



Meeting: Regional Council

Meeting Date: 16 March 2023

Item under Separate Cover
Agenda Item 9.9: Monitoring & Responding to Central Government Reforms – Action Plans

As noted on the Regional Council Agenda for the meeting on Thursday 16 March 2023, the following item is included under separate cover:

Reports

Decisions Required

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Report To: Regional Council

Meeting Date: 16 March 2023

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Purpose:

Monitoring & Responding to Central Government Reforms - Action Plans

Executive Summary

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is operating in a period of considerable change with the suite of central government reform that will affect us.

A CEO KPI requires staff to deliver action plans in response to central government reform initiatives by March 2023 (including RMA, Climate Change Adaptation Act and emissions).

Following on from the Strategy and Policy Workshop on 'Legislative Reform', staff have now updated Regional Council's approach to monitoring and responding to Central Government Reform based on feedback received. We now see endorsement for the updated approach.

Recommendations

That the Regional Council:

- 1 Receives the report, Monitoring & Responding to Central Government Reforms - Action Plans.**
- 2 Endorses the approach to monitoring and responding to central government reform - action plans**

1. Introduction

Bay of Plenty Regional Council, along with the rest of local government, is operating in a period of considerable change. Council is facing a suite of central government reform which has a current impact or likely future impact on our community outcomes, role, structure, and local government in general. To ensure Council is

responsive to the changing operating environment, staff undertake ongoing monitoring of the reform initiatives and identify any that are impacting or likely to impact Council’s community outcomes and future.

To meet a CEO KPI staff have updated our action plan approach to monitoring central government reform. Updates were based on feedback received at the Strategy and Policy Legislative Reform workshop held on 7th March 2023.

1.1 Alignment with Strategic Framework

The Way We Work We continually seek opportunities to innovate and improve.

While the approach in this paper is procedural in nature - Council will continue to engage, influence and participate as appropriate on all parts of the reform, to enable and improve community outcomes.

1.1.1 Community Well-beings Assessment

Dominant Well-Beings Affected

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic |
|---|--|--|--|
-

The proposed reform suite is likely to affect all community well-beings.

2. Monitoring and Responding to Central Government Reform

The attached document *Monitoring and Responding to Central Government Reform - Action Plans* explains our updated approach to ensuring that Council stays connected and informed of the central government reform initiatives. Council’s position along with key actions being undertaken in response to the respective reform are outlined.

This work meets the Chief Executive Officers 2022/23 Key Performance Indicator - *Delivery of action plans in response to central government reform initiatives by March 2023 (including RMA, Climate Change Adaptation Act and emissions).*

3. Considerations

3.1 Risks and Mitigations

There are no known significant risks associated with this approach. Staff continue to stay connected and informed on central government reform through their day-to-day roles, and various regional and national special interest groups and contacts. Elected members are kept informed via several means including reporting to Council (e.g., overarching Central Government Policy Programmes and Environmental Scanning).

3.2 Climate Change

The matters addressed in this report are of a procedural nature. Climate Change Reform is noted as one of the key areas of reform that we are monitoring and responding to in the attached document.

3.3 Implications for Māori

The matters addressed in this report are of a procedural nature. An underlying principle of all our reform actions is our commitment to enhancing delivery and shared decision making to improve equity and prosperity for Māori across the region.

3.4 Community Engagement



Engagement with the community is not required as the recommended approach relates to internal Council procedural matters. In some situations we will be able to engage on reform together with the community, while in other situations we will need to rely on what we know and understand.

3.5 Financial Implications

There are no material unbudgeted financial implications and this approach fits within the allocated budget.

4. Next Steps

Staff will monitor and respond to central government reform as outlined in the attached Action Plans.

Elected members will continue to be kept informed of the changing operating environment via reporting to Council's Strategy and Policy Committee.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Final Monitoring and Responding to Central Government Reform Diagram



Monitoring and Responding to Central Government Reform - Action Plans

KEY	Low/Minimal	Medium	High/Significant
<p>Reform in General</p> <p>Position: We will engage with, influence, and participate as appropriate on, Reform which has, or is likely to have, an impact on Council</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to work collaboratively with Territorial Local Authorities; with Iwi/Māori and communities Continuing our process to look across reform elements to make sure any connections are made, and that we are commenting and participating effectively Reporting to Council (on overarching Central Government policy programmes, environmental scanning) Sharing information sourced from subject matter experts Watching brief on key sources of information (Taituara, DIA, Regional Public Service forums) Continuing to connect with the Regional Sector on reforms and regional sector positions Building Leadership reform awareness – change management, adaptability, flexibility, resilience 			
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>Position: Acknowledging the Climate Emergency declared by Central Government and ourselves, we will work with Central Government and our partners to influence system design that is able to deliver clarity on responsibilities, enables the right levers at the right levels, and produces a clear system that delivers for our community.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work through the Climate SIG directly with MfE and the Climate Commission to influence policy development and implementation, guided by our impact statement. Focus on influencing the Climate Adaptation Act and linking across Council on the NBEA and SPA, climate components. Continue to link strongly with our Territorial Authority Partners across both adaptation and mitigation. Ensure Natural Hazard Policy and Advice ensures that we are not increasing our exposure to climate hazards (e.g. not developing in places that are exposed) and/or increasing our vulnerability (e.g. developing in such a way that makes us vulnerable). Promote Climate Resilient Development Principles through Spatial Planning. Climate resilient development involves reducing exposure and vulnerability to climate hazards, reducing emissions and conserving biodiversity in parallel through development. 			<p style="text-align: center;">Impact on regional sector</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Ability to Influence</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Importance for Community Voice – raise community awareness</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Impact on Iwi/Māori Partnerships</p>

<p>Resource Management</p> <p>Position: We are committed to ensuring that resource management reform delivers a workable system focused on the right outcomes for our community.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and bringing together internal functions and cross team programmes so we can speak with one voice Participating in sector and working groups to help shape the package Actively inputting into drafting reform proposals, policy and regulations – where opportunities present themselves - ensuring regional value is understood Ensuring our Iwi/Māori and Territorial Local Authority partners are well connected to the reforms and support them, where possible Identifying how community voice can be included in the reform process 	Impact on regional sector
	Ability to influence
	Importance for Community Voice – <i>reflect community voice in the new system</i>
	Impact on Iwi/Māori Partnerships
<p>Local Government</p> <p>Position: There is a strong case for change across a number of topics including funding.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping Elected Members informed of the program (such as operating environment updates) Supporting the sector’s thinking including contributing to policy frameworks that informs our work Keeping an eye on the reform and submitting where appropriate – and consider linking with other submitters as appropriate e.g. LGNZ or Regional Sector 	Impact on regional sector
	Ability to Influence
	Importance for Community Voice – <i>raise community awareness</i>
	Impact on Iwi/Māori Partnerships
<p>Other Reform</p> <p>Including: Three Waters, Emergency Management, Land Transport, Waste Management & Minimisation, Health & Disability Reforms, Education, Conservation</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of lower priority reform elements and change priority if necessary – specifically assess any indication of potential role/responsibility change Undertake analysis and provide focussed responses on functional and technical basis Maintaining a watching brief on progression of reform and report through to Council on implications 	Impact on Regional Sector
	Ability to Influence
	Importance for Community Voice – <i>advocate for improved community outcomes</i>
	Impact on Iwi/Māori Partnerships