



NEW ZEALAND



KEY FACTS

POPULATION (2016 estimate):

4,692,700

AREA (UN 2006):

270,467 sq km

CAPITAL:

Wellington

CURRENCY:

New Zealand dollar (NZD)

HEAD OF STATE:

HM Queen Elizabeth II

GOVERNOR-GENERAL:

Dame Patsy Reddy

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

FORM OF GOVERNMENT:

constitutional monarchy

PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM:

unicameral

STATE STRUCTURE:

unitary

LANGUAGES:

English, Māori and sign language (official)

NATIONAL ELECTIONS:

last: Sept 2017, turnout: 78.8%; next: 2020

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (2017):

38.3%

LOCAL ELECTIONS:

last: Oct 2016, turnout: 43%; next: 2019

WOMEN COUNCILLORS (2016):

32.5%

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE as a percentage of total government expenditure 2015/16:

9.8%

SUMMARY

New Zealand has two levels of government, national and local, which are politically, financially and administratively independent of one another. New Zealand has no written constitution and the general powers of local government are defined in the Local Government Act 2002. The minister of local government is responsible for local government's core legislation, although s/he holds no oversight role except in situations where a council may have failed to discharge its statutory duties. Local government in New Zealand has two types. Regional councils, of which there are 9, are responsible for environmental management policy and regulations with regard to water, air and the coastline. Territorial authorities, of which there are 67 (13 city councils and 54 district councils) deliver a wide range of local services including potable water, sewerage, libraries, parks, recreation, cultural and community facilities, town planning and economic development. Six territorial councils also have responsibility for regional council functions and are known as unitary councils. These include both cities and districts. Almost 60% of operational revenue comes from property tax. Councils are required to take account of community diversity, the interests of the indigenous Māori population and the interests of both current and future generations, when making decisions.

1. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy with a unitary parliament.^{29.1a} Based in the capital Wellington, the parliament comprises 120 members; however numbers can vary slightly should a party gain more seats than its relative share of the vote. Members are elected every three years by universal suffrage on a mixed-member, proportional system of representation in which voters elect constituency MPs and vote for party lists. Following the 2017 national election, 38.3% (46/120) of elected representatives.^{29.1b} The head of government is the prime minister and is generally the leader of the party with the largest number of seats.

2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2.1 Constitutional provisions

New Zealand has no written constitution. Local government is a creature of statute with the first Municipal Corporations Act having been passed by the country's then Legislative Council in 1842.

2.2 Main legislative texts

Local government's purpose is currently defined in Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 ('LGA 2002')^{29.2a}, which gives the following dual purpose for local government: 'to enable democratic decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities and to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses'. It also provides local authorities with full rights, powers and privileges. Section 12 of the LGA 2002 gives councils full capacity to undertake any activity or business in order to achieve their purpose.

This general empowerment fundamentally changed the basis on which local authorities in New Zealand operate. Previously they could only undertake activities permitted by law. Now local authorities are empowered to undertake what is necessary to achieve their purpose, subject only to other legislation, the general law and the accountability processes set out in the Act. Prior to the LGA 2002 local government reform in 1989 reduced the number of local authorities from more than 850 to 86. This number has since been further reduced to 78. Local government's authority to set property taxes is outlined in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, while the legislation governing the local electoral process is the Local Electoral Act 2001. Another significant piece of legislation is the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA 1991), which promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. A key feature of this Act is the extent to which responsibilities and powers for resource management are devolved to local and regional authorities. Recent changes to the RMA 1991 have given government ministers increased intervention powers. The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 ensures that the public has access to local authority information and meetings. Information can only be withheld from public request for commercial reasons or personal sensitivity. All meetings must be advertised in advance and open to the public unless a council resolves to go into public-excluded session, which can only be justified on the basis of commercial or personal sensitivity. In addition to recent changes to the RMA 1991, the LGA 2002 has been subject to considerable change over recent years.



These changes have increased the powers of the Local Government Minister to intervene in cases where a local authority is experiencing a problem, required councils to adopt 30 year infrastructure strategies and sought to strengthen the role of mayors. The government recently passed the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017, which makes a number of significant changes to the Resource Management Act and related pieces of legislation, with the objective of supporting more effective environmental management and driving capacity for development and economic growth.

2.3 Proposed legislative changes

Prior to the 2017 election, the National Party indicated that, if it was re-elected, it would introduce urban planning laws that would be separate from the Resource Management Act to speed up development of urban areas. The Government has also publicly

consulted on a proposal to enable Urban Development Authorities to be created to fast-track housing and urban redevelopment projects. If progressed, this would require new legislation that would have significant interactions with the Resource Management Act.

2.4 National urban policy

New Zealand does not have a single 'national urban policy' which articulates its full vision for urban areas in the country, however there are a number of key relevant initiatives. These include the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity^{29,2b} (NPS-UDC), which was adopted in November 2016, and is a significant legislative tool which requires local authorities to provide, in their land use planning decisions, sufficient capacity for housing and business development to meet demand in the short, medium and long terms. The NPS-UDC has five themes: enabling urban growth and development while

managing their effects; meeting a range of demands for housing and business land; understanding and enabling a competitive land and development market; improving the alignment between land use planning and infrastructure; and, fostering cooperative roles and relationships between councils. There is also the 2005 Urban Design Protocol, which is a voluntary commitment by public and private organisations to make New Zealand's towns and cities more successful through quality urban design initiatives. Additionally there is a proposed national direction on managing significant risks from natural hazards and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010, which provides further direction on planning for development in the coastal zone. There is also new ability to create National Planning Standards to improve consistency in plan and policy statement structure, format and content so they are easier to prepare, understand, compare and comply with.

Table 29.1a Distribution of councils and population

Region	Regional councils	Territorial authorities*			Unitary councils	Population Census 2013	Population 2016 (est.)	% rural 2013
		City/metro councils	District/Island councils	All				
North Island								
Northland Region	1	-	3	3	-	155,805	171,400	49.0
Auckland City Region		1	-	1	1	1,438,446	1,614,400	3.9
Waikato Region	1	1	9	10	-	413,202	449,200	22.2
Bay of Plenty Region	1	1	5	6	-	273,360	293,500	18.5
Gisborne Region		-	1	1	1	43,938	47,800	25.6
Hawke's Bay Region	1	1	3	4	-	156,018	161,500	12.5
Taranaki Region	1	-	3	3	-	110,079	116,700	22.6
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	1	1	6	7	-	225,411	236,900	18.8
Wellington Region	1	4	4	8	-	478,290	504,800	3.6
Total North Island	7	9	34	43	2	3,294,549	3,596,200	11.8
South Island								
Tasman Region		-	1	1	1	51,258	50,200	40.1
Nelson City Region		1	-	1	1	48,444	50,600	1.9
Marlborough Region		-	1	1	1	46,302	45,500	23.1
West Coast Region	1	-	3	3	-	36,294	32,500	43.3
Canterbury Region		1	9	10	-	554,919	599,900	16.7
Otago Region	1	1	3	4	-	223,017	219,200	20.3
Southland Region		1	2	3	-	97,821	98,000	30.2
Total South Island	2	4	19	23	3	1,058,055	1,095,900	20.4
Area outside regions (Chatham Islands)		-	1	1	1	600	610	n/a
Total New Zealand	9	13	54	67	6	4,353,198	4,692,700	13.7

Source: DIA communication with CLGF and 2013 Census^{29,3a} LGNZ 2017^{29,3b} *Territorial authorities are not sub-divisions of regions. For the purposes of this table, a territorial authority whose area spans more than one region is listed under the region containing the largest proportion of its area.



3. STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

3.1 Local government within the state

National and local government in New Zealand are independent of one another politically, financially and administratively.

3.2 Ministerial oversight

The minister of local government, supported by the Department of Internal Affairs,^{29.3c} is responsible for local government's core legislation. The minister has a number of oversight roles including in situations where a council has significant or persistent organisational weaknesses which have resulted in a failure either to perform its statutory duties or execute its functions efficiently, or where there have been irregularities in the decision-making process.

Previously, in such a case, an inquiry could be instigated and if necessary a commissioner appointed to replace the council. This has only occurred twice in the last 50 years.^{29.3d} A change to the LGA 2002 in 2012 gave the minister of local government a range of new powers to intervene in a local authority if there was evidence of a significant problem. This was used in 2013 to appoint a Crown manager to Christchurch City Council to address problems associated with the council's loss of accreditation as a building consent authority. In 2012 the Government appointed commissioners to operate the Kaipara District Council after councillors voluntarily stepped down in the face of significant governance and financial issues - the council returned to democracy in October 2016.

3.3 Council types

In the New Zealand local government system there is only one level, although within that level there are two types of local authorities. There are 78 authorities made up of 11 regional councils and 67 territorial authorities. The 67 territorial authorities consist of 13 cities - including Auckland metropolitan region - and 54 districts, including the Chatham Islands council. Also included are six unitary councils, two of which are cities and four of which are districts, established according to their size and degree of urbanisation (see Table 1a). Recent legislative changes have enhanced the transparency and accountability requirements of local authorities, established distinct roles for territorial authorities and regional councils - especially in the area of resource management responsibilities - and have introduced the option of community boards to enhance participation in territorial authority districts. There are no statutory committees which councils are required to set up.

However, they are required, as far as is practicable, to separate out their regulatory functions, so in most cases a council will establish a committee specifically to handle its regulatory responsibilities. Councils will normally establish Audit and Risk Committees. A new model of local government was introduced with the creation of Auckland Council in November 2010. Auckland Council, an amalgamation of eight local authorities^{29.3d}, has a number of unique features such as a more powerful mayor, 21 local boards responsible for sub-metropolitan issues and the creation of arm's-length entities (known as council-controlled organisations or CCOs) to operate transport and roading, water and wastewater, economic development and tourism, and a number of other functions.

3.3.1 Regional councils are responsible for setting environmental policy and regulations with regard to water, air and the coastline. Regional councils' boundaries are designed to reflect water catchment areas. Some regions have responsibilities in public transport, bulk water, regional parks and regional stadia. Regional councils are responsible for territory up to the 12-mile limit out to sea.

3.3.2 Territorial authorities consist of city (urban) and district (mostly rural) councils that deliver a wide range of local services including potable water, sewerage, libraries, parks, recreation, cultural and community facilities, town planning and economic development as well as an extensive range of local regulatory functions.

3.3.3 Unitary councils are territorial authorities which also have regional council powers.

3.3.4 Community boards have been formed in more than 40 territorial and unitary councils. These are sub-municipal bodies which are elected but may also contain appointed councillors and are given a range of responsibilities for local and neighbourhood matters. Auckland City contains 21 local boards, which are similar to community boards but have no appointed members and have a broader range of statutory decision-making powers.

3.3.5 Local boards, currently only found in Auckland but expected to be introduced in future reorganisation schemes elsewhere in New Zealand, are similar to community boards but are given a broader range of service delivery responsibilities and much stronger planning and funding roles.

4. ELECTIONS

4.1 Recent local elections

These were held in 2016 with a total turnout of 43%, slightly higher than the turnout for 2013 which was 41.3% and down from 49.0% in 2010.^{29.4a} The next elections will be held in 2019.

4.2 Voting system

The Local Electoral Act 2001 gives local authorities the choice of conducting their triennial elections using either the first-past-the-post or the single transferable vote (STV) electoral system. For the 2004 elections, ten councils used STV for the first time, though this had reduced to five in the 2007 elections. In 2016 eight councils used STV with another two councils choosing to adopt STV for the 2019 elections, which will bring the number up to 10. Councils have the option of running elections by either postal voting or booth voting. In every election since 1992 all councils have used postal voting. This system has been seen to result in substantially higher voter participation, which has recently been around 50%; however, there has been a gradual decline in turnout since 2001 (but with an increase in 2010).

Voters must be 18 years of age or over, on the parliamentary electoral roll and resident at their address for one month to qualify as a resident elector. Ratepayer electors qualify by owning property in a region or district in which they are not resident, or by being nominated by a corporate body. No individual can exercise a vote in the same election as both a resident and (non-resident) ratepayer elector. However, a ratepayer who lives in one local authority and owns a property in another may vote in both. The government has agreed in principle to the introduction of an online voting but this is yet to be trialed.^{29.4b}

The independent Local Government Commission (LGC)^{29.4c} in addition to its role in local government reorganisation, acts as a review tribunal to ensure fair and effective representation for individuals and communities. Councils are required to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years and citizens can appeal to the LGC if they believe the outcome of a council's representation review fails to deliver reasonable and equal opportunities for voters and candidates. In ruling on an appeal or objection the LGC's decisions are final. It plays an important role in ensuring public confidence in the electoral processes. Local elections are decentralised and are run by local electoral officers employed by councils.



4.3 Elected representatives

The number of councillors each authority may have is specified in the Local Electoral Act 2001. Both regional and territorial councils must have a minimum of six councillors, with upper limits of 18 for regional councils and 30, including a separately elected mayor, for territorial councils. The average size of a governing body is 11, including the mayor or chair. Only New Zealand citizens who qualify as electors are eligible to stand for council, however anyone who is a permanent resident can vote. The term of office for all councillors and mayors is three years. A councillor or mayor cannot be a member of both a regional council and a territorial authority or community board in the same region at the same time.

4.4 Women's representation

Following the 2016 elections the proportion of female elected members reached its highest ever level of 31.8%, up from 25% in 1989. Increases in female representation by type of council were: in regional authorities 24.2% up from 21%; district councils 32.5% up from 30%; and city councils 33.9%, up from 33%. Community and local boards had the highest proportion of female elected members.

5. SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

5.1 Legal requirement

Local authorities have a legal duty to consult their communities and this occurs both as part of the community planning

process and on specific policy issues. The LGA 2002 created a broad requirement to consider community views in the decision-making process as well as to consult on the development of annual plans and long-term council community plans. Section 82 contains six consultation principles, including: 'that persons who will, or may be, affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter should be provided by the local authority with reasonable access to relevant information in a manner and format that is appropriate to the preferences and needs of those persons' and 'that the views presented to the local authority should be received by the local authority with an open mind and should be given by the local authority, in making a decision, due consideration'. All local authorities also have an obligation to consult directly with their communities on their district plans and regional policy statements prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991. It is common for legislation empowering local government or devolving responsibilities to local government to include provisions that mandate public involvement in decision-making. For example, under the Resource Management Act 1991 requirement for councils to develop district and regional environmental management plans, councils must publish draft plans and provide opportunities for public feedback. Similarly, under the land transport legislation councils must publish draft transport strategies and provide opportunities for feedback. Councils must produce a ten-year long-term plan (LTP) which must be revised every three years. Councils are required to provide opportunities for the indigenous Māori people to contribute to decision-making processes and consider ways of fostering the capacity of Māori people to participate. The LGA 2002 also requires councils to take account of community diversity and the interests of both current and future generations when making decisions.

5.2 Implementation

Territorial authorities may have directly elected community boards within their district which represent and advocate for the interests of their community, maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority and undertake responsibilities delegated by the territorial authority. Boards comprise between four and 12 members, must include at least four elected members, and may include members appointed by the parent territorial authority. There are 108 community boards in more than 45 councils. The design of Auckland Council is based on the principle of co-governance and decision making is divided between a metropolitan governing body of 21 (including the Mayor), and 21 local boards, which are responsible for a broad range of local services, such as parks and libraries.

Table 29.1b Number of women councillors and mayors following the last two elections

	2013		2016	
	#	%	#	%
All councillors	na	na	269	32.5
All female councillors	na	na	558	67.5
All male councillors	na	na	827	100.0
Total councillors	na	100.0	827	100.0
Regional authority (RA) councillors	#	%	#	%
Female RA councillors	na	21	29	24.2
Male RA councillors	na	na	91	75.8
Total RA councillors	na	100.0	120	100.0
District authority (DA) councillors	#	%	#	%
Female DA councillors	na	na	183	34.0
Male DA councillors	na	na	356	66.0
Total DA councillors	na	100.0	539	100.0
City councillors	#	%	#	%
Female city councillors	na	na	57	33.9
Male city councillors	na	na	111	66.1
Total city councillors	na	100.0	168	100.0
All mayors	#	%	#	%
All female mayors	na	na	13	19.4
Male mayors	na	na	54	80.6
Total mayors	na	100.0	67	100.0
District mayors	#	%	#	%
District female mayors	na	na	11	20.4
District male mayors	na	na	43	79.6
Total district mayors	na	100.0	54	100.0
City mayors	#	%	#	%
Female city mayors	na	na	2	15.4
Male city mayors	na	na	11	84.6
Total city mayors	na	100.0	13	100.0

Source: DIA communication with CLGF: Local Authority Election Statistics 2016 & UNDP/CLGF 2010



5.3 ICT use in citizen engagement

The Department of Internal Affairs has also established a 'local councils' website which provides information about how the New Zealand system of local government works; it also outlines how people can get involved in local government, gives a statistical overview of local government in New Zealand, and provides a financial and statistical profile for each local authority area. In addition, all local authorities have their own websites.

6. ORGANISED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

6.1 National local government association

Local Government New Zealand^{29.6a} (LGNZ) represents the national interests of councils of New Zealand by providing policy advice and training to councils and advocating on their behalf. Membership is voluntary but all 78 local authorities are currently members.

6.2 Other associations of local government

The New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers^{29.6b} (SOLGM) is local government's national professional management organisation of senior local authority officers. SOLGM is committed to building capability and promoting excellence among local government managers and staff through membership services, professional development and training, good practice resources and influencing policy development and implementation.

7. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Communication between local government and national government departments is multi-faceted. At a formal level LGNZ holds an annual meeting with the prime minister and relevant members of the cabinet at which high-level policy issues and future directions are discussed. There is also an annual National Government and Local Government Forum held each spring. In addition the president of LGNZ holds bilateral meetings on a regular basis with both the prime minister and the minister of local government. Meetings are held with other ministers and their departments on an issue-by-issue basis as required. The NZ government does not have provincial offices (except for a nascent presence in Auckland, the country's largest city) so individual councils will travel to Wellington, the capital, or liaise through LGNZ. The nature of the bilateral relationships will vary across policy areas. For example, as local authorities undertake a wide range of environmental policy and regulation roles there is ongoing interaction with the minister and Ministry for the Environment^{29.7} and an annual meeting is held between the ministry and council chief executives.

Regular meetings occur throughout the year between various departmental and local government officials such as mayors, and it is common, although not formally required, for departments to consult with local government representatives when undertaking policy reviews and drafting new legislation. The Department of Internal Affairs plays a critical role in promoting relationships between government departments and councils and works to align and coordinate department and local government interaction.

8. MONITORING SYSTEMS

Financial oversight is provided by the Office of the Auditor General^{29.8}, which audits councils' long-term plans and annual reports to ensure the suitability of forecasting assumptions and the quality of performance information as well as the prudent use of resources. Some government departments, such as the Ministry for the Environment, monitor councils' compliance with respect to devolved functions such as issuing resource consents or regulatory inspections. In 2010 the government required councils to use common performance measures for their major infrastructural activities, such as roads and the three waters and in 2012 prudent financial benchmarks were introduced. The Local Government and Environment Select Committee considers draft legislation affecting local government and both the Office of the Auditor General and the ombudsman can investigate council decision-making in response to complaints. Councils are also subject to judicial review; however, no bodies can override a legally made council decision. Other scrutinising bodies include:

- the Local Government Commission, which has responsibilities relating to reorganisation and representation, including the hearing of objections and appeals

- the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, who investigates the effectiveness of environmental planning and management
- the Office of the Ombudsman, which deals with appeals relating to official information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act
- the Environment Court, which deals with appeals about the contents of regional and district statements and plans, as well as appeals arising out of applications for resource consents.

9. FINANCE, STAFFING AND RESOURCES

9.1 Local government expenditure

In the 2015/16 financial year, local government expenditure was 9.8% of total government expenditure, a reduction of 0.9% over the previous financial year (See Table 29.2b.)

9.2 Locally raised revenue

Currently all councils have the freedom to raise their own finances without externally imposed caps or limits overall.

9.3 Transfers

The only transfer from national to local government is a proportion of the taxes and charges raised on petrol, diesel and vehicle registration, which is allocated to local government for the maintenance and development of local roads. Historically that figure has been around 50% of the total road maintenance budget; however recently a greater share has gone to the development of the national highway network. It is worth noting, however, that local government does not consider this a transfer as 90% of the nation's roads are owned by local authorities. The formula for allocation to councils takes into account the capital value of property in districts plus their road-building plans and public transport investment programmes.

Table 29.2a Summary of consolidated local government budgets 2015/16

Income	NZ\$m	Expenditure	NZ\$m
Centre - local transfers		Recurrent costs	
All transfers	1,029	Employee costs	2,057
Own source revenue		Interest expenditure	693
Rates	5,317	Depreciation and amortisation	1,935
Regulatory income and petrol tax	580	Grants, subsidies, and donations	1,072
Interest, dividend & investment	1,081	Purchases and other operating expenses	3,523
Sales and other operating income	1,396		
Total	8,865	Total expenditure	9,280

Source: Local Councils Revenue and Expenditure^{29.9a}



9.4 Loans

Since 2010 the government has required councils to establish annual fiscal limits for themselves in consultation with citizens. Councils are able to exceed these limits, but have to explain the reasons why. Legislation requires councils to balance their budgets on an accrual basis and to make provision for depreciation. Local governments can borrow from the domestic financial market. Other than Auckland Council, local government cannot borrow in overseas currencies. The Local Government Funding Agency is jointly owned by a group of councils and the Government.

9.5 Local authority staff

Councils pay for their own staff, of which there are around 29,000. The only local authority officer required by law is a chief executive, who is appointed for a maximum fixed term of five years with a right of renewal for a further two years subject to completion of a satisfactory performance review. Other local government staff are recruited by the chief executive on behalf of the local authority and s/he also has powers to discipline and dismiss staff. Each authority is free to determine its own staffing structure. However, it is typical to have a chief executive with a management team comprising managers in areas such as planning and policy, service delivery, finance, asset management and corporate affairs. Since 2001 the Remuneration Authority, an independent national government statutory body, rather than the minister of local government, has determined elected member salaries and allowances, based on statutorily prescribed criteria. In the larger areas, the workload is such that mayors and regional council chairpersons are generally full-time. It is not unusual for councillors also to be near full-time in some of the larger authorities. In smaller rural authorities the workload and remuneration levels are less and result in a less than full-time presence by elected members.

10. DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICE DELIVERY RESPONSIBILITY

10.1 Overview of local government service delivery responsibility

Regional councils and territorial authorities have traditionally worked as two spheres of local government with different jurisdictions and little overlap. The key principle traditionally underpinning the division between regional councils and territorial authorities has been the separation of planning and service delivery responsibilities.

10.1.1 Regional councils are primarily responsible for resource management (integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the region); biosecurity; river and catchment management including flood control; harbour navigation and safety; marine pollution; regional emergency management and civil defence; and regional land transport planning. In keeping with their prime environmental and physical resource management function, the regional councils' boundaries have, as far as possible, been drawn along river catchments. Regional councils have generally had no direct service delivery functions, except for Auckland and Wellington regions, which inherited some regional service delivery functions when they were established in 1989. These include bulk water supply in Wellington and the administration of regional parks in both Auckland and Wellington. Regional councils are led by a chairperson elected indirectly by the council for a three-year term. Regional councils may delegate responsibilities – such as the power to set rates^{29.10a}, make by-laws, borrow money, appoint a chief executive or adopt plans – to committees or other structures, with certain exceptions.

10.1.2 Territorial authorities provide services directly or indirectly to the community. The city and district councils are responsible for community wellbeing. This has traditionally covered activities and services such as public health and safety, infrastructure, recreation and culture, and resource management (control of the effects of use, development or protection of land and associated physical and natural

resources). Territorial authorities have a role in controlling the provision of gambling in their communities. In recent years, they have been given powers to regulate the location of brothels and enhanced powers to control the location and opening hours of liquor outlets, following community concern at the relatively unregulated spread of such outlets. As a result of the way the boundaries of regional councils have been drawn, several districts straddle regional council borders. Territorial authorities may delegate responsibilities in the same manner as regional councils.

10.2 ICT use in service delivery

The New Zealand government has been developing an e-government strategy to increase online access to information, products and services, to enhance citizen participation, and to develop e-business initiatives. The government website provides a portal for access to national government and local authority services.^{29.10b} The services and information offered vary between local authorities.

10.3 The role of local government in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The government has acknowledged that achieving the SDGs will require a cross-government effort.^{29.10b} Government agencies are reviewing the goals and their alignment with existing government priorities. This analysis will inform a discussion on how New Zealand focuses its efforts. At a UN meeting on implementation of the SDGs 21 July 2016. The minister for climate change identified those issues that are of greatest importance to New Zealanders, and where the New Zealand government is focusing its work. These include: growing the economy, improving living standards, health and education, creating jobs, increasing the supply of affordable housing, encouraging women in leadership, keeping communities safe, and protecting the environment. The private sector and civil society can also help reach the goals. Already a number of NGOs and businesses are considering how their work helps, and are engaging productively with government agencies.

Table 29.2b Local government expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure 2008–2016

	2008/09 actual NZ\$m	2009/10 actual NZ\$m	2010/11 actual NZ\$m	2011/12 actual NZ\$m	2012/13 actual NZ\$m	2013/14 actual NZ\$m	2014/15 actual NZ\$m	2015/16 estimated NZ\$m
Total government expenditure	66,657	69,711	86,981	75,616	76,994	78,602	80,821	90,918
Total local government expenditure	6,923	7,213	7,918	8,250	8,004	8,169	8,672	8,961
Local government expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure	10.4%	10.3%	9.1%	10.9%	10.4%	10.4%	10.7%	9.8

Source: New Zealand Government Finance Statistics Local Government 2016^{29.9b}

**REFERENCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES**

- 29.1a National government portal www.newzealand.govt.nz
- 29.1b Women in national parliaments. Inter-Parliamentary Union www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm
- 29.2a Local Government Act 2002 www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0084/latest/versions.aspx
- 29.2b National policy statement on urban development capacity www.mfe.govt.nz/more/towns-and-cities/national-policy-statement-urban-development-capacity
- 29.3a Statistics New Zealand www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census/data-tables/population-dwelling-tables.aspx
- 29.3b LGNZ New Zealands councils www.lgnz.co.nz/nzs-local-government/new-zealands-councils
- 29.3c Department of Internal Affairs www.dia.govt.nz
- 29.3d In 2000 Rodney District Council was deemed to be dysfunctional and was replaced by a commissioner appointed by the minister, and in 2012 when commissioners, at the invitation of councillors, were appointed to the Kaipara District Council to address significant governance and financial challenges facing the council. In 2010 the government also enacted special legislation to remove the elected members of the Canterbury Regional Council and replace them with appointed commissioners. The government introduced a transitional model, involving both appointed and elected members, for the 2016 local authority elections in Canterbury before fully returning the council to democracy in 2019.
- 29.3d Royal Commission on Auckland Governance www.dia.govt.nz/Decommissioned-websites---Royal-Commission-on-Auckland-Governance
- 29.4a Elections New Zealand www.elections.org.nz
- 29.4b The Department of Internal Affairs; Online Voting www.dia.govt.nz/online-voting
- 29.4c Local Government Commission www.lgc.govt.nz
- 29.4d Local Authority Election Statistics 2016 www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Local-Elections-Local-Authority-Election-Statistics-2016
- 29.4e UNDP/ CLGF 2010 Women's representation in local government in Asia Pacific: Status report 2010/12 www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Publications/reports/Womens_Representation_in_Local_Govt_in_Asia_PacificUNDP_CLGF2010.pdf
- 29.5 No reference for this section
- 29.6a Local Government New Zealand www.lgnz.co.nz
- 29.6b New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers www.solgm.org.nz
- 29.7 Ministry for the Environment www.mfe.govt.nz
- 29.8 Office of the Auditor General: Local Government www.oag.govt.nz/about-us/our-structure/local-government
- 29.9a Local council revenue www.localcouncils.govt.nz/lgip.nsf/wpg_popup/Profiles-Local-Government-Statistical-Overview-Operating-Revenue
Local council expenditure: www.localcouncils.govt.nz/lgip.nsf/wpg_popup/Profiles-Local-Government-Statistical-Overview-Operating-Expenditure
- 29.9b Based on the figure of NZ\$8.7bn for total local government expenditure for 2014/15 and NZ\$80.8bn for total government expenditure. Note that the treasury has since ended the publication of Finance Statistics for Local Government after 2015. New Zealand Government Finance Statistics - Local Government 2016 www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/government_finance/general-government/GovernmentFinanceStatisticsGeneralGovernment_HOTPYeJun16.aspx
- 29.9c New Zealand Government Finance Statistics Central Government 2015 www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/government_finance/central_government/GovernmentFinanceStatisticsCentralGovernment_HOTPYeJun15.aspx
- 29.10a Local Councils New Zealand www.localcouncils.govt.nz
- 29.10b New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade - the Sustainable Development Goals www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/work-with-the-un-and-other-partners/new-zealand-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs/#nz
- 29.11 UN statistics surface area <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2006/Table03.pdf>
- 29.12 UNDP HDR New Zealand country profile <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NZL>



Annex 29a Summary of service provision in different spheres of government in New Zealand

Services	Delivering authority			Remarks
	National	Regional	Territorial	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION				
Police	■			
Fire protection	■		■	
Civil protection	■			Territorial councils have a role in rural fire protection
Criminal justice	■			
Civil status register	■			Local authorities have civil defence responsibilities
Statistical office	■			
Electoral register	■			
EDUCATION				
Pre-school (kindergarten and nursery)	■			
Primary	■			
Secondary	■			
Vocational and technical	■			
Higher education	■			
Adult education	■			
SOCIAL WELFARE				
Family welfare services	■			Territorial councils have a discretionary role in community development, support for community agencies, commercial information etc
Welfare homes	■			
Social security	■			
PUBLIC HEALTH				
Primary care	■			
Hospitals	■			
Health protection	■		■	Territorial councils are responsible for inspections of water quality at commercial premises, egress, noise etc
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING				
Housing	■		■	
Town planning			■	
Regional planning		■		
TRANSPORT				
Roads	■		■	
Transport	■	■	■	
Urban roads			■	National government is responsible for national highways, which represent approximately 13% of the road network
Urban rail	■	■		
Ports		■	■	
Airports	■		■	
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SANITATION				
Water and sanitation			■	
Refuse collection and disposal			■	
Cemeteries and crematoria			■	Slaughter-houses are provided only by the private sector
Slaughter-houses			■	
Environmental protection	■	■	■	
Consumer protection	■			
CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORTS				
Theatre and concerts			■	
Museums and libraries			■	
Parks and open spaces		■	■	The Auckland and Wellington regional councils have parks responsibility
Sports and leisure			■	
Religious facilities				
UTILITIES				
Gas services				
District heating				
Water supply			■	Some local authorities have shares in electricity companies
Electricity				
ECONOMIC				
Agriculture, forests and fisheries	■			
Local economic development/promotion			■	Although not involved in agriculture or fisheries, some local authorities have forestry interests for investment purposes
Trade and industry	■			
Tourism	■		■	

■ sole responsibility service ■ joint responsibility service ■ discretionary service