

**Regional Leadership
and the Joint Committee**
Wellington Region's Opportunity



Background > Governance for Regional Growth

- Wellington region local government Chief Executives and the Wellington regional Mayoral Forum have been discussing options for governance and leadership for economic development and economic recovery
- The Executive Review Group for the Wellington Regional Growth Framework (WRGF) has been exploring governance options for implementation of WRGF
- A number of options were considered. The recommended and agreed option is a new Joint Committee [JC] (under the Local Government Act, Schedule 7)

What are the drivers?

Pull Factors

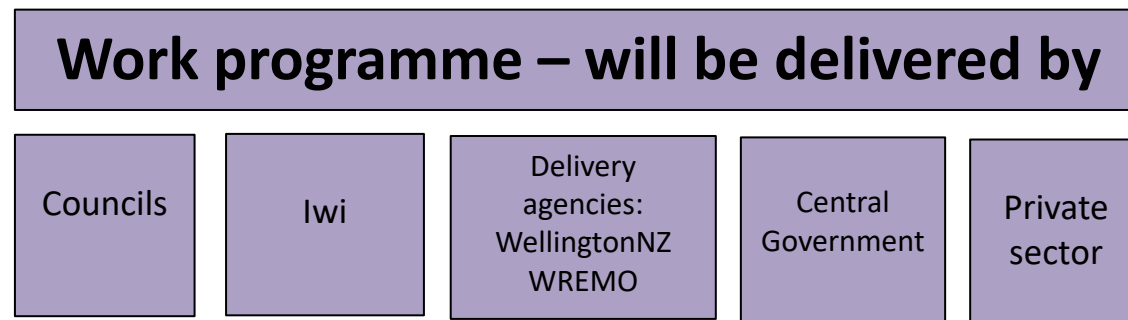
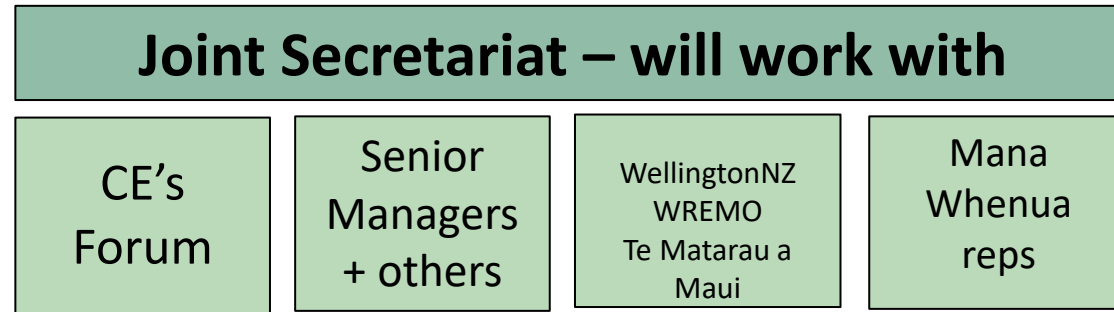
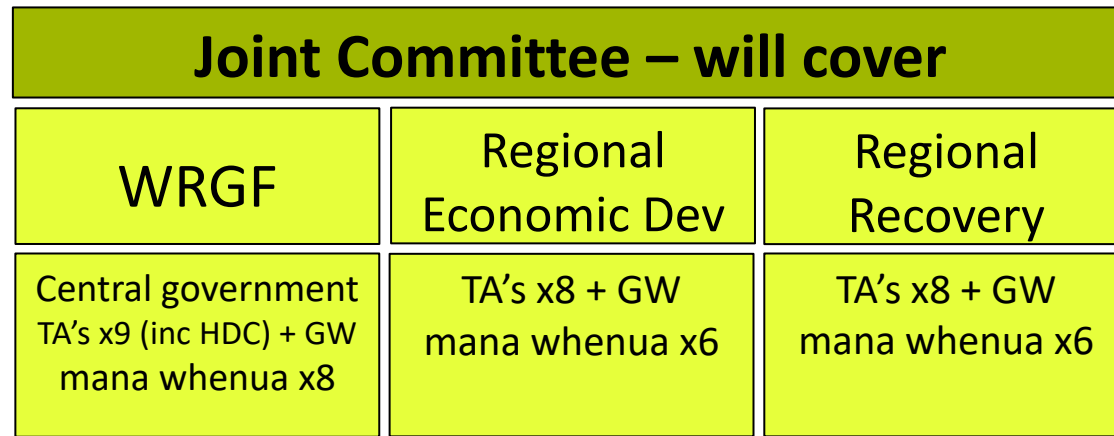
- **Top Connections:** Improved ability to engage as a region with central Government - at the level they want to engage and focus on a joint plan with them
- **Cohesion:** Closer governance relationship between local government, mana whenua and central government
- **Fit for the Challenges:** Joined up planning and alignment of action across the region to achieve more efficient and effective solutions
- **Complete Puzzle:** Integration across key issues of collective importance for the region and a leadership voice for the region

What are the drivers?

Push Factors

- **Meaningful Partnerships:** Ongoing Government support for the implementation of the WRGF is dependant on establishing a joint governance with local government, central government and iwi representatives (this is the model already in place in Waikato/Hamilton to Auckland, Bay of Plenty and Canterbury)
- **Changes Coming:** RMA Reform Package foreshadows a mandatory joint committee at a regional level for land use planning (spatial plan and district plans)
- **Adapt and Thrive:** We'll be better position and equipped to adapt and thrive in the COVID-era, and beyond

Preferred Option



Membership and models

- Membership
 - Core: mayors/chair, mana whenua, independent chair
 - Additional members for WRGF: up to 3 Ministers, 2 mana whenua (Horowhenua), Mayor of Horowhenua
 - Observers (non voting): up to 4 specified for each focus area
- Based on existing regional models (FutureProof, SmartGrowth, Christchurch)



Key Lessons from Other Regions

- **Independent chair** – enables all other parties to participate rather than need to chair, single point of coordination, key to managing across relationships and programme of work
- **Dedicated secretariat** – essential to make Committee effective
- **Sufficient core funding** – core budget approx. \$700,000 - \$1m/per annum plus project funding
- **3 year work programme commitment** – provides continuity for work programme
- **Consensus decision-making** – continue until agreement reached
- **Conflict resolution process** - agreed in advance through an MOU
- **Mana whenua at the table** – need to fund capacity for meetings and other input, requirement for Minister involvement

Who does what?

Joint Committee (Regional)

- Develop and review non-statutory regional level strategic documents (as specified) e.g. WRGF, regional economic development plan, regional recovery
- Manage regional collective action programmes that come from the regional plans
- Recommend certain plans to council and iwi for endorsement before finalising e.g. 100 regional 3-waters plan
- Monitor the collective action plans
- Advocate for collective region

Councils (local)

- Develop and review City and District Plans e.g. Planning for Growth, PCC District Plan review
- Manage local action programmes
- Monitor the local action plans
- Advocate for city/district

NOTE: No changes to the existing mandate or responsibilities of TAs (or Regional Council)

How does the Joint Committee work?

- Decision-making based on a consensus model
- Role is focussed on:
 - **Clear voice:** Single point of leadership and advocacy on behalf of the collective region
 - **Shared thinking:** Collective regional-scale planning and associated implementation programmes
 - **Right Connections:** Alignment across multiple organisations and integration across multiple activity areas

Support for the Joint Committee

- **Joint Secretariat** to manage regional level relationships, administration, coordination across member organisations, support through research, manage agreed work programme(s), support mana whenua participation (up to 4 dedicated staff)
- **CE's Forum and Senior Managers Group** to provide advice and oversight. These will include local government, central government and iwi members.
- **Council, iwi and central government staff, WellingtonNZ and WREMO** to provide advice
- **Administering Authority** is the employer, financial administration, standing orders

Funding

- Preferred option is for a regional rate to provide the funding for the Joint Committee and Joint Secretariat
- Some savings would be made to the current WRS Targeted Rate (i.e. WRS Office) to assist with the new rate
- Estimated net additional cost per annum \$500,000 (taking into account the savings)
- Subject to consultation as part of the Greater Wellington Long Term Plan 2021-31
- Funding for projects in an agreed 3 year work programme would also need to be funded in addition to the regional rate
- Horowhenua would need to pay separately for their support of the WRGF part of the secretariat

Role of Wellington NZ

WellingtonNZ interacts with the Joint Committee through:

- Advice on Regional Economic Development Planning
(through the Joint Secretariat)
- Delivery of agreed regional actions in the Plan (through regional targeted rate)

Governance arrangements:

- WellingtonNZ Board continues to provide direct governance of CCO
- Joint Committee recommends allocation of Wellington Regional Strategy regional targeted rate to GW. This would be translated into a Funding Agreement with Wellington NZ
- Responsibility for setting Statement of Intent and monitoring performance reverts to existing shareholders (Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington)
- Wellington Regional Strategy Committee to be disestablished

**Absolutely
Positively
Wellington**
WellingtonNZ.com

Next Steps

- Workshops/hui with mana whenua (ongoing)
- Workshops/meetings with Councils on WRGF and governance (October/November 2020)
- Councils to endorse WRGF (November/December 2020)
- Iwi to endorse WRGF and formal agreement to Joint Committee (November 2020 – February 2021)
- Councils to consider formal agreement to Joint Committee (January/February 2021)
- Cabinet to endorse the Framework and agree to join the WRGF part of the Joint Committee (Est. end of February 2021)
- Operational (early 2021)
- Public consultation on the draft WRGF (2nd quarter 2021)

Discussion and Questions?