

21 February 2025

Hon. Simon Watts
Minister for Local Government
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Tēnā koe Minita Watts

Invitation to submit a Regional Deal “light-touch” proposal

Thank you for the 21 November 2024 invitation to submit a Regional Deal proposal for the Wellington Region. We welcome the opportunity for councils to partner with central government to deliver important infrastructure and boost economic growth within our communities.

On 18 December 2024 we expressed our interest in submitting a proposal by 28 February 2025. However, with further consideration, the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC) has concluded that we will not be ready to submit a proposal by this date.

The WRLC has made considerable progress over the last three years, with all members working together on our Future Development Strategy. Over the next 3-6 months we will develop a shared view of the key issues affecting progress, priority themes of work and cross-sector projects to reflect a transformational approach to regional growth. We are very keen to leverage the potential from partnering with central government to deliver on our shared outcomes of resilient infrastructure, quality affordable housing and economic growth. Any proposal will identify regulatory changes we think necessary to remove roadblocks and create opportunities for new funding tools.

Through this upcoming work, we will describe a logically connected range and sequence of projects and initiatives to support the growth of the region. We will also enable a more mature conversation with you about which elements the government may be willing to stand behind.

Our strong partnership within our Wellington/Wairarapa/Horowhenua region, including our partnership with mana whenua, are fundamental to our success. We would value a stronger partnership with Government. We invite you, as the new Minister for Local Government, and Minister Bishop to meet with the WRLC to better understand what we do and to discuss how we might work more closely together. Please let us know if you would be interested in meeting us.

Once again, we thank the Government for the Regional Deal opportunity and look forward to working with you in the future.

Ngā mihi



Darrin Apanui
Chair



Daran Ponter
Deputy Chair

cc Hon. Chris Bishop - Minister of Housing, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Minister of Transport, Leader of the House.