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23 August 2012



Inquiry into Local Government
Regulatory Performance
New Zealand Productivity Commission
P O Box 8036
The Terrace
WELLINGTON

Dear Sir/Madam

Regulatory Performance Issue Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this paper. Council considered the matter at its meeting on 23 August 2012.

There are some matters that are of specific relevance to Gisborne District Council.

These include:

- A sense in the report that whilst the review purports to take a comprehensive look at Government's regulatory practices, the focus appears to be on economic costs of regulatory and less on social and environmental benefits.
- Scale economies may lead to a drive to regionalise and centralise the delivery of regulatory functions to central government, or to share service delivery by a number of local authorities. The reality is that the quality of services is affected by distance, and peripheral regions such as Gisborne will suffer from centralisation by receiving poorer and ineffective service.

In respect of the level at which regulatory services should be performed, it is suggested that there is a role for territorial and regional government where:

- Local conditions are clearly different and the regulatory response needs to be tailored to those conditions;
- There are valid reasons to vary policy preferences across the country reflecting political and community diversity;
- Local communities will receive a better service from local regulators;
- The purpose of the regulation is more local than national;
- There is discretion whether or not regulatory intervention is required, and at which level.

I trust these comments will be of help. Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Hans van Kregten
Group Manager Environment and Policy