

## Welcome



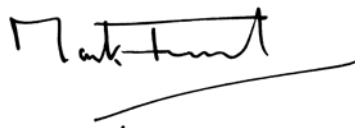
The Auckland Transition Agency (ATA) is making progress on each of the work streams helping to plan and manage the transition to the new Auckland Council. Council nominees are participating in every work stream and we are looking forward to receiving the information from councils that we have requested as part of the discovery process. That information is due to arrive within the next week and we will begin our analysis immediately.

Understanding the practicalities of the current governance arrangements is one critical component in shaping our thinking for the strategy and design phase of the transition. So, too, is engagement with council employees and I hope that the ATA will be able to share some preliminary thoughts on the possible shape of the new council with staff and unions by the end of October. Some further information about this process follows in the update of the work of the ATA published below. A letter on this topic from me to council chief executives may be accessed at [http://www.ata.govt.nz/web/cms\\_ata.nsf/vwluResources/CE%20Update%2024%20Sept%202009/\\$file/CE%20Update%2024%20Sept.2009.pdf](http://www.ata.govt.nz/web/cms_ata.nsf/vwluResources/CE%20Update%2024%20Sept%202009/$file/CE%20Update%2024%20Sept.2009.pdf)

Some further secondments have been made from local councils to the ATA in recent weeks. These are Grant Taylor from Manukau City Council, John Dragicevich from Waitakere City Council, and Julia Wiegandt-Goude from the Auckland Regional Council. I thank them, and their councils, for their support.

As always any general comments and questions for the ATA are welcome to [info@ata.govt.nz](mailto:info@ata.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Mark Ford**

Executive Chairman

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## Update on the work of the ATA

The Auckland Transition Agency (ATA) is committed to working with existing local councils and their staff and unions as the change to the new Auckland Council progresses.

Next month the ATA plans to circulate a discussion document including a draft of a proposed organisational structure for the new Auckland Council and some preliminary discussion of the employee change implications.

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Laila Harré, the ATA advisor leading the workforce and human resources work stream, said: “The purpose of the document will be to promote discussion and provide a basis for feedback from local government, staff and unions.”

The discussion document, which is expected to be available by late October, will not present the final shape of the new Auckland Council. Nor will it indicate which jobs in existing councils may be subject to change.

But the document and the feedback received by the ATA through this process and through the work streams in which local council nominees are involved will contribute to the final shape of the new council.

ATA representatives including Mark Ford, Laila Harré, Chris Mackenzie and Colin Dale have continued to meet with council employees and answer questions in face-to-face meetings.

Laila said: “The ATA will also engage with unions at a regional level on options under consideration in areas identified by unions as having a significant impact on their members, and across work streams when considering the employment and employment relations implications of strategy and design options.”

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## Agency appointed for interim chief executive search

An executive search agency has been appointed by the ATA to undertake the search and recruitment of the interim chief executive of the Auckland Council.

Sheffield Search, an Auckland-based agency with strong national and international networks, has been appointed following a contestable process.

ATA Executive Chairman Mark Ford said Sheffield had been briefed to begin the process as soon as practical “so appropriate time can be given to finding and recruiting the best candidate for the job”.

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## Updates on work streams

### **Business processes and systems**

Contact [mike.foley@ata.govt.nz](mailto:mike.foley@ata.govt.nz)

Based on discussions with councils and other ATA-led work streams, there is an expectation that on or before its establishment the new council will have a single call centre number, website, integrated HR recruitment system, integrated email, consolidated financial reporting and integrated telephony. Discovery information has been requested from councils.

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### **Community services**

Contact [colin.dale@ata.govt.nz](mailto:colin.dale@ata.govt.nz)

Fourteen project areas have been identified across a broad spectrum of community services including community safety, major sports and events venues, housing for the elderly, emergency management, arts and community funding. Funding arrangements under the Auckland Amenities Funding Act are also being addressed, with the intention of providing security of funding for key regional amenities during the early life of the Auckland Council.

### **Finance and treasury**

Contact [andy.coupe@ata.govt.nz](mailto:andy.coupe@ata.govt.nz) and [brian.monk@ata.govt.nz](mailto:brian.monk@ata.govt.nz)

We have established steering groups and put in place project managers for eight distinct projects for delivery within the Finance and Treasury work stream and project planning has commenced. Steering group membership comprises senior finance officers from councils across the region and project teams are currently being formed.

### **Legal**

Contact [rob.fisher@ata.govt.nz](mailto:rob.fisher@ata.govt.nz)

We have met with managers of legal teams within councils, to discuss due diligence, key deliverables and the resolution of intra-council litigation. Deliverables will include the establishment of Auckland Council contracts and litigation registers.

### **Human resources**

Contact [laila.harre@ata.govt.nz](mailto:laila.harre@ata.govt.nz)

In addition to preparing for the release of the discussion document described above, a project plan is in place for the development of the Auckland Council recruitment function. Ideally this function will be in place to for the purpose of managing recruitment and/or transfers in the second half of 2010. Work on harmonising terms and conditions of employment is being scoped with the assistance of Julia Wiegandt-Goude who has been seconded on a part-time basis from the ARC. Discussions with the PSA and AWUNZ are continuing regarding a process by which the collective agreement reform could occur.

### **Property**

Contact [david.blow@ata.govt.nz](mailto:david.blow@ata.govt.nz)

The templates for the provision of property information, requested through the discovery process, have been agreed with the council contacts. Further progress on the property work stream is awaiting receipt of the discovery information and confirmation of the number of local boards, their functions and service centre requirements.

### **Customer services**

Contact [trish.langridge@ata.govt.nz](mailto:trish.langridge@ata.govt.nz)

Over the past month the customer services discovery questionnaire was completed and sent out to councils to populate. The completed discovery documents are due back by the end of September and will be analysed during October. Work has begun on defining the key customer service deliverables for day one and this will be confirmed

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after the completion of analysis. Council feedback is being sought on a set of customer service principles drafted through the work stream. We are working with the communications and business processes and systems work streams on customer-facing issues including future web requirements and call centres.

### **Regulatory services**

Contact [heather.harris@ata.govt.nz](mailto:heather.harris@ata.govt.nz)

Work has been divided into six project areas: resource consenting, building consenting, animal control, licensing, monitoring and enforcement, and project coordination. Working with councils we are identifying day one deliverables for each of these areas and examining issues such as charges, forms, processing procedures and delegations. The Department of Building and Housing has seconded an officer part-time to assist with the development of a consistent building consenting process for Auckland and to position the Auckland Council for accreditation as a Building Consent Authority.

### **Economic development**

Contact [craig.shearer@ata.govt.nz](mailto:craig.shearer@ata.govt.nz)

Activities underway include broadband facilitation. Additional sub-work streams, including one looking at organisational structure and the potential for an economic development plan, will commence.

### **Planning and policy**

Contact [craig.shearer@ata.govt.nz](mailto:craig.shearer@ata.govt.nz)

A number of projects have already commenced including resolving RMA appeals between councils, the development of a planning framework for the region (including spatial plan, infrastructure investment plan and one regional/district plan) and a stock take of proposed plan development procedures. Further projects due to commence shortly include reviewing the research, investigations and monitoring programmes of the councils, and looking at the organisational arrangement for the planning and policy development function.

### **Communications and public affairs**

Contact [clive.nelson@ata.govt.nz](mailto:clive.nelson@ata.govt.nz)

A working group involving participants from each council has met and the discovery process is well under way. Analysis and design work will follow the receipt of discovery information. Project teams focusing on issues such as website content (jointly with customer service and business processes and systems) and internal and external communications will be formed.

### **Environmental services**

Contact [kerry.connolly@ata.govt.nz](mailto:kerry.connolly@ata.govt.nz)

Project coordinators have been identified for key work streams including bio-security, solid waste and the harbourmaster's function. Further coordinators will be required as discovery information requested from councils is analysed. The joint councils' solid waste team, which includes the ATA, is working towards completing a joint-waste assessment required by legislation.

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### **Council-controlled organisations, trusts and investments**

Contact [chris.mackenzie@ata.govt.nz](mailto:chris.mackenzie@ata.govt.nz)

We have met with council managers responsible for council-controlled organisations (CCOs) and discussed information discovery requirements. Further work on analysis and design will occur.

- **In water**, nine work streams are being consolidated into two which focus on operations and customers. The integration programme manager is Graham Wood of Watercare. An ATA Advisory Group on governance has been established. Its members are Graham Hawkins (Chair), Peter Drummond, Ian Parton, Ross Keenan and Jane Latimer.
- **In transport**, a working group reporting to the ATA has been established. It is led by Fergus Gammie of ARTA and includes council representation. Sub-groups to assist with planning for transition to the new Auckland Transport Agency are being formed.