

TAFM plus Auckland plus the RMA – Growing Discordance?

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le pūtahi matakokiri

Auckland

Tension between strong regional government and regional environmental regulation

Royal Commission provided the Government with an easy option; not accepted

Key recommendations rejected due to lack of opportunities for local engagement

Question: what will opportunities for enhanced engagement cost?



What do we Know?

Large unitary authority

Stronger mayor

Local boards with powers and responsibilities set in legislation

Statutory corporatization of water and other responsibilities

Stronger links with central government

Details still to be determined.



Likely Impact of Auckland

Government assurance - no other amalgamation in this term (unless councils agree)

Concept of “super city” inspiring:

- Super Waikato
- Super Palmerston North
- Super Greymouth!

Many proposals defensive - concern at new Auckland’s capacity to influence



The RMA Review – Implications for local government

Key aspects Phase 2:

- Establishment of an environmental protection agency (EPA)
- Address obstacles to aquaculture
- Align consenting processes for the Building Act
- Improve infrastructure provisions of the Public Works Act
- Explore better approaches to urban planning.



Tensions

Does Auckland represent a new model of local government or is it a case of “Auckland exceptionalism”?

Will change be bottom-up or top-down

Regionalism vs regional environmental management

Will the EPA

- Absorb the role of regional councils, or
- Act as an extra level of bureaucracy

Is the future a plurality of different models?

