during the traditional Christmas recess period.**
- i) **note that similar recommendations are being presented to KDC, WDC, and NRC at their December 2024 meetings to ensure regional alignment and collaboration.**

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The government's Regional Deals (RD) initiative is a new framework aimed at supporting regional economic growth through customised agreements between central and local government. The initiative aligns with the shared economic development vision of Northland and emphasises collaboration on projects that address local opportunities and challenges. Each regional deal will cater to local priorities while sharing the following foundational components:

- Each regional deal will be based on a 30-year vision for the region.
- Each deal will have a 10-year strategic plan with clear outcomes and actions required to achieve them.
- Deals will rely on existing resources to achieve shared goals over new funding.
- Deals establish a framework through which new funding can be allocated as it becomes available.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

The Northland Mayoral Forum (NMF) discussed the Minister's letter at its meeting on Monday 25 November 2024 and agreed that the following steps be taken:

- **Proposal Submission:** A regional deal proposal be submitted.
- **Regional Collaboration:** All four Northland councils (Far North District Council (FNDC), Northland Regional Council (NRC), Whangārei District Council (WDC) and Kaipara District Council (KDC)) will participate collectively as a single "region".
- **Coordination Role:** Northland Inc, as the council-controlled organisation jointly owned by all four councils, will coordinate the development of the proposal with support from key staff within each council.
- **Governance Mechanism:** The Joint Regional Economic Development Committee (Joint Committee), made up of two members from each of the four councils, will act as the governance entity for developing the proposal, engaging with central government, and Regional Deals decision-making. A new role and responsibility are required to be added to the Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee to allow it to carry out this function (Attachment 4).
- **Spokesperson:** The NMF Chair, Mayor Vince Cocurullo, will be the spokesperson for the Regional Deals initiative.

To ensure that Council's meet the central government timeframes, this paper seeks agreement to the recommended steps for Northland's participation in this opportunity.

Similar papers are being provided to the other three councils for their agreement. The respective council meeting dates are 10 December (NRC), 11 December (KDC) and 12 December (both FNDC and WDC).

Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1 Recommended Option	Agree to the recommended collaborative approach (single “region” with Northland Inc as coordinator and Joint Committee as governance body).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligns with government’s preference for a unified regional approach. • Strengthens Northland’s proposal with a comprehensive and cohesive vision. • Leverages Northland Inc’s expertise and existing inter-council governance structures. • Builds stronger regional identity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires significant coordination across councils, potentially leading to delays.
2	Don’t agree to participate in the Regional Deals initiative and the steps outlined above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid administrative workload and resource allocation for proposal development. • Allows focus on other strategic priorities of council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misses a significant opportunity to attract long-term government investment. • Risks Northland falling behind other regions that actively engage in the initiative. • Damages the council’s reputation as a collaborator in regional development.

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend Option 1 as it positions Northland to secure investment while fostering collaboration across councils. The proposed approach provides a mechanism for responding to the tight timeframes given in the invitation from Hon Minister Brown by leveraging existing governance structures, such as the Joint Committee and Northland Inc. This ensures efficiency, aligns with government expectations, and enhances Northland’s ability to present a unified and compelling regional vision.


E WHAIAKE NEI / NEXT STEPS

A staff operational group has been formed from the four councils to progress this work and schedule. This will need be communicated to the Joint Committee. This will set expectations on the work needed and commitments over the next two-to-three-month period.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

The cost for developing the “light-touch” proposal and any subsequent negotiation with central government are expected to be minimal and largely administrative. Any associated expenses will be covered by the Investment and Growth Reserve (IGR) or existing council resources, as approved by the Chief Executives. Any funding implications arising from specific projects or developments that are incorporated into a regional deal will need to be subject to separate and future council decisions.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Letter from Hon Simeon Brown to all Mayors and Chairs - A5002460** [↓](#) 
2. **Regional Deals initial registration form - A5002459** [↓](#) 
3. **Regional Deals - light touch proposal application - A5002458** [↓](#) 
4. **Joint Regional Economic Development Committee ammended Terms of Reference - A5002461** [↓](#) 

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	Low level of significance as this proposal does not meet any of the thresholds in Councils Significance and Engagement Policy. No feedback is required, and the public will be informed of Council's decision via the agenda and minutes publication of this meeting, on the website and through other channels if appropriate.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	A new role and responsibility is required to be added to the Terms of Reference for the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee to allow it to undertake its governance task in relation to Regional Deals. It is proposed that the following new role and responsibility be added to the Terms of Reference provided in Attachment 4. <i>4) Make decisions relating to the government's Regional Deals initiative for establishing long-term agreements between central and local government, including but not limited to submitting a proposal, finalising a Memorandum of Understanding and negotiating a deal, ensuring alignment with regional priorities and collaboration among councils.</i>
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	The recommendation in this report has District Wide Relevance.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	Māori have not been engaged in the decision-making process because of the tight timeframes between receiving the invitation letter from the Minister and the need for a council decision. However, the "light-touch" proposal form requires local government to engage with both Māori and the private sector to obtain their input into any submission and this will be completed prior to submission approval.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and	There are specific persons or groups outside of staff from the Northland Councils and Northland In that will directly

<p>how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).</p>	<p>be affected by the recommendation given in this agenda item.</p>
<p>State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.</p>	<p>The cost for developing the “light-touch” proposal and any subsequent negotiation with central government are expected to be minimal and largely administrative. Any associated expenses will be covered by the Investment and Growth Reserve (IGR) or existing council resources, as approved by the Chief Executives. Any funding implications arising from specific projects or developments that are incorporated into a regional deal will need to be subject to separate and future council decisions.</p>
<p>Chief Financial Officer review.</p>	<p>Type here</p>

Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



Dear Mayor/Chair,

21 November 2024

Invitation to submit a regional deal light-touch proposal

The Government is pleased to invite your council to submit a regional deal proposal.

Regional deals is our Government's initiative to boost economic growth through infrastructure development. Deals will be focused on delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, building economic growth and improving the supply of affordable housing. They will be based on a 30-year vision for the region, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans.

Proposal process

Each region has the opportunity to submit one proposal for consideration. The proposals must be a collaborative submission by the territorial authorities involved and the relevant regional council. 'Regions' in the context of regional deals should be a configuration of territorial authorities within a defined economic and geographic area and must include the regional council where relevant. One relevant regional council will be involved in each regional deal alongside territorial authorities.

The proposal is intended to be straightforward and high level. We are looking for simple, in-house proposals supported by readily accessible information. Each proposal should identify 3-5 key infrastructure priorities or projects for the region. These should clearly show how they will boost regional economic growth or unlock growth for housing. To support the development of your proposal, a light-touch form is attached to guide you.

Should you wish to submit a regional deals proposal, please complete the attached registration form and submit it to regionaldeals@dia.govt.nz by 18 December 2024. Final proposals are due by 28 February 2025.

Please find additional guiding material below. Further information will be available at the <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Regional-Deals>. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to refer them to your Department of Internal Affairs Partnership Director or to regionaldeals@dia.govt.nz.

We are pleased to begin this journey and look forward to working with you to deliver infrastructure investment and economic growth for your communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simeon Brown".

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Local Government

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160 New Zealand
+64 4 817 6804 | s.brown@ministers.govt.nz | www.beehive.govt.nz

What classifies as a 'Region'?

'Regions' in the context of regional deals should be a configuration of territorial authorities within a defined economic and geographic area and must include the regional council where relevant. One relevant regional council will be involved in each regional deal alongside the territorial authorities.

Territorial authorities should determine how they collaborate with one another, alongside the relevant regional council, on a proposal that will support economic growth or unlock growth for housing for the region involved.

Why are all councils being invited to submit a light-touch proposal?

We have made the decision to invite all territorial authorities at the same time to enable all regions to put forward proposals that will boost economic growth, and to support the building of relationships between these territorial authorities and their relevant regional council.

What is a light-touch proposal?

A light-touch proposal is a document that outline ideas that can be implemented to address clearly understood issues and opportunities. We are not looking for exploratory studies or huge glossy documents.

While each regional deal will reflect the priorities for each region, deals should address the following criteria:

- Regional alignment - shared strategic objectives, developed in partnership and reflecting the particular local characteristics of each region;
- Identification of economic opportunities for long term growth potential;
- Financial and non-financial resources that will be brought to the table;
- Alignment and commitment on approach to broader government reform objectives such as Local Water Done Well – to provide confidence that councils are meeting their regulatory standards;
- Commitment to use of shared services; and
- Identification of alternative funding and financing tools for projects.

My expectation is that territorial authorities take a 'no-frills' approach to these proposals, which are practical and focused on achieving results. The information needed to complete your proposal is expected to be able to be sourced from your existing resources and materials, minimising any unnecessary additional costs and reducing reliance on external parties.

[Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160 New Zealand](#)
[+64 4 817 6804 | s.brown@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:s.brown@ministers.govt.nz) | www.beehive.govt.nz

How should I confirm my intention to submit a light-touch proposal?

To confirm your intention to submit a light-touch proposal, submit the attached registration form to the Regional Deals Team at DIA (RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz) before 18 December 2025.

How will light-touch proposals be assessed?

Proposals will be assessed according to the assessment criteria on page 24 of the Regional Deals Strategic Framework (<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-08/Regional%20Deals%20Strategic%20Framework.pdf>).

When will my region get a deal?

We expect the first regional deal to be finalised with the selected region by December 2025, with two more deals finalised by October 2026. Plans for future rounds of deals are still being developed.

We encourage councils that are not selected in the first tranche to continue to build relationships and planning with neighbouring territorial authorities and the relevant regional council to develop their future proposal. The regional deals secretariat will continue to provide support and share information on the rollout of the deals.

What are the key dates I need to know?

Activity	Date
Letters sent to all Councils inviting a regional deal proposal	21 Nov 2024
Online Q&A sessions for all councils	Late Nov 2024
Regions confirm intention to submit a proposal	By 18 Dec 2024
Regions submit final proposals for consideration	28 Feb 2025
Cabinet agreement on next steps for each region	Mid-2025

Further information

In the meantime, I encourage you to review the information at [\[https://www.dia.govt.nz/Regional-Deals\]](https://www.dia.govt.nz/Regional-Deals), including the Regional Deals [Strategic Framework - DIA](#).

For further questions, please contact your DIA Partnership Director in the table ahead or email RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz.

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160 New Zealand
+64 4 817 6804 | s.brown@ministers.govt.nz | www.beehive.govt.nz

<i>Regions</i>	<i>DIA Partnership Director</i>	<i>Contact details</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]

Action required: Please confirm your acceptance of this invitation to submit a regional deal proposal. Include the councils you will be partnering with to develop your proposal and form your 'region'.

To confirm your intention to submit a regional proposal, please submit the attached registration form to the Regional Deals Team at DIA (RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz) before 18 December 2025.

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160 New Zealand
+64 4 817 6804 | s.brown@ministers.govt.nz | www.beehive.govt.nz

