

30 March 2004

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 7: LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW REFORM (NO. 3) BILL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AUCKLAND) AMENDMENT BILL

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this newsletter is to advise that the Local Government Law Reform (No. 3) Bill and the Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Bill were tabled in the House yesterday. Both Bills are programmed **for enactment by 30 June 2004**.

Electronic (PDF) copies of both Bills as tabled have been placed on the Department's website (www.dia.govt.nz) to enable councils to view the content of each Bill.

Local Government Law Reform (No. 3) Bill

The Local Government Law Reform (No. 3) Bill makes amendments to the following Acts:

- Chatham Islands Council Act 1995
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Local Electoral Act 2001
- Local Government Act 2002
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Many of the amendments are technical in nature and are intended to provide certainty and clarity for local authorities. Amendments are also included which:

- Clarify the interface between the Local Government Act and other legislation including the Resource Management Act;
- Confirm the policy intention that the casting vote cannot be provided for in standing orders;
- Clarify the definition of a majority voting for a council decision relates to members present *and voting*;
- Deal with issues related to quorums for joint committees;
- Clarify that there is no new prohibition on candidacy for both mayor and ward councillor; and
- Extend the exemption of first long term council community plans from audit requirements to include amendments to those plans.

If you have any queries concerning the Local Government Law Reform (No. 3) Bill, please contact Fiona Illingsworth, Principal Policy Advisor, Local Government

Legislation and Projects, Department of Internal Affairs, either by telephone on (04) 495 9384, fax on 495 7270, or by email: Fiona.Illingsworth@dia.govt.nz

Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Bill

The Government announced transport governance, regulatory and funding proposals for Auckland on 12 December 2003 and has received general support for these proposals from the Auckland local authorities. This Bill gives effect to those proposals and establishes two new entities as subsidiaries of the Auckland Regional Council – the Auckland Regional Transport Authority and Auckland Regional Holdings. The Auckland Regional Transport Authority will plan, fund and develop Auckland transport infrastructure with Transfund and Transit. Auckland Regional Holdings will manage assets and investments on behalf of the Auckland Regional Council – initially including those assets that are transferred from Infrastructure Auckland, which will be disestablished from 1 July 2004.

Media releases, fact sheets, and some questions and answers about this Bill are also available on the Departments website.

For further information on the Auckland Transport Package please contact:

Chris Mackenzie, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, ph 04 471 9935

Michael Parker, Office of the Minister of Transport, ph 04 471 9316

Nick Maling, Office of the Minister of Local Government, ph 04 470 6874

If you have any general queries about the Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Bill, please refer these to Blair Keenan, Department of Internal Affairs, either by telephone on (09) 363-0577 or by e-mail to Blair.Keenan@dia.govt.nz.

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