

Exerts from Royal Commission on Auckland Governance 2009

Planning

61. The Commission notes that the Government intends to amend the Resource Management Act 1991, in particular to make decision making on infrastructure more efficient, to reduce the costs and delays of consenting and speed up plan-making processes.

62. The Commission's recommendations on planning address these problems from a different perspective. The reorganisation proposed by the Commission will streamline planning processes in Auckland by creating a unitary authority. Although it will take time to achieve, it is proposed that there will be one district plan for Auckland, thus simplifying planning and consenting processes. A hallmark of the new district plan, and the new regional plans to be developed and delivered by the Auckland Council, will be simplicity of language and controls.

63. The Commission also proposes that the Resource Management Act 1991 should be amended to remove the right of appeal to the Environment Court from regional policy decisions made by the Auckland Council. It is also recommended that the Auckland Regional Policy Statement be subject to a submission process similar to that which applies to national policy statements, that is, those submissions should be heard by independent commissioners. These measures, if adopted, will result in significant savings, and simplify the administration of the Act and planning processes for the Auckland Council and users alike.

Source:

<http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/ArcAggregator/frameView/IE1055203/http://www.royalcommission.govt.nz/>