



Briefing: Simplifying Local Government

16 December 2025 – 12.55pm

Attendees

Elected Members: Mayor Fauono Laban, Cr Barratt, Deputy Mayor Brown, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Cr Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Parkin, Cr Puketapu, Cr Ravi (via audio-visual link), Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Cr Tonga-Grant, Cr Yung and D Chrisp, Wainuiomata Community Board (via audio-visual link).

Staff: J Miller, Chief Executive; J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer; A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities; J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement; J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development; A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability; K Stannard, Head of Democratic Services, C Ellis, Head of Chief Executives Office; A Darby-Braddock, Head of Mayors Office and V Gilmour, Democracy Advisor.

Presenters

Jo Miller, Chief Executive.

Introduction and Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of the briefing is to provide an update on the government's draft proposal to simplify local government, outline the preferred model for regional governance change, and explain the proposed process, timelines, and implications for councils ahead of engagement and submissions.

Presentation by Jo Miller, Chief Executive

Slide 1 – Local Government Updates (Header)

Slide 2 – The Government’s Preferred Option for Change 1

Slide 3 – The Government’s Preferred Option for Change 2

Slide 4 – Points to note

Slide 5 – What happens and when?

Slide 6 – Questions

Next steps

- **10 November 2025** – Cabinet agreed to release a draft proposal for simplifying local government, for testing and refining with experts, post settlement governance entities and other stakeholders, with an online submission form available.
- **25 November 2025** – Proposal document is released by Ministers (with an online feedback form for public comment).
- **November 2025 – February 2026** –
 - Engagement on the proposal document
 - Rapid review of regional council roles and functions.
- **20 February 2026** – Submissions close on the proposal document
- **March 2026** – Ministers report back to Cabinet with a final proposal and preliminary view on any transfer/cessation of regional council functions.
- **Mid-2026** – Legislation is introduced and referred to a select committee
- **Mid-2027** – Legislation is enacted

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – Presentation: [Simplifying Local Government](#)

The briefing closed at 1.16pm