



Our Ref: 7.00543
5th March 2013

Productivity Commission

Dear Sir/Madam

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's submission to 'Towards Better Local Regulation'

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on 'Towards Better Local Regulation'. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not wish to be heard on this submission.

For matters relating to this submission, please contact Kataraina Belshaw at Kataraina.belshaw@boprc.govt.nz or 0800 884 881 ext. 9323.

Our Organisation

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is responsible for the sustainable management of resources within the Bay of Plenty region. Our Council works to manage peoples' effects on freshwater, land, air and coastal water under the Resource Management Act (1991).

We also have a broader responsibility working with district councils in the area, to meet the current and future needs of our communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions.

Comments

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council supports the submission of Local Government New Zealand. In addition to LGNZ's submission we would like to make specific comments regarding Chapter 13 of the Towards Better Local Regulation Report. As a Regional Council that has been heavily involved in providing advice to OTS and iwi negotiating Treaty settlements, we suggest that the Crown considers employing an RMA planner to assist OTS/settling iwi when negotiating the future management of natural resources. The benefits of this would include:

- Ensuring workable co-governance/management regimes for both Council and iwi
- Any planning documents (such as River documents) are able to meet the expectations of settling iwi as well as the requirements of the RMA.
- Reducing the costs to individual Councils who are providing advice to both parties.
- Assist settling iwi to understand the nuances of local government and the RMA and therefore where to target their resources.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fiona McTavish".

Fiona McTavish
General Manager Strategy