NZ Wind Energy Association Conference 2014:

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

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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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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?

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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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