

Rodney Separation Sought

Labour Party MP Darien Fenton introduced the Rodney District Council Bill (the Bill) on 17 June 2010, which proposes to exclude the Rodney District from the Auckland Council.

The local bill, promoted by the Rodney District Council, proposes that it assume the responsibilities of a regional council and become a unitary authority. The District would essentially remain unaffected by the passage of legislation reorganising Auckland local government, except that it would no longer be a constituent district of a larger regional council. The Bill proposes deferral of local body elections in the district for 12 months to enable the reorganisation to be implemented.

The existing ward and district landward boundaries would be retained, but the seaward boundaries would extend out to the edge of the continental shelf. The Bill does not address Kaipara District Council's desire to see integrated management of the Kaipara Harbour, which could be a source of opposition to the Bill, quite apart from its perceived impact on Auckland.

The introduction of the Bill is a direct challenge to Auckland reorganisation. However, as the boundaries of the new Auckland Council have already been determined and transition to the Auckland Council is underway, the Rodney District Council seems to have its work cut out to succeed in this instance.

Our LG Law senior personnel are:

Melinda Dickey

Partner

t: (09) 979 2210

e: dickey@brookfields.co.nz

Andrew Green

Partner

t: (09) 979 2172

e: green@brookfields.co.nz

Linda O'Reilly

Partner

t: (09) 979 2167

e: oreilly@brookfields.co.nz

John Young

Partner

t: (09) 979 2155

e: youngj@brookfields.co.nz

Andrew Cameron

Consultant

t: (04) 499 9824

e: cameron@brookfields.co.nz

Matthew Allan

Senior Associate

t: (09) 979 2128

e: allan@brookfields.co.nz

John Watson

Senior Associate

t: (09) 979 2262

e: watson@brookfields.co.nz

Stephanie Curran

Senior Solicitor

t: (09) 979 2137

e: curran@brookfields.co.nz

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