

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



*Tauranga Commissioners
Tauranga City Council
Maree.King@tauranga.govt.nz*

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to thank you for all the correspondence you have sent me, including the:

- briefing on current challenges and opportunities for the city of Tauranga;
- quarterly progress reports; and
- recommendations for the Tauranga City Council (the Council) governance following the election of 20 July 2024.

It was great to meet with you on 13 March 2024 and get more insight into the challenges and opportunities that the Council is facing.

I note both your December 2023 recommendation for a hybrid transitional governance structure following the election, as well as your April 2024 letter recommending the appointment of a Crown Observer alongside elected members.

Your recommendations for the Council's governance after the election

I have considered your advice for the Council's governance following the election on 20 July 2024. I also acknowledge your concerns about the risks in the Council's transition of governance to elected members and the importance in continuing the progress of significant projects, including:

- the delivery of the Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034
- provision of land for housing
- city centre revitalisation initiatives.

As Minister of Local Government, I recognise the importance of local decision-making and local authorities' accountability to their communities. This is why I am committed to restoring democracy to Tauranga. The Ministerial intervention in the Tauranga City Council will end with the next election scheduled for 20 July 2024.

Local elections are the primary mechanism for communities to exercise their democratic rights and elect their representatives. I consider that the newly elected members should be given the opportunity to assume the full responsibilities of their role without pre-judging their performance.

Your final report

Under the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act), you are required to provide a final report (the report) of your term as Commissioners. For the report, I request that you include the following:

- a narrative description of the activities of the Commission in relation to its terms of reference;
- an assessment of progress in addressing the problem you were appointed to resolve;
- any final recommendations you may have, including if further intervention is required;
- any major outstanding or incomplete projects;
- potential challenges and opportunities for the incoming Council; and
- detail of the Council management team's plans for induction and support of the incoming Council.

As per the Act, I am required to publish the report as soon as practicable. The information from the report will inform candidates and voters about the current situation in Tauranga. To provide them with enough time to read the report ahead of the election, I request you send it to me by 24 June 2024.

I would like to thank you again for your work as Commissioners and for leaving the Tauranga City Council in a strong position. I am confident that the progress you have made has laid out a clear pathway for the new elected members to continue delivering on the LTP priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government