

Notice is given that an extraordinary meeting of the Tasman District Council will be held on:

Date: **Wednesday 13 May 2026**
Time: **1.00pm - Extraordinary**
Meeting Room: **Tasman Council Chamber**
Venue: **189 Queen Street, Richmond**

Tasman District Council

Kaunihera Katoa

AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor	Mayor T King	
Deputy Mayor	Deputy Mayor B Maru	
Councillors	Councillor C Butler	Councillor M Kininmonth
	Councillor J Ellis	Councillor K Maling
	Councillor K Ferneyhough	Councillor D McNamara
	Councillor M Greening	Councillor P Morgan
	Councillor J Gully	Councillor T Neubauer
	Councillor M Hume	Councillor T Walker
		Councillor D Woods

(Quorum 8 members)

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AGENDA

1 OPENING, WELCOME, KARAKIA

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Recommendation

That apologies be accepted.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4 LATE ITEMS

5 REPORTS

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6 CLOSING KARAKIA

5 REPORTS

5.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Information Only - No Decision Required

Report To:	Tasman District Council
Meeting Date:	13 May 2026
Report Author:	Leonie Rae, Chief Executive Officer
Report Authorisers:	Leonie Rae, Chief Executive Officer
Report Number:	RCN26-05-12

1. Summary / Te Tuhinga Whakarāpoto

- 1.1 On 5th May 2026, the government announced a three-month window to put forward proposal to simplify and strengthen local government in their regions.
- 1.2 The creation of a “head start” pathway is targeted at territorial authorities and regional councils to put forward proposal to reorganise into larger unitary authorities.

2. Recommendation/s / Ngā Tūhunga

That the Tasman District Council

1. **receives the Local Government Reform report; and**
2. **notes that the government’s proposal is to reorganise regional and territorial authorities into larger unitary authorities; and**
3. **notes that the Council is not required to take part in the ‘head start’ process; and**
4. **notes that current indications are that unitary authorities will not form part of the legislative ‘backstop’; and**

3. Background

- 3.1 Following the local government reform consultation in late 2025 and early 2026, the Government last week announced an additional ‘Simplifying Local Government Proposal’.
- 3.2 More information on the proposal can be found here - [Head Start pathway: Policy document – Simplifying Local Government](#) and the media release is here - [Councils invited to fast-track local reform | Beehive.govt.nz](#).
- 3.3 The proposals create a “head start” pathway for local government reform, which gives groups of councils a three-month window to put forward proposal to reorganise into larger unitary authorities.
- 3.4 Cabinet will decide which proposals to progress in-principle later in 2026, with final decisions following consideration of detailed proposal to be made in early 2027. The Government will then introduce legislation in 2027 to implement its selected proposals in advance of the 2028 triennial local body elections.

- 3.5 It is noted that no legislation has been introduced yet so any decision to work with other Council's on a proposal will need to be made in accordance with Council's usual Local Government Act 2002 decision making principles.

4. Head Start

- 4.1 The head start process is primarily targeted at regions that currently have a two-tier structure (regional council plus district/city councils) and where there is appetite to become on unitary authority. However, the policy document does state that two or more unitary authorities may submit a proposal.
- 4.2 Council's will have until August 2026 to submit a outline proposal to Cabinet which will then be assessed against the following principles:
- 4.2.1 Deliverability: Proposals are realistic and demonstrate how new arrangements can be implemented in a timely manner.
- 4.2.2 Supports the new planning system: Shows clear support for implementing the new planning system – including progress on spatial and natural environment plan development – and avoids or minimises disruption to that work.
- 4.2.3 Simplifies local governance: Proposes more efficient regional governance arrangements, consolidating decision-making and improving alignment between a region's councils.
- 4.2.4 Economies of scale: Supports regional strategic planning and effective delivery of key regional functions (such as transport and catchment management), and demonstrates responsible and affordable asset management, infrastructure investment, and service delivery.
- 4.2.5 Maintains local voice: Demonstrates fair and effective representation for communities of interest and how decisions will be made at the local level, balancing urban and rural interests.
- 4.3 Assuming Cabinet agrees in principle then final proposals will be submitted in May 2027 and legislation introduced in the last half of 2027.
- 4.4 Should any Council choose not to submit a proposal then it may be subject to 'Back stop' legislation reorganising local government. Legislation for the backstop will be enacted before nominations open for the 2028 local body elections. Details of this legislation have not been provided.
- 4.5 Indications from Department of Internal Affairs and others are that unitary authorities will not be subject to the 'back stop' legislative arrangements. However, this is not guaranteed as the legislation has not been introduced.

5. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

Nil

6 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

6.1 Procedural motion to exclude the public

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

6.2 Tasman Reserve matters

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	<p>s7(2)(g) - The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - 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).</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)</p> <p>The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.</p>