

14 February 2020

Committee Secretariat
Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

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Email: en@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Madam/Sir

SUBMISSION ON THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT BILL

Waipa District Council appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Urban Development Bill. Our submission is in support of the Future Proof Implementation Committee submission as well as the Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) submission and the Hamilton City Council (HCC) submission.

You are welcome to make contact with Waipa District Council with regards to any of the specific comments made in our submission. In this regard and in the first instance David Totman can be contacted either via email at david.totman@waipadc.govt.nz or telephone at 07 872 0048.

Yours sincerely



Garry Dyet
Chief Executive

Attachment: Waipa District Council Submission on the Urban Development Bill

SUBMISSION ON THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT BILL

By: Waipa District Council

INTRODUCTION

Waipa District Council (the Council) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Urban Development Bill.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

1. Waipa District Council supports the concept of having Kāinga Ora to manage and implement large scale urban growth projects. The Council remains concerned¹, that the proposed Bill introduces yet another 'bespoke' piece of legislation to work around the increasingly complex and cumbersome Resource Management Act (RMA) planning system. As pointed out in the SOLGM submission on page 3 and 4, the introduction of the Bill calls into question the need for a first principles review of the RMA.

Recommendation

The Council specifically supports SOLGM recommendation 1, that a provision be inserted by the Select Committee to require a review of the operations of Kāinga Ora and Urban Development Bill within five years of the Bill taking effect.

2. Waipa District Council reiterates the point made in both the Future Proof and Hamilton City Council submissions pointing out the need for Kāinga Ora developments to be aligned with wider strategic and spatial planning initiatives. The Waikato Hamilton Waipa subregion has experienced more than a decade of beneficial shared strategic and infrastructure planning through its Future Proof partnership. More recently this platform has been extended through collaboration with Central Government in joint work on the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan and the Hamilton Waikato Metro Spatial Plan. It will be important for any proposed Kāinga Ora development projects to be aligned with these broader strategic planning and infrastructure frameworks.

Recommendation

The Select Committee is requested to check that the wording of Sections 30, 33 and 34 adequately supports the need for good alignment between proposed Kāinga Ora projects with wider spatial and strategic planning and infrastructure frameworks.

3. Since the original discussion document on the establishment of urban development authorities was consulted on 2017 and the drafting of this Bill, there has been significant

¹ The Waipa District Council expressed concern about this aspect in its original submission on the Urban Development Authorities Discussion Document (2017).

change either introduced or proposed in the wider field of national legislation and policy that has a bearing on this Bill. The Council believes that any proposed Kāinga Ora project will need to align with relevant new Government policy ranging from climate change implications, new land transport policy to the recent proposed National Policy Statements on Urban Development, Protecting Highly Productive Land, Freshwater and Indigenous Biodiversity. Of more significance will probably be the likely changes to the RMA that stem from the current comprehensive review underway.

Recommendation

That in addition to the wording in clause 25 regarding the Duty to co-operate and the requirements of clauses 30, 33 and 34 for the consideration of projects, that the Select Committee give consideration to the need for proposed Kāinga Ora projects to take into account and align with relevant national policy.