

Work Programme
07/08





President's introduction

I am delighted to present the Local Government New Zealand Work Programme for 2007/2008.

There are five priority issues for the 2007/2008 year:

Activities relating to the 2007 local government elections

This includes workshops for new elected members, mayors and chairs, publication of the New Elected Members' Handbook, implementation of the public awareness programme, and using the Colmar Brunton value for money research to develop public understanding of the drivers behind rates increases.

Maximising the opportunity to improve the sector's financial capability presented by the Independent Inquiry into Local Government Rates and the ongoing Funding Review

We have also commissioned some substantial independent research to assist the Inquiry to examine the rationale and basis for local authority funding, and we are committed to completing the long-delayed Funding Assistance Rate review.

Responding to Government initiatives affecting local government

This includes waste issues (including the waste levy), climate change, energy, water (including sewage and drinking water legislation), along with other high-risk legislation like paper roads, the Food Safety Review, implementation of the Building Act, road-corridor utilities legislation, and the Ministerial Review of Regulatory Frameworks. The implications for local government of the Government seeking to achieve its climate change and energy goals are considerable, and we need to carefully examine the practical aspects of implementation, and the respective roles of Government and local government.

Working at a higher level to improve the Government/local government relationship

Particular focus on the regulatory framework, the Government's developing preference for "consistency" and regulation as opposed to legislated solutions (such as National Policy Statements and National Environmental

Standards, the Ministerial Review of Regulatory Frameworks), and participating in the new regional development strategy.

Communicating with and supporting our membership

We will participate in, or organise, informative and engaging zone and sector rounds, roll out the elected member professional development programme, and continue sustained media advocacy on behalf of the sector.

This document retains the new format adopted last year, with the four goals we have developed for the local government sector and five goals for the organisation, identifying the value we deliver to our members. Following feedback from last year, we have simplified the document, identifying only the major priority tasks and initiatives under each goal. The volume of activity, however, has increased on the previous year. There are 63 activity lines across the nine goals, and excluding the 59 days involved in governance-related activities (National Council, zones and sectors), this plan involves us in six steering groups, 34 discrete projects, 50 pieces of legislation or regulation, 23 additional legislative or regulatory reviews, 36 training or member development exercises and five major policy development exercises. In summary, the plan contains around 200 pieces of work.

I am sure that you will continue to agree with me that *Local Government New Zealand* represents value for money for all categories of our membership.

Basil Morrison
President
Local Government New Zealand



Key activities

1. Supporting community wellbeing

- advocate for local government interests, liaise with relevant agencies, and provide policy leadership in relation to social issues which have national significance, including affordable housing, community violence, youth transition services and Mayors Taskforce for Jobs
- work with central government agencies and local authorities in the development of national policy relating to emergency management (notably the Review of Flood Management, Fire and Rescue Services Review, Civil Defence and Emergency Management)
- work with central government agencies to develop suitable policy tools and processes to demonstrate the uptake and application of the principles of sustainable development and the sustainable cities philosophy.



2. Enhancing environmental outcomes

- work with the Ministry for the Environment to assist councils to mitigate and adapt to climate change, communicate and disseminate information to councils on climate change matters, and provide a local government perspective into the development of central government policy on climate change and air quality
- contribute to the development of a New Zealand Energy Strategy and the review of the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and provide a local government perspective into the development of government policy on energy
- continue involvement in the development of government policy on the Sustainable Water Programme of Action and monitor the implementation of the Clean Streams and Dairying Accord
- work with the Packaging Accord Governing Board, the Local Government Project Team, cross-sector working parties and central government agencies to ensure effective local government representation and contribution to initiatives under the New Zealand Waste Strategy and New Zealand Packaging Accord
- work with central government agencies and local authorities to enhance understanding of environmental issues and to promote the contribution of local government to environmental wellbeing (including biosecurity matters).

3. Supporting regional growth

- support the implementation of regional economic development policy and programmes, and promote good practice in regional strategy development processes
- develop and action local government responses to the update of the New Zealand Tourism Strategy 2010
- promote the application of tourism planning and management tools and strategies in support of sustainable tourism development.

4. Sustaining transport and other infrastructure

- advocate on behalf of the sector with Transit New Zealand (Road Controlling Authorities Forum), Land Transport New Zealand (funding and transport procurement policy review) and the Ministry of Transport (New Zealand Transport Strategy)
- work with government agencies on the development of subsidy schemes and distribution of funding for sanitary waste water, and drinking water (the Sanitary Works Subsidy Scheme and Drinking Water Assistance Programme), with the Ministry of Health and the Sanitary Works Technical Advisory Committee, environmental subsidy scheme with the Ministry for the Environment, and tourism development subsidies (Tourism Demand Subsidy Scheme) with the Ministry of Tourism

- work with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry for the Environment on the development and implementation of the Health (drinking water) Amendment Bill and drinking water catchment control schemes
- develop and promote a local government response to the Geospatial Strategy, Government's e-government legislation and policy, and the national E-government Strategy (including participation in the implementation of the Digital Strategy)
- work with the National Asset Management Steering Group and Ingenium to promote effective leadership in asset management.

5. Maintain and enhance the framework for local government and democratic participation

- contribute to the Local Government Commission's assessment of the Local Government Act 2002 and Local Electoral Act 2001
- undertake a programme to raise public awareness about the 2007 local government elections and assist councils to promote increased participation
- carry out relevant reviews of the 2007 elections results and participation, and work with the Remuneration Authority to deal with remuneration issues as they arise
- participate in, and lead, as required, inter-agency teams necessary to develop resources for the promotion of active citizenship, including Kids Voting.



6. Strengthening local government finances and capacity

- prepare a submission to the Independent Inquiry into Local Government Rates and continue to work with central government on funding proposals
- manage the annual programme of standards development and revision through Standards New Zealand
- develop good practice material and promote the application of this material (notably information communication technology, tourism planning tools, guidance on responding to p-labs, Film Friendly Protocol)
- assist with implementation of new local authority responsibilities to ensure excellence in practice (notably dog control, aquaculture, hazardous substances and new organisms enforcement)
- support central government programmes targeting councils and aimed at enhanced performance by local government (including Resource Management Act, Govt3, the Confederation of Future Computer Professionals and Energy Wise Councils).

7. Building local government capacity

- implement specific training workshops for new elected members, mayors, and chairs
- implement a professional development programme which offers a range of relevant courses to elected members throughout the country
- publish advice and information to assist elected members fulfil their legal and financial obligations, including New Elected Members' Handbook
- actively participate in the Commonwealth Local Government Forum's good practice scheme for the Pacific
- coordinate good practice trip to Queensland for elected members.



8. Delivering good regulatory outcomes

- work with central government agencies and local authorities to provide input into the development of policy and legislation impacting on the local government sector, including the Food Safety Review, Public Health Act review, Walking Access review, Unformed Legal Roads review, Public Works Act review, hazardous substances and new organisms and genetically modified organisms, Oceans Policy, Unit Titles Act review, Residential Tenancies Act review, infringements, Prostitution Reform Act review
- work with central government agencies and local authorities to contribute to legislative implementation, including Building Act, Resource Management Act, Dog Control Act, fencing of swimming pools policy and water safety, Reserves Act, Transpower grid upgrades
- participate in the development of all proposed National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards, including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement
- work with the Department of Internal Affairs on the Regulatory Framework Project, including promoting the implementation of guidance material for central government agencies dealing with regulation that impacts on local government, and participate in the Ministerial Review of Regulatory Frameworks led by the Ministry of Economic Development.

9. Connecting with our members

- support the National Council in its governance role through the organisation of regular meetings
- hold regularly scheduled sector meetings and participate in all zone meetings
- support and participate in regular Community Board Executive Committee meetings
- hold a successful *Local Government New Zealand* conference and Annual General Meeting in Dunedin in 2007
- publish a high quality annual report and work programme to distribute to the membership and key stakeholders
- organise workshops, as required, to develop policy and to educate member councils on new legislation requirements
- produce publications, as required, to inform policy debate or provide guidance information for councils on new legislation requirements
- continue to maintain a high profile for *Local Government New Zealand* through media liaison, newsletters, publications and corporate functions.





2007/08 Work Programme Budget

Expenditure	2006/07	2007/08
Remuneration	\$1,550,000	\$1,730,000
Administration	\$970,000	\$975,000
National Council remuneration	\$75,000	\$109,000
Conference subsidy	\$100,000	\$0
Direct project expenditure	\$2,464,070	\$2,426,500
	\$5,159,070	\$5,240,500
Income		
Subscriptions	\$2,880,815	\$3,111,300
Interest	\$145,000	\$145,000
Retained conference earnings	\$209,000	\$50,000
Project income	\$1,666,815	\$1,879,000
	\$4,901,630	\$5,185,300
Projected Deficit	\$258,000	\$55,200



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