

## Auckland Super-City Q&A

All that you wanted to know about the new proposed Auckland super-city and what this means for ratepayer and residents of Rodney District Council...

### What has the Government's decided on the structure of Auckland governance?

Current situation	Government decisions
<b>1</b> regional council <b>3</b> district councils <b>4</b> city councils <b>30</b> community boards (145 members)	<b>1</b> Auckland Council <b>20 to 30</b> local boards (125 – 150 members)
<b>1</b> chair elected by regional council <b>7</b> mayors elected at large, within cities and districts	<b>1</b> regional mayor with governance powers
<b>13</b> regional councillors <b>96</b> territorial authority councillors <b>145</b> community board members	<b>20</b> councillors <b>125 – 150</b> local board members
Local Electoral Act provides for Māori representation if there is community support	Local Electoral Act provides for Māori representation if there is community support
<b>8</b> Long-Term Council Community Plans (LTCCP – a 10 year plan)	<b>1</b> LTCCP
<b>7</b> district plans	<b>1</b> district plan
<b>2</b> councils with plans governing waterfront and CBD	<b>1</b> Waterfront Development Agency
<b>2</b> rates bills per property	<b>1</b> rates bill
<b>8</b> rating authorities	<b>1</b> rating system
<b>3-yearly</b> terms for elections	<b>3-yearly</b> terms for elections
<b>8</b> IT data systems	<b>1</b> IT data system
<b>8</b> local transport entities	<b>1</b> regional transport authority*
<b>8</b> water and wastewater providers	<b>1</b> water and wastewater provider*
Limited alignment between central and local government on improving social well-being	Government to find better ways of aligning central and local government action on social well-being

### What will happen if Rodney becomes part of the Super City?

Rodney District Council and the Auckland Regional Council would cease to exist from October 2010. All of Rodney District Council's assets and liabilities would be transferred to the new Auckland Council. From October 2010 it would become the responsibility of the Auckland Council to deliver local government services to Rodney residents.

### **How many Local Boards will there be in Rodney?**

The number of boards is still to be decided. If there are 20 Boards across the Auckland region, then it is likely there will only be one Local Board for Rodney. If there are to be 30 boards then Rodney may have 2 Boards.

### **What will Local Boards do?**

The government has said that Local Boards will develop local operational policies for dog control, liquor licensing and graffiti control. Local Boards will also act as advocates for their area and present their views to the Auckland Council. Decisions about whether Local Boards may have other powers are yet to be decided. Unless the government or the Auckland Council decides to delegate additional powers to the Local Boards, other decisions about how the Auckland Region should be governed would be made by the Auckland Council.

### **What will the Auckland Council be responsible for?**

- Making all regional decisions.
- Managing all regional assets.
- Delivering core services (transport, water, waste etc).
- Hiring all staff.
- Raising all revenue.

### **What will be the relationship between the Local Boards and the Auckland Council?**

The Local Boards will feed the views of their local communities on to the Auckland Council. The boards will advocate for their local community and have input into the Auckland Council's plans. However, Auckland Council will be responsible for delivery of all services across the region (transport, water, waste, etc), as well as raising all revenue and hiring all council staff

### **What will the boundaries of my local ward and Local Board be?**

The Local Government Commission will decide on the details of the boundaries of the Auckland Council wards and the number and boundaries of the Local Boards by April 2010. This will be in time for the next local body elections in October 2010.

### **How many councillors will there be on the new Auckland Council?**

There will be 20 in total. The new Auckland Council will be made up of 12 councillors elected to represent wards, with an additional eight councillors who will be elected at large.

### **How will Rodney be represented on the new Auckland Council?**

This depends. It might be possible that a candidate from the Rodney region could be elected on to the council as one of the 8 at large councillors. However, it is more likely that this region will be represented by one of the 12 ward councillors – where it is expected that Rodney will make up the northern rural ward of the new Auckland council.

### **What has been decided on Maori representation?**

There will be no separate Maori seats on the new Auckland Council as recommended by the Royal Commission. The Government believes the Local Electoral Act 2001 already allows for Maori Wards or constituencies to be established.

### **Why was the Royal Commission's six Local Councils-concept rejected?**

The Government thought the proposed six councils were too large to provide for effective local representation. It also believed there was confused accountability between these councils and the Auckland Council and the functions were not well-allocated between the two layers of governance. It decided its 20-30 Local Boards-concept would provide better local representation.

### **Will the Mayor be elected by all voters?**

Yes, the Mayor will be elected at large and represent all of Auckland and all Aucklanders.

### **What checks and balances will there be on the Mayor?**

The Mayor will be ultimately accountable to all voters via the ballot box every three years. He or she will need the support of the majority of Councillors for budget, planning and policy proposals. The Mayor will also have to consult with the Auckland Council CEO before setting up his or her office within an agreed budget.

### **How will this affect rates?**

The Auckland Council will adopt a uniform rating system for the Auckland region meaning all ratepayers will receive one rates bill.

### **How will this affect my water rates?**

All Aucklanders will pay a uniform price for drinking water and wastewater. Residents will pay for the amount of water and wastewater they use.

### **When will I see the impact of the changes on my rates bill?**

A new unified rating system will be developed as part of a new planning and budgeting cycle from 2012. However, while there are expected to be a number of efficiencies under the new council structure it is not expected to deliver significantly lower rates.

### **What will happen to the assets and liabilities of the current councils?**

All assets and liabilities of existing councils and responsibility for CCOs will be transferred to the new Auckland Council. The new council will decide the appropriate number and type of CCOs, where these have not been agreed upon either by Government or the Establishment Board.

### **What are CCOs (council-controlled organisations)?**

These are organisations that are owned or closely controlled by a council, in this case by Auckland Council.

### **What will happen with economic development under the new structure?**

An economic development plan for all of the region will be developed and administered by the new council. All regional assets – including parks, entertainment and exhibition venues, stadia and museums will be transferred to the new council.

### **What will happen with public transport in the Auckland region?**

One regional transport authority that is responsible for all local government transport functions will be formed. The new transport authority will be a CCO of the new Auckland Council.

### **What will happen with water and wastewater services?**

A single, CCO of the new Auckland Council will supply all drinking water and wastewater services in the Auckland region. It will fund water and wastewater infrastructure from charges based on water use.

### **Who will monitor the quality of water and our waterways?**

Auckland Council will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing standards for water quality.

### **How will the transition process work?**

The Government wants the transition to the new structure to be largely completed by October 2010. Government will appoint an independent Establishment Board with statutory powers and responsibilities for the transition as soon as possible.

### **How will the current councils operate up until the new structure is in place?**

Existing councils will maintain their existing responsibilities and roles. However, their decision-making will be overseen by the Establishment Board.

### **How will this work?**

A Transition Management Group – made up of the chief executives of the existing councils along with Watercare Services and ARTA – will help support the work of the Establishment Board. It will manage day-to-day business, communicating with staff and managing the change process.

### **When will I get to vote?**

All wards and boundaries for the new Auckland Council will be decided by the Local Government Commission in time for the next local body elections in October 2010.

### **What or who will I be voting for?**

You will get to vote for the representatives of your Local Board, as well as the Councillors and Mayor for the new Auckland Council.