

24 June 2026

Governance and Administration Committee

Tēnā koe,

On behalf of the board and members of Taituarā – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa, I am submitting on the Better Regional Boundaries Bill.

Taituarā — Local Government Professionals Aotearoa (Taituarā) thanks the Governance and Administration Select Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to submit regarding the Better Regional Boundaries Bill. Taituarā is Aotearoa New Zealand’s leading membership network for professionals working in and for local government. Our thriving membership base consists of around 1020 members, drawn from chief executives, managers, and staff across all 78 local authorities. What unites Taituarā members is our commitment to being our professional best, supporting local government excellence through connection, collaboration, and care for the well-being of our communities. Taituarā strengthens the local government sector by using our members’ insights and experience to influence the public policy debate. We encourage thought leadership by enabling our members to step back from the day-to-day agenda, share wisdom, create value, and build knowledge.

We have not prepared a lengthy submission to the Better Regional Boundaries Bill but instead is pleased to offer a short letter in support. We do not need to speak to our submission.

Taituara supports the proposal that administrative areas used by public service agencies and Crown agents are required to be consistent, to the greatest extent possible, both with each other and with local government areas within 5 years.

The greatest benefit associated with this Bill is the alignment of crown agency boundaries with local authority boundaries. This will support, for example, more effective engagement between the Government and local authorities to develop and implement the Regional Spatial Plans proposed under the Planning Bill. The Crown will be required to develop a Regional Spatial Plan along with local authorities, iwi partners and stakeholders. Having common boundaries will facilitate the development of these strategic regional documents with a 30-year horizon.

Principal Partners



A number of territorial authorities currently have boundaries that overlap with two, and sometimes more, regional council boundaries. These councils therefore, have an interest in more than one Regional Policy Statement and regional plans developed by two or more regional councils. This is a very inefficient situation which is often commented on.

Aligning the boundaries of crown agencies will also support the public to more easily navigate public services.

Nāku noa, nā



Raymond Horan
Chief Adviser, Taituarā