

NZ Wind Energy Association Conference 2014:

Managing relations with Local Government – we're really not that bad!

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LGNZ.**

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Topics

- > Addressing some common misconceptions
- > Our Vision
- > Resource Management Act reform
- > Forging a productive partnership

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The chief myths – local government is:

- A handbrake on business
- Does not see the big picture
- Is about cost and compliance not value
- Panders to the lowest common denominator



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VISION – THE WHY

Local Democracy Powering
Community and National
Success

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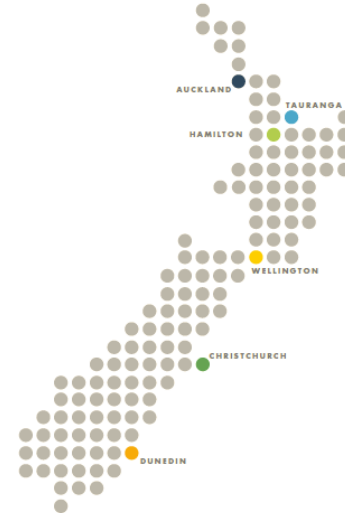
Business friendly guidelines

- Launched 25 February 2014
- Strong media pick-up
- Six key principles:
 - Foster excellent relationships and partnerships
 - Context matters – identify local challenges and local business needs
 - Provide certainty and clarity for business decision-making
 - Every interaction with business counts
 - Be proactive and look for opportunities
 - Respond rapidly and flexibly after major disruptions to business

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Business Friendly Councils

Guidelines and case studies from
New Zealand's Core Cities



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Resource Management Act reform

- LGNZ approach – policy not politics
- Reading the tea leaves – we don't yet have a Bill
- Do not believe that the RMA is fundamentally broken
- Six key elements?
 - Greater consistency and national guidance
 - Fewer resource management plans
 - More efficient and effective consenting
 - Better natural hazard management
 - Effective and meaningful iwi/Māori participation
 - Working with councils to improve practice
- There is much to support here but implementation could be tricky and costly
- But – is the RMA really stopping good projects proceeding?



Forging a productive relationship

- Understand the factors that are driving local issues
 - “All politics is local”
- Where possible align the project’s goals with council’s goals
- Get the Mayor/Chair on board early
- Meet your commitments



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A wide-angle photograph of a long, straight asphalt road stretching into the distance. The road has a dashed white center line and solid white edge lines. The landscape is a flat, open field with golden-brown grass, possibly a field of wildflowers or a dry field. In the far distance, a range of mountains is visible under a sky filled with large, grey, overcast clouds. The overall mood is one of vastness and journey.

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