

## FAQs

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### Why make these changes?

Auckland is the country's economic powerhouse. We all need Auckland to perform the best it can.

Having one regional body to make all long-term plans and to manage transport, water and asset management needs means Auckland will finally have a co-ordinated process to make decisions and to invest accordingly.

This will mean clearer and consistent decision-making on regional issues, clear leadership for Auckland and a reduction in the duplication of services.

### Will I get to vote for the Mayor?

Yes. This is important, as the Mayor must represent all of Auckland, and all Aucklanders.

### Will one regional unitary Council create the change necessary for Auckland?

Yes. The current structures and processes don't work as well as they need to. Auckland needs one regional body to create and drive the vision for the Auckland region. It needs to have one overall plan, not eight.

### What will the Local Boards do?

These Local Boards have more responsibilities than existing community boards. These Boards will advocate for their local neighbourhoods and set policy for local issues such as graffiti management and dog control. They will not have staff or run services.

### How will this affect my rates?

You will receive one bill for your rates. This will cover local and Auckland-wide services.

## Transition

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The Government will appoint an independent Establishment Board, which will be responsible for the reforms and for monitoring existing councils' decision-making and operations.

Existing councils will retain existing responsibilities but their decision-making will be constrained during the transition period.

A Transition Management Group made up of the chief executives of the existing councils, Watercare Service Ltd and Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA) will help support the work of the Establishment Board. It will manage day-to-day business, communicate with staff and implement change management processes.

## More information

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

This website has been set up to share updated information on the Government's decisions on Auckland.

Call: **0800 22 78 78**

Email: [rcinfo@dia.govt.nz](mailto:rcinfo@dia.govt.nz)

# Making Auckland Greater



Greater communities  
Greater connections  
Greater value

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#### THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISIONS ON AUCKLAND GOVERNANCE

- Bold change is needed to make Auckland the most exciting, vibrant metropolitan centre in Australasia.
- A region that has first class infrastructure and lifestyle.
- A region that attracts people and investment.
- A region that will encourage our children and grandchildren to build their futures in New Zealand.



## Need to act

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Auckland is New Zealand's largest city with a stunning setting located between two sparkling harbours. It contains some of the most important commercial, educational and business organisations in the country. It is the region where nearly one third of the population of New Zealand choose to live, work and play.

However, Auckland's potential is restricted by the fragmented way the city is run. Regional issues get tangled up in the competing interests of local councils. Community matters get tangled up in local councils' focus on the Auckland-wide issues.

We currently have seven local councils and one regional council. We need one council to create a vision, plan, manage assets and deliver core services.

The Government has decided on a system for governing the city region that simplifies running the city-wide matters and also empowers local communities to have their say.

The result will be better connections across this great city, better value from rates and central government funding, and community control of what matters in their neighbourhoods.

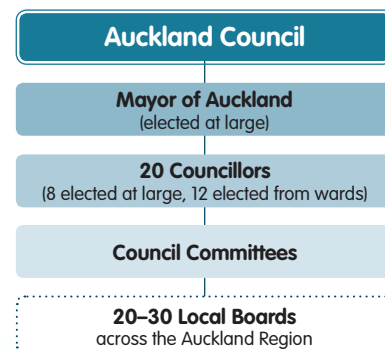
# Importance of Auckland

Auckland is the commercial capital. It is our gateway to the world. It must, like no other city in New Zealand, attract and keep people, operate efficiently, offer an unparalleled lifestyle, and enable business, arts and sports to flourish.

But for Auckland to shine it needs strong leadership, consistent decision-making and a united voice.

The Government has now made its decisions on Auckland governance. These decisions will help Auckland realise its potential and pave the way for making Auckland greater.

## How the structure works



### Key decisions

The biggest decision is the creation of one unitary, region-wide authority called the Auckland Council.

The council will consist of 20 councillors and be led by a mayor, who will be elected at large by Aucklanders.

### New structure

Auckland will have a single Council for the region comprising a Mayor with governance powers and a Council of 20 elected members. The Mayor will be elected at large.

This council will have the combined responsibilities of the current local and regional councils, which means it will provide services like rubbish, roads and water as well as environmental monitoring. It will develop policies for making Auckland greater.

Approximately 20 to 30 Local Boards will be set up across the Auckland region to represent Auckland's diverse communities.

### Representation

The 20 councillors on the Auckland Council will be made up of eight councillors elected at large, and 12 councillors elected from wards.

The Local Boards will advocate for their local communities and set policy for local issues such as dog control. They will not have staff or run services. Waiheke and Great Barrier will each have a Local Board.

The Local Government Commission will decide the boundaries for the new Auckland Council, the wards within it and the number and boundaries of the Local Boards by April 2010.

## What does this mean for you?

At a regional level, it will provide consistent decision-making and planning. It will provide a united council and united voice for Auckland when working with central government.

For Auckland to fulfil its potential, all its plans for transport, infrastructure, economic development, environmental protection and managing growth need to be linked. The new structure will deliver this.

Having one unitary authority, called the Auckland Council, will also lead to cost savings in terms of economies of scale. For example, you will not need eight different council IT systems.

At a local level, it will provide you with representation through a Local Board. These will have more powers than the current community boards. For example, they can set policy on local issues such as graffiti management.

You will vote for the people you want on your Local Board, the Councillors for the new regional Auckland Council, and the Mayor.

## Key delivery areas

### Rates

You will receive one rates bill based on one rating system.

Nothing will change until after the local elections in October 2010.

### Planning

There will be one council and one set of plans.

There will be one Long Term Council Community Plan (also called an LTCCP, Ten Year Plan or City Plan) for the whole region rather than eight different plans.

For Auckland to fulfil its potential, all its plans for transport, infrastructure, urban development, economic development, environmental management and growth management need to be linked.

### Transport

All local and regional transport services, projects and issues will be dealt with by one organisation called the Regional Transport Authority (RTA). This means that you can call the RTA about potholes in your road or regional bus services.

### Water

There will be one regional organisation that will be responsible for all water and wastewater services in the Auckland region (Papakura will be the exception as it currently has an external contract provider). It will be controlled by the new Auckland Council.

Uniform charges for drinking water and wastewater will apply across the whole region and your water rates bill will be based on the amount of water (including wastewater) you use.