

Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



Dear Mayor/Chair,

21 November 2024

Invitation to submit a regional deal light-touch proposal

The Government is pleased to invite your council to submit a regional deal proposal.

Regional deals is our Government's initiative to boost economic growth through infrastructure development. Deals will be focused on delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, building economic growth and improving the supply of affordable housing. They will be based on a 30-year vision for the region, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans.

Proposal process

Each region has the opportunity to submit one proposal for consideration. The proposals must be a collaborative submission by the territorial authorities involved and the relevant regional council. 'Regions' in the context of regional deals should be a configuration of territorial authorities within a defined economic and geographic area and must include the regional council where relevant. One relevant regional council will be involved in each regional deal alongside territorial authorities.

The proposal is intended to be straightforward and high level. We are looking for simple, in-house proposals supported by readily accessible information. Each proposal should identify 3-5 key infrastructure priorities or projects for the region. These should clearly show how they will boost regional economic growth or unlock growth for housing. To support the development of your proposal, a light-touch form is attached to guide you.

Should you wish to submit a regional deals proposal, please complete the attached registration form and submit it to regionaldeals@dia.govt.nz by 18 December 2024. Final proposals are due by 28 February 2025.

Please find additional guiding material below. Further information will be available at the <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Regional-Deals>. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to refer them to your Department of Internal Affairs Partnership Director or to regionaldeals@dia.govt.nz.

We are pleased to begin this journey and look forward to working with you to deliver infrastructure investment and economic growth for your communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simeon Brown".

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Local Government

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What classifies as a 'Region'?

'Regions' in the context of regional deals should be a configuration of territorial authorities within a defined economic and geographic area and must include the regional council where relevant. One relevant regional council will be involved in each regional deal alongside the territorial authorities.

Territorial authorities should determine how they collaborate with one another, alongside the relevant regional council, on a proposal that will support economic growth or unlock growth for housing for the region involved.

Why are all councils being invited to submit a light-touch proposal?

We have made the decision to invite all territorial authorities at the same time to enable all regions to put forward proposals that will boost economic growth, and to support the building of relationships between these territorial authorities and their relevant regional council.

What is a light-touch proposal?

A light-touch proposal is a document that outline ideas that can be implemented to address clearly understood issues and opportunities. We are not looking for exploratory studies or huge glossy documents.

While each regional deal will reflect the priorities for each region, deals should address the following criteria:

- Regional alignment - shared strategic objectives, developed in partnership and reflecting the particular local characteristics of each region;
- Identification of economic opportunities for long term growth potential;
- Financial and non-financial resources that will be brought to the table;
- Alignment and commitment on approach to broader government reform objectives such as Local Water Done Well – to provide confidence that councils are meeting their regulatory standards;
- Commitment to use of shared services; and
- Identification of alternative funding and financing tools for projects.

My expectation is that territorial authorities take a 'no-frills' approach to these proposals, which are practical and focused on achieving results. The information needed to complete your proposal is expected to be able to be sourced from your existing resources and materials, minimising any unnecessary additional costs and reducing reliance on external parties.

How should I confirm my intention to submit a light-touch proposal?

To confirm your intention to submit a light-touch proposal, submit the attached registration form to the Regional Deals Team at DIA (RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz) before 18 December 2025.

How will light-touch proposals be assessed?

Proposals will be assessed according to the assessment criteria on page 24 of the Regional Deals Strategic Framework (<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-08/Regional%20Deals%20Strategic%20Framework.pdf>).

When will my region get a deal?

We expect the first regional deal to be finalised with the selected region by December 2025, with two more deals finalised by October 2026. Plans for future rounds of deals are still being developed.

We encourage councils that are not selected in the first tranche to continue to build relationships and planning with neighbouring territorial authorities and the relevant regional council to develop their future proposal. The regional deals secretariat will continue to provide support and share information on the rollout of the deals.

What are the key dates I need to know?

Activity	Date
Letters sent to all Councils inviting a regional deal proposal	21 Nov 2024
Online Q&A sessions for all councils	Late Nov 2024
Regions confirm intention to submit a proposal	By 18 Dec 2024
Regions submit final proposals for consideration	28 Feb 2025
Cabinet agreement on next steps for each region	Mid-2025

Further information

In the meantime, I encourage you to review the information at [\[https://www.dia.govt.nz/Regional-Deals\]](https://www.dia.govt.nz/Regional-Deals), including the Regional Deals [Strategic Framework - DIA](#).

For further questions, please contact your DIA Partnership Director in the table ahead or email RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz.

<i>Regions</i>	<i>DIA Partnership Director</i>	<i>Contact details</i>
Northland/Auckland/Waikato	Vanessa Blakelock	Vanessa.blakelock@dia.govt.nz [021 832 417]
Bay of Plenty/Gisborne Tairāwhiti/Hawkes Bay/Manawatū Whanganui/Taranaki	Caroline Dumas	Caroline.dumas@dia.govt.nz [022 652 5199]
Wellington/Otago/Southland	Warren Ulusele	Warren.ulusele@dia.govt.nz [021 227 8187]
Nelson City and Tasman /Marlborough/Canterbury/ West Coast	Paul Barker	Paul.barker@dia.govt.nz [027 610 7508]

Action required: Please confirm your acceptance of this invitation to submit a regional deal proposal. Include the councils you will be partnering with to develop your proposal and form your 'region'.

To confirm your intention to submit a regional proposal, please submit the attached registration form to the Regional Deals Team at DIA (RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz) before 18 December 2025.