

Resource Management Joint Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Resource Management Joint Committee (the Committee) is to provide a joint regional governance and coordination forum for the member councils to oversee the transition to the new resource management system.

The committee will transition to a Statutory Spatial Planning Committee, as currently specified in clause 71 of the Planning Bill as soon as practicable following the enactment of the Planning Bill, subject to a review and subsequent approval of these terms of reference by the member councils.

Membership

The Committee is a joint committee under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). It shall have eight elected members from:

- Northland Regional Council (2 members)
- Far North District Council (2 members)
- Kaipara District Council (2 members)
- Whangarei District Council (2 members)

Each council shall appoint one alternate elected member who has full speaking and voting rights when formally acting as the alternate. The committee shall however have only 8 voting members at any one time.

Advisory (non-voting) attendees:

The Committee may, by resolution, invite additional non-voting advisers to attend meetings where specialist advice is required.

Ex officio:

Whereas the Mayors of Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei district councils are a member of all committees by virtue of section 41A(5) of the Local Government 2002, the Mayors have agreed not to exercise this right of membership.

Status

The Committee is a joint committee established under Clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7, LGA, and will operate in accordance with the LGA.

The Committee has no delegated decision-making powers under the Local Government Act 2002 (or any other Act) unless all member councils jointly agree to confer such powers in future.

Nothing in these Terms of Reference limits or replaces the employment, organisational, or operational responsibilities of each Chief Executive within their respective council.

The Committee operates under Northland Regional Council Standing Orders.

Role and Responsibilities

The Committee will be responsible for providing governance oversight and recommendations to the four Councils on:

1. Regional coordination of and resourcing for the programme management of the Reform Programme.
2. Approaches that ensure the reform process is undertaken in a way that is consistent with the legislative requirements to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decisions making, taking into account the commitment each council has made in respect of giving effect to their Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.
3. Matters requiring formal council decision-making, including policy, statutory steps and system investments.
4. Transition to the statutory Spatial Planning Committee, including the development of the formal Process Agreement and the preparatory steps required to transition to the Spatial Planning Committee set out in the Planning Bill.
5. Risks management and key programme deliverables.

Relationship to Programme Structure

The Committee is supported the Chief Executives' Forum

Chair and Deputy Chair

The Chair and Deputy Chair shall be elected by the Committee members at the first meeting of the Committee and then again at the first meeting of each triennium, using System A under Clause 25 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet monthly, or more frequently if required to meet statutory timeframes.

Additional meetings may be called by the Chair or upon request from the majority of Committee members.

Quorum

A quorum shall consist of at least 50% of members, including at least one member from three of the four member councils.

Decision-making

Decisions will be made by consensus wherever possible.

Where consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be made by simple majority of members present.

The Chair has a casting vote.

Service of Meetings

Secretariat and administrative support will be provided by Northland Regional Council unless the Committee resolves otherwise.

Draft agendas will be prepared by the Programme Secretariat and approved by the Chair prior to distribution.

Remuneration

Remuneration or reimbursement of costs for Committee members is the responsibility of each appointing member council.

Amendments & Review

Any amendment to these Terms of Reference must be approved by all member councils.

As a minimum, the Terms of Reference will be reviewed within 2 months of the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill receiving royal ascent.

The terms of reference may be amended prior if required to support putting in place the 'Process Agreement' (s69 of the Planning Bill) for Spatial Planning and transitioning the Committee to a Spatial Planning Committee.

Term and disestablishment

The Committee will be disestablished by unanimous resolution of all member councils.

If a member Council withdraws, the Committee will continue unless the remaining Councils resolve otherwise.

In such circumstances, the Committee must:

- (a) review its purpose, membership and roles and responsibilities.
- (b) confirm if quorum and decision-making provisions remain appropriate; and
- (c) update the Terms of Reference as required.