

**Date:** Wednesday 11 December 2024  
**Time:** 9:30 am  
**Meeting Room:** Tasman Council Chamber  
**Venue:** 189 Queen Street, Richmond  
**Zoom conference link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85650277989>  
Meeting ID: 856 5027 7989  
Meeting Passcode: 667633

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**Tasman District Council**  
**Kaunihera Katoa**  
**LATE ITEMS AGENDA**

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## LATE ITEMS

### 5 LATE ITEMS

**That the late items, Item 7.11 – Regional Deals, and confidential Item – 8.6 New Electricity Contract, be considered at today's meeting. In accordance with section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and Standing Order 9.12, the reason the items were not on the agenda is because the required information was not available at the time the agenda was circulated, and the reason that the items cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting is because the deadline for the Council to sign the new electricity contract is today, 11 December 2024 and the deadline for Councils to register interest in Regional Deals is 18 December 2024.**

### 7 REPORTS

7.11 Regional Deals ..... 4

### 8 CONFIDENTIAL

8.6 New Electricity contract

This report is confidential in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (s7(2)(b)(ii)) (s7(2)(i)) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; AND The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

## 7 REPORTS

### 7.11 REGIONAL DEALS

**Decision Required**

<b>Report To:</b>	Tasman District Council
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	11 December 2024
<b>Report Author:</b>	Tim King, Mayor
<b>Report Authorisers:</b>	
<b>Report Number:</b>	RCN24-12-16

#### 1. Purpose of the Report / Te Take mō te Pūrongo

- 1.1 To agree to Tasman District Council jointly registering its interest alongside Nelson City Council in the Government’s Regional Deals programme.

#### 2. Summary / Te Tuhinga Whakarāpototo

- 2.1 On 22 August 2024, the Minister of Local Government, Hon Simeon Brown wrote to all councils announcing the Strategic Framework for Regional Deals (**Attachment 1**).
- 2.2 In his letter, the Minister noted that:  
 “Regional deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government. Deals will be long-term commitments, intended to endure. They will promote economic growth and productivity, deliver connected and resilient infrastructure, and improve the supply of affordable, quality housing.”
- 2.3 Minister Brown advises that the first regional deal is expected to be finalised by December 2025, with two further deals finalised by October 2026. Councils not selected in the first tranche are encouraged to continue to build relationships and planning with neighbouring councils to develop their future proposal. Regional deals are to be straightforward and high level, based on a 30-year vision for the region with negotiated 10-year strategic plans. It is encouraging to see that the Opposition parties have also signalled their support for regional deals.
- 2.4 The Department of Internal Affairs provided a document “Regional deals – Key messages and Q&A on 22 November 2024 (**Attachment 2**).
- 2.5 Tasman District Council has been invited to submit on a regional deal. This must be a collaborative submission by territorial authorities within a region. Registration is required by 18 December 2024.
- 2.6 To that end, a meeting was held between the Mayors and Chief Executives of Nelson City Council, Marlborough District Council and Tasman District Council on 29 November 2024 to discuss the options around regional deals proposals.





- 2.7 Subsequently, on 4 December 2024, Marlborough District Council advised Nelson City and Tasman District Councils that it preferred to submit a standalone regional deal proposal.
- 2.8 Nelson City Council Mayor, Nick Smith and I have agreed that our two councils will jointly register our interest in a regional deal with the Government before 18 December 2024.
- 2.9 At its 5 December 2024 meeting, the Nelson City Council resolved in the Mayor’s report:  
*That the Nelson City Council*
4. *Agrees that the Nelson City Council jointly register with the Tasman District Council, its interests in a Regional Deal with government as required by 18 December 2024.*
- 2.10 As yet, we have not discussed specific projects for the regional deal programme; this work will be done in the new year.

**3. Recommendation/s / Ngā Tūtohunga**

**That the Tasman District Council**

1. **receives the Regional Deals report RCN24-12-16; and**
2. **agrees that Tasman District Council jointly register with the Nelson City Council its interests in a Regional Deal with government as required by 18 December 2024.**

**4. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri**

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|----|---|---|
| 1. |   Letter - Minister of Local Government - Regional Deals                      | 6 |
| 2. |   Department of Internal Affairs - Key Facts and Q&A regarding regional deals | 9 |

## Office of Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy  
Minister of Local Government  
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland  
Deputy Leader of the House



22 August 2024

*By email*

Dear Mayor/Chair

### **The Strategic Framework for Regional Deals has been released**

Today at the Local Government New Zealand Conference, I was excited to announce the release of the Strategic Framework for Regional Deals (the Strategic Framework). The Strategic Framework is attached to this letter.

The Strategic Framework sets out how central government, councils, and relevant private sector entities will work together to deliver regional deals. The document provides an overview of the New Zealand regional deals model, as well as our expectations for the deals and the criteria for selecting regions for those deals.

### **A regional deals model fit for New Zealand**

Regional deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government. Deals will be long-term commitments, intended to endure. They will promote economic growth and productivity, deliver connected and resilient infrastructure, and improve the supply of affordable, quality housing.

Our intention is that the deals will contribute to a more empowered local government sector that is better able to serve local communities through improved alignment between local needs and national priorities.

Given the current fiscal constraints on central and local government, the regional deal model that has been developed relies on existing funding, financing tools and capacity. My expectation is that future regional deals will be further supported by new financing tools currently under development and by private sector investment.

This means regional deals could include a range of financing tools, regulatory relief, and enabling of coordination between regions and central government.

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### **Regional deals will progress in waves**

With the framework for regional deals now in place, Cabinet has agreed to a staged approach for rolling out regional deals around the country.

For the first wave, the Government will be inviting up to five regions to provide 'light-touch' proposals. Ministers will then recommend one of these proposals as the first deal intended to be finalised in 2025. After this first regional deal, a further two deals per year will be finalised over the following three to five years.

When selecting regions for the first wave of regional deals, focus will be given on New Zealand's geographically and economically diverse regions, including both urban and rural economies, and areas with existing high growth, and with growth potential.

### **First wave of deals will be by invitation only**

The Government will start a process for inviting proposals for the first deals in the coming months. Once the Government has finalised decisions around which regions will be considered for a deal in the first wave, the relevant councils will be directly invited to submit proposals.

There will be a strong emphasis on ensuring these initial proposals are 'light touch'. Councils will likely be invited to submit proposals through a standard editable form, allowing councils to put forward their application without incurring any unnecessary expenditure. Guidance will be provided to councils to support them in crafting these proposals.

### **Further information**

A copy of the Strategic Framework is attached to this letter and are available on the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) website.

More detailed information can also be found in the associated Cabinet papers that will soon be proactively released on the DIA website.

I have asked DIA to engage directly with mayors to provide further information about the Strategic Framework and the next steps for the first wave of deals. Officials will be in touch directly to arrange further meetings and information sessions.

I encourage you to get in touch with DIA if you have further questions at this stage, or to seek assistance with any initial discussions your council may be having. Please contact [councils@dia.govt.nz](mailto:councils@dia.govt.nz).

Regional deals provide an exciting opportunity for regions to put forward proposals for how central government can support local government to meet the needs of their community and drive economic development. This new model is about working together to explore ways to do better and to make a difference to our local communities, so we can all benefit from economic growth.

I look forward to working with you in the process ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Brown'.

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Local Government**



## Regional deals – Key messages and Q&A

Last updated: 22 November 2024

### Key messages

- The Coalition Government has decided to hold an open invitation process for regions to submit ‘light-touch’ proposals for the first regional deal.
- We encourage councils to begin talks with each other, as councils will be responsible for defining their region and the other councils they will be collaborating with.
- The Department of Internal Affairs will be in touch with councils on next steps.
- The [Regional Deals Strategic Framework](#) outlines how regional deals will work in New Zealand.

### Q&A

#### General Questions

##### 1. What is a region in the context of a regional deal?

Regions, for the purpose of regional deals, are defined on page 10 of the regional deals strategic framework ([Regional Deals Strategic Framework - dia.govt.nz](#)).

‘Regions’ in the context of regional deals could be regional, sub-regional or another appropriate scale, so long as they are defined economic and geographic areas with functional local authorities. Although a regional deal might not include all of a local authorities’ population centres, they are generally expected to include more than one council’s area i.e. it is not expected that there are separate deals for each city and town in New Zealand.

This also means that a ‘region’ in the context of regional deals does not depend on current regional council boundaries.

Defining a region will be a council-led process. Councils will be expected to collaborate with one another on a deal that will benefit everyone involved.

##### 2. What is the open invitation process and how will it work?

An open invitation process will allow all interested councils an equal chance to prepare and submit proposals. All of New Zealand’s regions will be presented with the opportunity to outline how a regional deal would improve their communities.

By determining regional deals through open invitation, the Government can identify the key initiatives that best position New Zealand’s regions for economic growth and provide reliable infrastructure.

### **3. What happens next for selected regions?**

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) will contact councils to outline the next steps. Councils will receive a template proposal form detailing the information required for their “light-touch” proposal.

By the end of the year interested councils will confirm their intention to submit a proposal, including informing the Government which councils they will be collaborating with on their deal proposal.

### **4. What is a light-touch proposal?**

Further information will be provided on the content we are looking for, but the key concept is that we want great ideas that can be implemented to address clearly understood issues and opportunities. We are not looking for exploratory studies or huge glossy documents. We want proposals that we can get cracking on discussing with regions.

Each Regional Deal will be bespoke, and we anticipate that the proposals will reflect that. There will be common features though, including:

- shared strategic objectives, developed in partnership and reflecting the particular local characteristics of each region
- long-term commitments by both central and local government to enable certainty of planning
- a portfolio approach which supports economic and infrastructure opportunities for the region, e.g. road, rail, housing (including public housing), and environmental resilience investments
- ongoing monitoring, milestone agreements, and regular engagement at senior Ministerial and local government leadership level
- A regular review of the deal to ensure that it remains relevant.

### **5. What is the timeline for regions not selected for the first round?**

Plans for future rounds of deals are still being developed. We encourage councils that are not selected for a deal in the first tranche to continue to build relationships and planning with regional and neighbouring councils to develop their proposal. The regional deals secretariat will continue to work with councils and share information to support the rollout of deals.

## Proposal development questions

### **6. What is needed to prepare a proposal?**

I will issue invitations to councils, which will include a template proposal form outlining the information needed for a region's light-touch proposal and the timeline to the first deal.

The proposal form has been developed to minimise council time and costs as they prepare their regional deal proposal.

### **7. Do councils have to work together to submit a proposal?**

One of the key elements of regional deals is collaboration between councils in a region. I expect councils to work with others in preparing proposals. Due to the large area that Auckland Council covers Auckland Council can choose to work alone or with other councils.

### **8. Can you focus on only one objective in a regional deal?**

Each regional deal will be bespoke for the specific opportunities in the region. The purpose of the regional deal is to unlock economic growth in New Zealand's regions. If a region determines that a single objective will most efficiently unlock economic growth in the region, then the Government will consider it as a part of the deal negotiations.

A maximum of five projects or initiatives will be considered as part of a regional deal.

### **9. How are you factoring in the timing of local government elections?**

Regional deals and the supporting partnership between central and local government in delivering deals need to be enduring through central and local government change. Most of the work for the first round of regional deals will need to be done prior to the October 2025 local body elections. We expect to confirm the deal with new councils following these elections.

## Linkages and structure questions

### **10. How are regional deals linked to other central government work?**

The coordination between central government work programmes is a key component of regional deals. For example, regional deals have strong links with the Government's broader infrastructure programme, including the Infrastructure Pipeline, Infrastructure Priorities Programme, and the National Infrastructure Plan. Crown Infrastructure Partners (National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited (NIFFCo) from 1 December 2024) will also play a role.

**11. What is the role of central government agencies in regional deals?**

We are working to coordinate central government agencies. Depending on the context of each regional deal we intend to include representatives from relevant agencies to support initiatives proposed by regions. These are likely to differ between deals. Government agencies will contribute work through their approved work programmes, providing assistance with regulatory changes, and development of new revenue and funding tools.

**12. What is the role of regional economic development agencies in regional deals?**

We expect councils to draw upon the knowledge of their regional development agencies who are well placed to understand the economic needs and opportunities of the region. The extent of the role of the economic development agencies in each regional deal is up to the partners to a deal.

**13. What is the role of third parties (e.g. private sector, iwi/Māori) in regional deals?**

Councils are the key link for the private sector and iwi Māori for regional deals. We encourage councils to consider how these parties could contribute across the following areas:

**Alignment/Governance:** The success of a regional deal will likely depend on aligning the goals of both industry and the community. For iwi, early involvement in guiding priorities and community engagement could be particularly important.

**Investment:** The strength of a regional deal may depend on leveraging private capital for key projects.

**Delivery/Expertise:** Both the private sector and iwi have significant resources and expertise that could be important in delivering the deal's projects.

The strategic framework notes that once a deal is finalised, central and local government partners from the region will establish an oversight body for the Regional Deal. The composition and membership of the oversight bodies will be agreed by both parties and could involve opportunities for third parties like private sector groups and iwi/Māori.

**14. Will the deals be refreshed once in place?**

Yes, deals will be a minimum of 10 years, but things change, so there will be a process to update, refresh and refine deals. In addition, if central Government is able to find new funding in the future, we will want to work with regions on how that will be implemented via any new and existing regional deals.

**15. Can councils say what they want in the deals?**

Yes, they can. This is about councils in a region working together with central government to agree priorities for action and including in the deals. In their proposals, regions will outline what they are seeking as part of a deal and importantly, what they will be bringing to the Deal

**16. How will the deals work with Councils' long-term Plans?**

There will be a strong linkage between councils' long-term plans and the regional deals. The Regional Deals will help inform council long term planning at the same time as council plans will help inform the proposals that are included in the regional deals.

**17. How will the success of the deals be measured?**

There will be ongoing monitoring and auditing, milestone agreements, and regular engagement at senior Ministerial and local government leadership level.

**18. What are the governance arrangements for regional deals?**

Governance for regional deals will be led by the Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group (IIMG).

There is a range of potential projects that could be accommodated through a deal and Ministers will work together with portfolios outside IIMG if needed. Ministers will be supported by a secretariat comprised by relevant agencies.

A lead agency or agencies to support the secretariat and the implementation, delivery and evaluation of deals will be confirmed in due course.

**19. What is the National Infrastructure Plan and how does it align with regional deals?**

The National Infrastructure Plan provides decision-making guidance to central and local government on infrastructure. This includes analysing infrastructure proposals and identifying the long-term infrastructure needs of New Zealand.

Outputs from the National Infrastructure Plan may support the development of regional deals and other infrastructure investment policy decisions.