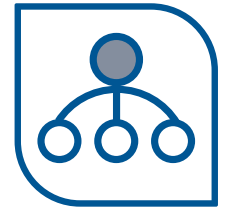


Regional Councils

The Reform Directions Paper proposes introducing a power to establish 'Regional Councils', to be made up of two or more individual councils.

The information boxes below outline the features of a hypothetical scenario, where three councils formed a Regional Council.



Governance Structure

- The mayors of the three councils are automatically members of the Regional Council.
- The balance of membership is through nomination of councillors (the numbers would be determined based on factors such as the size of participating councils).
- The 'Regional Mayor' is voted on around the table of the newly constituted Regional Council.

Administration and Operations

- One administration would be established to support the Regional Council and the local councils.
- Localised staffing would be a feature of a Regional Council, particularly for works staff and frontline services.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Regional Council would be recognised as the legal entity and would therefore be subject to all obligations under the Act.
- The Regional Council would be responsible for all regional decisions, including strategic planning and budget.
- Local councils would advocate for their communities' priorities to the Regional Council and would have some decision-making on local issues (such as grant programs). When the Regional Council makes budget decisions to allocate funding to particular regions, it may delegate expenditure decisions back to the local councils.