

A Journalist's Guide to

Local Government



**Local Government
New Zealand**

te pātahi matakōkiri



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Lawrence Yule
President,
*Local Government
New Zealand*

This booklet has been designed to assist you in coverage of local government. With the local government elections approaching, a better understanding of the sector will assist journalists in their coverage of the important issues facing voters. As members of the fourth estate, reporters play a critical and important role in upholding democracy.

I do hope this booklet provides you with the information you need to report on local government issues in a more informed way so your audiences are able to make more enlightened decisions about who they choose to represent them in local government.

This booklet will be available online at www.lgnz.co.nz. Content will be updated as required.

About *Local Government New Zealand*

LGNZ is the national voice of local government. Our mission is effective local governance across New Zealand. We achieve this by securing national policies and legislation that support effective local governance, and providing services that strengthen the governance capacity of our members.

LGNZ is an incorporated society governed by a National Council of 14 elected representatives from councils, headed by a President and Vice

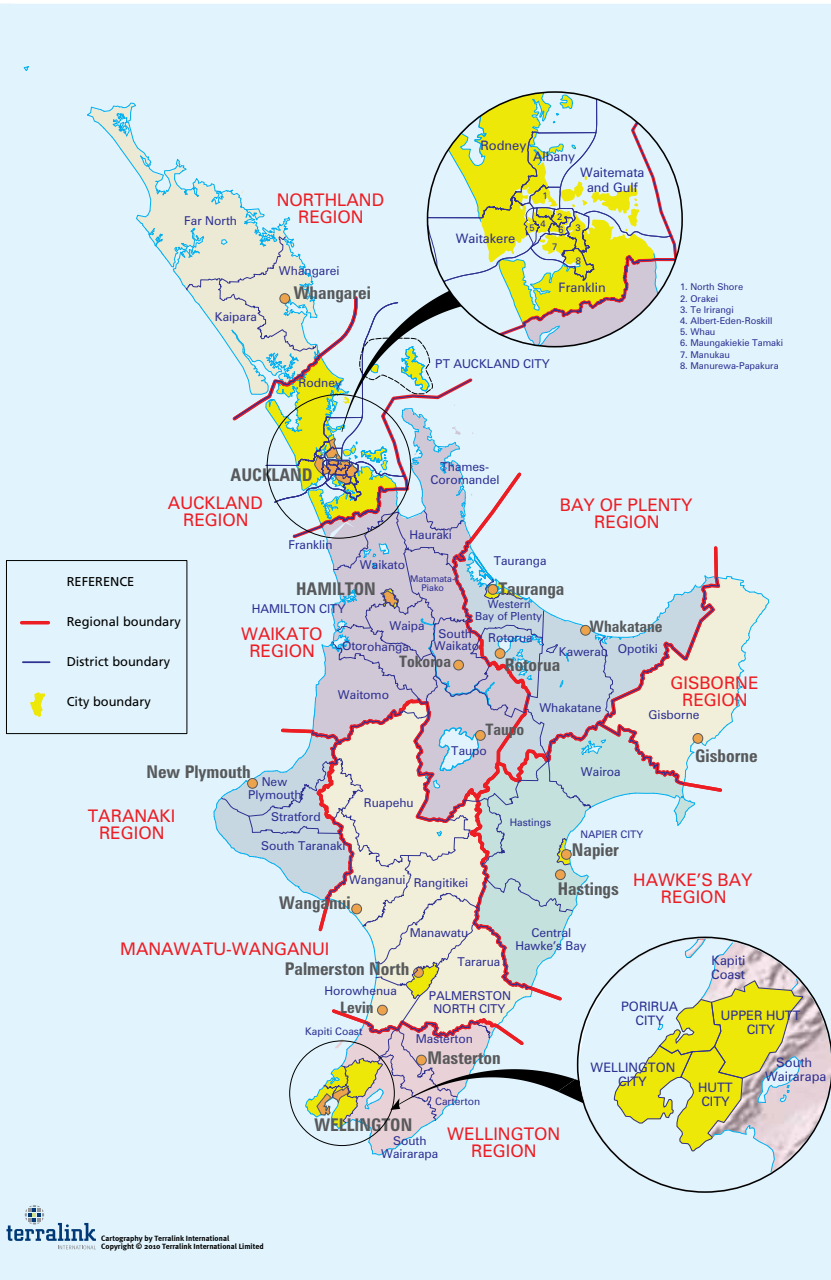
President. The organisation is funded primarily through member subscriptions.

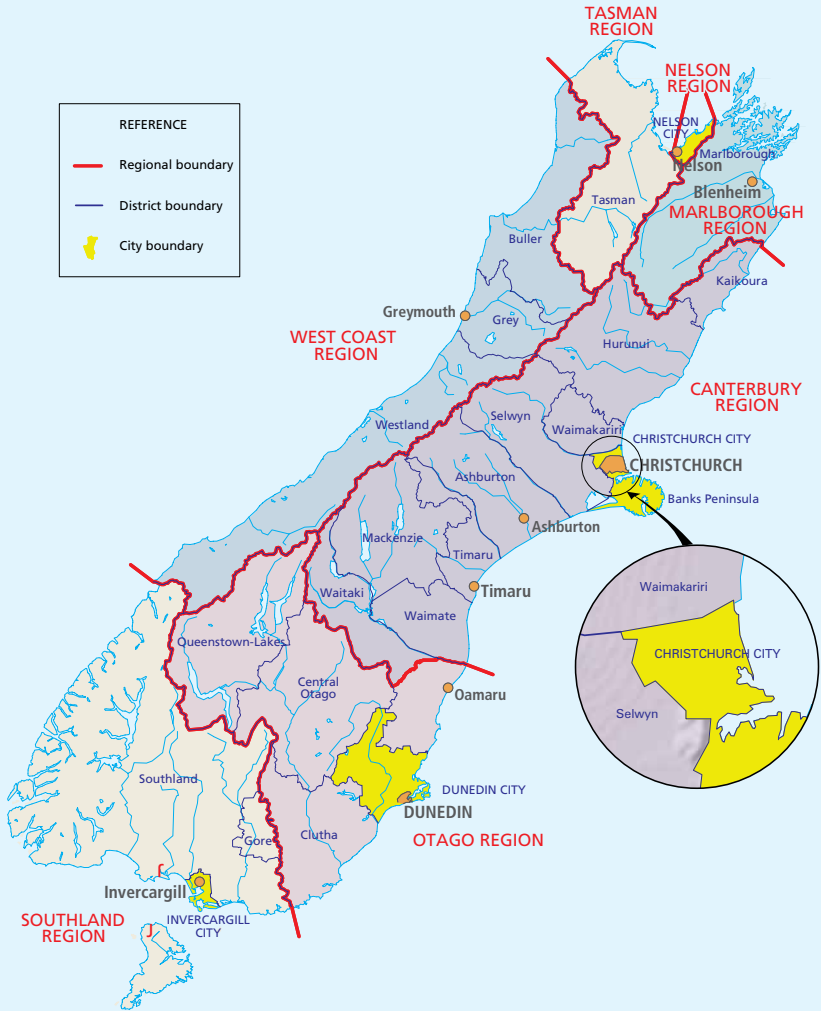
LGNZ's Wellington based staff are led by a chief executive, and work on policy development, advocacy and best practice for the sector.

LGNZ's four managers are subject matter experts on:

- governance
- infrastructure and development
- environment and regulation
- communications.

Electoral Boundaries





The Big Picture – Profile and Statistical Overview of Local Government

City, district, and regional councils are corporate bodies with the authority to make decisions and set directions in the best long-term interests of their communities. The corporate body has the authority to act or make decisions, but every elected member has a role and responsibility in the exercise of that authority.

Local government is:

- one of the two branches of government in New Zealand
- a product of statute but autonomous and accountable to communities.

There will be 67 territorial authorities in New Zealand from 1 November 2010. This includes 11 city councils, 51 district councils and six unitary councils.

The functions of territorial authorities (district and city councils) include:

- community well-being and development
- environmental health and safety
- infrastructure
- recreation and culture
- resource management including land use planning and development control.

Six territorial authorities known as 'unitary authorities' have the responsibilities of territorial authorities and regional councils.

The unitary councils are:

- Auckland Council
- Nelson City Council
- Tasman District Council
- Marlborough District Council
- Gisborne District Council
- Chatham Islands Council.

Regional councils are responsible for environmental resource management, flood control, air and water quality, pest control, and in some cases public transport, regional parks and bulk water supply.

Previous Elections

A noticeable increase in voter turnout marked the 1989 elections. This coincided with a major restructure of local government and the introduction of postal voting. Voter turnout has declined since 1992 with the exception of 1998. Turnout for the 2007 elections hit just 44 per cent, down from 46 per cent in 2004. The 2007 results showed the lowest turnout since the 1989 restructuring.

According to a *telephone survey of 800 electors commissioned by the Local Government Commission:

- 51 per cent of voters were over 55
- 66 per cent of non voters were 18 to 44
- Māori, Pacific and Asian people were over represented among non-voters
- Profiles of both groups do not vary markedly in terms of income.

(*Colmar Brunton *Insight and Inspiration, Post Local Elections Final Report 2007*)

The decline in voter turnout between 2004 and 2007 has been reasonably consistent across all authorities. The pattern from previous local authority elections remains, with smaller and South Island authorities registering a higher voter turnout across all election types.

(MSD *Social Report 2009*)

Statistical Overview

Local government is a major sector of the economy and:

- has an annual operating income of \$6.2 billion (GST ex), operating expenditure of \$6.7 billion and capital expenditure of \$3.46 billion (GST ex)
- owns assets worth \$98.75 billion

- contributes to around 3.5 per cent of New Zealand's gross domestic product
- owns 87 per cent of the nation's roads
- raises approximately 56 per cent of its income from property taxes.

See www.localcouncils.govt.nz for more statistical information.

About Auckland

A new governance model for local government has been developed in New Zealand as a result of the creation of the Auckland super city. This follows the enactment of the Local Government (Tamaki Makaurau Reorganisation) Act 2009 and the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009.

From 1 November 2010, Auckland Council will have two non-hierarchical complementary decision-making parts; the Mayor and 20 councillors (the governing body) and local boards. Under this model, Auckland will no longer have community boards. These will be replaced by local boards.

Auckland's governing body and local boards have different, but complementary, responsibilities. The governing body of the Auckland Council will be responsible for region-wide strategic decisions, regional issues, activities and facilities. Local boards will make decisions on local issues, activities and facilities.

Local boards

Local boards were introduced with the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009. They can comprise between five and 12 members.

There are 21 local boards. Their boundaries are determined by the Local Government Commission.

Each board must develop a plan of community priorities and preferences for the next three years. These must be submitted to the Auckland Council for agreement. The Auckland Council will own all property and manage all employee appointments.



About Council Structures

Local authorities, other than the new Auckland Council, are governed by the council, also known as the 'committee of the whole.'

A council has the discretion to appoint standing committees, special committees or sub-committees. Standing committees (or permanent committees) are responsible for much of council's work. This includes regulatory services, planning, recreation and safety, as well as promoting economic development. Some councils now operate without committees.

Many councils have community boards. These exist to ensure a community's interests are represented by bringing decision-making closer to citizens. The decisions agreed on will depend on the functions and responsibilities delegated to the boards by their council.



About the 2010 Elections

Local body elections are held on the second Saturday in October every three years. All are conducted by postal vote. The final voting day will be on Saturday October 9. All votes must be received by 12 noon.

Voting documents will be sent to all eligible voters by post from Friday 17 September 2010. Voters have three weeks to complete and return their voting documents.

Each election is run by an electoral officer. This person is often a council employee, although some councils use contractors to do this. Sitting elected members and anyone standing for election cannot be an electoral officer.

Preliminary results are announced by the electoral officer as soon as possible after voting closes. Official results follow within a few days. The electoral officer also writes to all candidates once the final election result is known.

For up to date information on candidates go to www.elections2010.co.nz.

Successful elected members take office the day after the official declaration is publicly notified.

Most council elections are conducted using the 'First Past the Post' system (FPP.) This means the candidate with the highest number of votes wins. This year six councils, in addition to all 21

Local body elections are conducted under the provisions of the:

- Local Electoral Act 2001
- Local Electoral Regulations 2001
- Local Government Act 2002
- New Zealand Public Health & Disability Act 2000 and their amendments.



district health boards, will use the Single Transferable Voting system (STV.)

These councils are:

- Dunedin City Council
- Kaipara District Council
- Kapiti Coast District Council
- Marlborough District Council
- Porirua City Council
- Wellington City Council.

(For an explanation of these systems go to page nine.)

For up to date information on candidates go to www.elections2010.co.nz.

Election Spending

There are limits to the amount of money candidates can spend on their election campaigns, which includes donations and joint campaigning. The maximum amount spent must not exceed the limits set out below.

Local government area population	Expenditure limit
Up to 4,999	\$3,500
5,000 – 9,999	\$7,000
10,000 – 19,999	\$14,000
20,000 – 39,999	\$20,000
40,000 – 59,999	\$30,000
60,000 – 79,999	\$40,000
80,000 – 99,999	\$50,000
100,000 – 149,000	\$55,000
150,000 – 249,999	\$60,000
250,000 – 1,000,000	\$70,000
1,000,000 or more	\$100,000*

If a candidate is standing for more than one position such as mayor and councillor, the higher limit applies (not both combined.)

*(These figures are GST inclusive). *Plus 50 cents for each elector.*

Timeline for Local Government Elections 2010

21 July	Public notice of election
23 July	Electoral roll open for inspection
23 July	Candidate nominations open
20 August	Candidate nominations close and electoral roll closes
25 August	Public notice of candidates' names
17 – 22 September	Voting documents delivered
17 Sept – 9 October	Special voting period
18 Sept – 9 October	Scrutiny and early processing
9 October	Voting closes 12 noon
9 October	Preliminary results
11 – 20 October	Declaration of results
November	Councillor swearing-in ceremonies



About the Voting Systems

Single Transferable Vote

Under STV, voters rank candidates in order of preference. Candidates must reach a quota of votes in order to be elected. If a candidate gets more votes than the allocated quota, part of that vote is then transferred to a voter's second choice until enough candidates have passed the quota to fill all vacancies.

The number of vacancies and votes determines the quota a candidate must reach to be elected. The formula for deciding the quota is total number of valid votes, divided by the number of vacancies plus one.

First Past the Post

FPP gives voters three votes for up to three candidates. The candidate with the most votes wins. A criticism of FPP is while a candidate may receive more votes than other individuals, they still receive fewer votes than other candidates put together. This can lead to a winner having a minority of the votes.

About Legislation

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)

The LGA modernised the powers, purpose and processes that govern how councils work. It also emphasised greater collaboration between local and central government to achieve what the community wants.

The LGA extended consultation into a process of engagement which requires councils to work with affected communities at the beginning and end of a process.

There are six consultation principles councils must consider when making decisions:

- Councils should provide those who will or may be affected by a decision with enough information to help them present their views.
- Councils should seek out and welcome the views of those interested in a decision.
- Potential submitters should be told the purpose and focus of the consultation.
- Anyone who wishes to put views before the council should be given a reasonable opportunity to present them in a way appropriate to the needs of the submitter.
- While councils may have working plans in mind they must be prepared to listen to all submissions with an open mind.

- Councils should provide information to submitters on the reasons for its decision.

The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002

The purpose of this Act is to:

- provide local authorities with flexible powers to set, assess, and collect rates to fund local government activities
- ensure rates are set in accordance with decisions made in a transparent and consultative manner
- provide processes and information enabling ratepayers to identify and understand their liability for rates.

Councils must also manage their revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments and general financial dealings prudently, and in a way which promotes the community's current and future interests.

Operating revenue must be set at a level sufficient to meet that year's projected operating expenses. This includes maintaining the service capability and integrity of assets throughout their useful life, and the funding of depreciation. There can be exceptions where it's demonstrably prudent - for example, a facility that is not meant to be replaced – if various procedural and consultative requirements are met.

The Act also requires councils to consider how activities are to be funded and factors that must be considered in the decision-making process. Consideration must also be given to the overall impact of allocation of liability for revenue needs on the current and future social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community.

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)

This Act makes official information available – unless there is a valid reason for withholding it. However, there are conditions under which requested information may be withheld. Under Sections 6, 7, 8, and 17 of LGOIMA, acceptable reasons for not providing requested information include:

- avoiding prejudicing the maintenance of the law
- protecting the health and safety of individuals
- protecting the privacy of individuals
- protecting information involving a trade secret, or commercially sensitive information (including relevant negotiations) or where disclosure would offend tikanga Māori or reveal waahi tapu
- protecting information which could prejudice or damage the public interest
- avoiding prejudice to measures that protect public health or safety, and that prevent or mitigate material loss to the public

- maintaining the effective conduct of public affairs by way of free and frank discussion among members and/or officers of the council, and by protecting them from improper pressure or harassment
- maintaining legal professional privilege
- preventing disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.

The Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991

This Act replaced over fifty former statutes. It requires councils to provide for integrated management of natural and physical resources. This devolution to local authorities is based on the premise decisions on environmental matters are best made by communities directly affected.

The Act gives councils the means to manage the environmental effects of using and developing resources, and codifies many good practice requirements. This includes consultation in planning and decision-making and the use of analytical and evaluation techniques, including assessments of environmental effects of alternatives.

The RMA sets out the resource management functions of each type of local authority and what each needs to do in performing these functions. It provides councils with the powers needed to administer their plans, and

establishes a resource consent process for activities not (either explicitly or implicitly) permitted as of right, by a plan, or the RMA.

In preparing RMA plans, councils are required to consult with iwi and recognise and provide for Māori values in resource management matters important to Māori.

The RMA has undergone a number of amendments since 1991. Most recent changes in 2003, 2004 and 2005 introduced several administrative process improvements for notification and hearings; requirements to consider effects related to energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change; and increased powers for ministerial intervention. The role of regional councils was also strengthened in the integration of land use and infrastructure.

The RMA focuses on the effects of activities rather than the activities themselves. Its underlying assumption is that a use, development or subdivision should proceed if there are no adverse environmental effects, or if effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

RMA Consultation

Community participation in resource management is a key principle of the RMA. Councils must prepare a proposed version of the policy statement or plan. Many choose to issue a draft plan prior to this step, to solicit early views and

input. In this process councils must consult certain parties such as the responsible ministers of the Crown, other councils affected and tangata whenua.

The council then publicly notifies the proposed policy statement or plan and makes it available to anyone who is interested. Anyone can make a submission supporting or objecting to proposed policies or plans. Councils then summarise submissions and invite further submissions. Councils must hold a meeting or hearing in response to submissions so those who made a submission can voice their views if they wish. The local authority decisions are then publicly notified and provided to everybody who made a submission. Those who made a submission have a right of appeal to the Environment Court against a council decision.

Local Government Act (Amendment) Bill

Parliament is currently considering an amendment to the LGA which changes aspects of councils' long-term planning. The Bill, which is expected to become law in December 2010, will change the name of the Long-Term Council Community Plan to Long-Term Plan. It will remove a number of policies previously included in the LTCCP and reduce the number of decisions councils must consult on. These include decisions to place activities in council controlled organisations (CCOs) or privatise activities.

About the Democratic Process

Meetings

Ordinary meetings are regular meetings of the council. Councillors must be given notice of the time and place of the meeting not less than 10 working days before. Councils may adopt advance schedules of ordinary meetings, and notice to members must be given not less than 10 working days prior to the first meeting in the schedule.

Extraordinary meetings can be called by:

- a resolution of the local authority
- the mayor or chairperson making a request in writing to the chief executive officer
- not less than one third of the councillors making a request in writing to the chief executive officer.

Every councillor must be given notice of the extraordinary meeting at least three working days before, or not less than 24 hours notice if there is council resolution to this effect. An extraordinary meeting can be called by the mayor, chair or the chief executive (if the mayor/chair is absent) if there are matters which must be dealt with and require shorter notice.

Councils must publish monthly schedules of meetings giving the time and place. The monthly schedule must include all committee and sub-committee meetings. Alternatively meetings held after the 21st of any month can be publicly notified not

more than 10, or less than five, working days before the day of the meeting. There are exceptions to these rules for extraordinary meetings. There is no actual requirement to meet monthly.

Workshops

Many councils hold workshops or informal meetings to brief elected members on emerging issues, or get an indication of councillor preference before initiating a policy project. Meeting procedures and LGOIMA do not apply to workshops, and it is common for them to exclude media and the public. Workshops cannot be used to make decisions.

Standing Orders

Councils must adopt standing orders as a requirement of the LGA. Standing orders apply to full council meetings and committee meetings. They provide the basis for the orderly conduct of meetings and contain rules defining the rights of chairs and members to address meetings. Councils also use standing orders to deal with the many matters they manage that are not covered by legislation.

Councils can amend or suspend any part of their standing orders on the vote of three-quarters of the members present.

Order Papers

Apart from the first meeting following an election, legislation allows councils to determine their order of business. The chief executive prepares an agenda for each meeting listing the items of business and attaching relevant information. The order paper is distributed to members before the meeting. Business is dealt with in the order set out in the agenda unless the chair gives precedence to a particular item of business. If there is business from which the public is excluded, this is usually dealt with at the end of the meeting.

Minutes

Minutes are the official record of a meeting. They are approved at the next meeting and signed by the chair, and become the legal evidence of the proceedings.

Voting

The chair calls for an expression of opinion or takes a show of hands. Once the council's opinion has been ascertained, the chair announces whether a motion has been carried or defeated. A member can request their vote against a motion be recorded in the minutes.

All present at the meeting must be able to see (or hear) how individual councillors vote. Some councils use electronic voting systems. Secret ballot voting is not allowed.

Divisions

If the result of a vote is unclear, councillors may ask the chair to call a division. Alternatively, any member may call for a division immediately after the chair has declared the result of a vote on the voices or by show of hands.

When a division is called the principal administrative officer will take down the names of the members voting 'yes' and 'no' respectively and hand the list to the chair who will declare the result. How councillors voted will also be recorded in the minutes.

Casting Vote

The default position in the LGA is there is no casting vote for the chair of meetings. Councils can, however, use a casting vote if they include it in their standing orders either when adopting their standing orders immediately after an election, or through an addition to their standing orders at a later date.

About Plans and Statements

The Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)

The LTCCP is a council's primary strategic planning document. It is also the main opportunity for the public to participate in local decision-making.

The LTCCP sets out the council's priorities over the medium to long-term, outlining how the council intends to promote community well-being. Many decisions and actions can be undertaken only if they are included in an LTCCP.

Some decisions may only be taken as part of an LTCCP (either as the 'full' LTCCP or as an amendment.) These include:

- significantly altering the service levels of a significant activity
- transferring ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the local authority
- construction, replacement or abandonment of a strategic asset
- decisions affecting the cost of any activity identified in the LTCCP, or the capacity of the local authority to deliver on that activity.

Councils must produce LTCCPs once every three years. The LTCCP must cover a period of at least 10 years. This means councils will undertake a major consultative process at least one year in three, and a smaller consultative exercise in the second and third years focusing on amendments to the LTCCP, or on the annual plan. Once adopted, an LTCCP can be amended but

not revoked. Councils must report every three years on results.

Councils must also adopt a range of funding and financial policies to be included in the LTCCP. These include policies on:

- revenue and financing
- liability management
- investment
- development contributions on how, and to what extent, the cost of capital expenditure will be met by a levy on new subdivisions and/or developments
- partnerships with the private sector
- remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land
- remission and postponement for other classes of land.

Asset Management Plans (AMPs)

AMPs manage a council's infrastructure and other assets so the organisation can achieve its strategic goals. AMPs detail:

- the levels of service the asset will provide
- service levels against which performance will be judged
- policies, procedures and timetables necessary to achieve the cost effective creation, acquisition, maintenance and operation, rehabilitation and disposal of assets, including future demands

- financial cashflow projections
- scheduled capital, renewal and operation expenditure necessary to maintain required service levels.

Funding Impact Statements (FIS)

This must be provided in LTCCPs and annual plans. The FIS sets out the funding council requires, the mechanisms required to raise funding, and how much each mechanism or funding tool will raise. The FIS must also show how council activities will be funded, whether by rates, user charges or a targeted charge. It must also include the council's forecasting assumptions and a description of risks underlying the estimates.

National Policy Statements

National policy statements are statutory documents in which the Minister for the Environment can state policies of national resource management significance. Currently the only national policy statement is the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement; however a number are underway.

See www.mfe.govt.nz for a current status of national policy statements.

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS)

The coastal policy statement promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in relation to New Zealand's coastal environment. The current NZCPS was gazetted in 1994. It is currently under review.

National Environmental Standards (NES)

NES are a tool to set mandatory bottom line standards for specified activities under the RMA. The government approved the first NES, for air quality, in July 2004.

Regional Policy Statements

The RMA requires regional councils and unitary authorities to prepare a regional policy statement for the sustainable management of the region's resources.

Regional Plans

Regional plans deal with specific resource management issues such as air, water, or land management. Regional plans must give effect to any national policy statements, the NZCPS and regional policy statements.

Regional Coastal Plans

Regional coastal plans are mandatory for all coastal marine areas. A regional coastal plan may form part of a regional plan, although most regional councils have stand-alone plans.

District Plans

City and district councils and unitary authorities must prepare a district plan for the sustainable management of the district's resources, to enable them to manage their significant resource management issues.

District plans must give effect to any national policy statement, NZCPS, and regional policy statements.

District plans must also be consistent with regional plans.

The Annual Plan

This contains the annual budget and is a link to the rate-setting process; in fact in the first year of an LTCCP, the financial and service level information in the LTCCP is, by law, the annual plan.

Councils must still prepare an annual plan, although the main planning document is now the LTCCP. The annual plan will link the LTCCP to the annual budgeting process (including setting rates.) The annual plan must include:

- a proposed annual budget including estimated costs and revenues
- a funding impact statement for the year
- forecast financial statements for the year
- statements setting out service levels and performance measures
- details of any changes from the information in the LTCCP (including the reasons for change.)

An important feature of the LGA is councils cannot make significant changes to their work programme or budget through the annual plan; they can only do so through the LTCCP or an amendment to the LTCCP.

Annual plans must be adopted by June 30 each year. There is no penalty for councils that fail to meet the June 30 deadline.

About Council Funding

Local authorities have two sorts of general rating powers:

- **general rates** – these are determined by the land, capital or rental value of a property
- **uniform annual general charges** – this is a fixed dollar charge for each rating unit or separately used part of a rating unit.

‘Separately used’ refers to a property or building used by a person other than the owner, who has the right to use that portion through a tenancy, lease, licence or other agreement. Councils must include a definition of ‘separately used or inhabited’ in their LTCCP.

General rates can be set at the same rate in the dollar for all rating units. They can also be set differentially. This means some properties might pay more, or less, than the average rate, even though they have the same value. The rural differential is an example. This is where rural properties are charged a lower rate because they use fewer council services. Some councils have a business differential where businesses might be charged at a higher rate in the dollar because they use a greater range of services.

Targeted Rates

These are set to fund a specific function or group of functions. If a council sets a targeted rate it cannot use the revenue for any other purpose. An irrigation scheme would be a typical activity. Targeted rates ensure only those properties benefiting from the scheme pay the rates to fund it.

Councils can set a targeted rate on all rating units in their area, or exclude particular groups of rating units. A targeted rate for security, street-cleaning or beautification in the central business district, are examples.

The Rating Act also places a 30 per cent cap on the portion of council's total revenue which comes from uniform charges and targeted rates (except those made for water supply and sewage disposal.)

Non-Rateable Land

The following is a simplified list of categories of non-rateable land:

- conservation
- heritage
- local authority land
- education land
- DHB land
- institutions used as a place of religious worship.

Other non-rateable land includes cemeteries and crematoria, Māori customary land, roads, airports, wharves, machinery, railways and land for charitable institutions.

The Rating Act also places a 30 per cent cap on the portion of council's total revenue which comes from uniform charges and targeted rates (except those made for water supply and sewage disposal.)

Development Contributions

Many territorial authorities in New Zealand face pressures on services they provide as a consequence of growth. The LGA provides territorial authorities with a tool - development contributions- for collecting revenue from those who cause the need for additional infrastructure, including community infrastructure to mitigate the cost effects of growth.



Glossary of Terms

Annual Plan – a local authority document which sets out the annual budget, sources of funding and proposed work programme.

Annual Report – the last link in the planning cycle. The annual report must include results of monitoring of community outcomes, identified effects of any activity, the audited financial performance, significant acquisitions, and reports on the performance of CCOs and remuneration for councillors and the chief executive.

Community Boards – carry out functions and powers delegated by their councils, representing and advocating on behalf of their communities. There are around 143 community boards in New Zealand. Community boards can have between four and 12 members, at least four of whom, or more than half, must be elected. Some members may be appointed by the territorial authority.

Community Outcomes – developed through community consultation these are meant to inform the development of local authority planning.

Consultation – a process requiring elected members to consider proposals with an open mind. Consultation involves a proposal not yet decided on.

Over the last 10 years, case law has clarified the meaning of consultation.

There are a number of components. When there is a duty to consult, there is a requirement for parties to be provided with relevant information and the opportunity to present their views. The decision-maker must keep an open mind, and not make a decision until consulted parties have had their say.

Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) – an organisation in which one, or more, local authority owns or controls 50 per cent, or more, of the voting rights or has the right to appoint 50 per cent, or more, of the directors of the organisation.

Council-Controlled Trading Organisation (CCTO) – a CCTO is a trading operation established to make a profit.

Council Organisation (CO) – an organisation in which one, or more, local authority owns or controls any portion of the voting rights, or has the right to appoint one, or more, of the directors or trustees.

Local Governance Statement – explains the ways the local authority engages with its community and makes its decisions, and how citizens can influence processes.

Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) – describes the activities the local authority will engage in, and why and how those activities will be funded, for at least 10 years.

Useful Websites

Special Consultative Procedure (SCP) – a formal process that sets out the steps a local authority must follow when consulting on an issue.

Statement of Intent (SOI) – sets out objectives and expected activities, and forecasts the performance of a CCO over the coming year.

Statement of Proposal – a document that provides the basis for consultation under the SCP, by setting out a local authority's proposals.

Strategic Asset – an asset or group of assets held by the local authority to maintain its capacity to promote outcomes it considers important.

Sustainable Development – consideration of social, economic and cultural well-being, the environment and the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

Triennial Agreement – sets the basis for communication and coordination between authorities.

www.lgnz.co.nz – for information about *Local Government New Zealand*.

www.elections2010.co.nz – for information about candidates.

www.elections.org.nz/elections/localelections – for information about the election process.

www.localcouncils.govt.nz – for information about local government, councils and useful links, maintained by the Department of Internal Affairs.

www.localgovt.co.nz – portal for local government.

www.kidsvoting.org.nz – encourage young people to participate in the democratic process.

www.legislation.govt.nz – for information about Acts.

www.stv.govt.nz – for information about single transferable voting.



Contact details

All requests for interviews should be directed to the communications manager on (04) 924 1202, 029 924 1202 or the communications advisor on (04) 924 1217 or 029 924 1205.

The current communications manager is Fiona Mayo (fiona.mayo@lgnz.co.nz) and communications advisor Kelly Mitchell (kelly.mitchell@lgnz.co.nz). An information manager, currently Jan Rivers, can assist with research or historical information on (04) 924 1222. LGNZ's main line 0064 (04) 924 1200.



Local Elections 2010
**YOUR VOTE
YOUR COMMUNITY**

**Local Government
New Zealand**
te pūtakehi matakōkiri

