

**24 February 2023**

Jim Palmer  
Chairperson – Review into the Future for Local Government  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
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Kia ora Jim and the Future for Local Government Review Panel,

## **WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION ON HE MATA WHĀRIKI, HE MATAWHĀNUI**

Thank you for the opportunity given to Waikato District Council to make a submission on *He mata whāriki, he matawhānui*, the discussion document on local government reform released by the Future for Local Government Review Panel on 28 October 2022.

The submission (attached) is the outcome of enthusiastic deliberations that my councillors have had on the discussion document. It reflects what is best for local governance in the Waikato as it also incorporates some of the views we have received from Waikato-Tainui, our community boards, community committees and mana whenua – with whom we have engaged with to inform our deliberations. It is also informed by discussions at a regional level through Co-Lab (previously the Waikato Local Authority Shared Services) but with a Waikato district lens.

The submission presents several recommendations for central government's consideration. It is premised on a genuine partnership model for local governance with the wellbeing of our communities at the front and centre.

The submission is categorised into the following sub-headings:

- Structure and system
- Representation and democracy
- Funding and financing and
- Stewardship

It is my sincere hope that the views of my Council are seriously considered and incorporated into the final report to the Minister for Local Government. We need change and this change can only happen if central government heeds what my Council is saying in our submission and provides the required support to local government so that we can make a bigger difference to building liveable, thriving, and connected communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Chief Executive, Gavin Ion, should you wish to discuss my Council's submission or if you require any clarity on the points raised.

Waikato District Council would welcome speaking to our submission if offered the opportunity.

Thank you once again.

Ngā mihi,



Jackie Church  
**MAYOR**

CC: Councillors  
Gavin Ion, Chief Executive  
Executive Leadership Team  
Vishal Ramduny, Strategic Initiatives and Partnership Manager