

The localism conversation on a page

We are. LGNZ.

Te Kāhui Kaunihera o Aotearoa.

LG NZ is re-designing government from a localist perspective.

Excessive centralisation leads to a 'one size fits all' approach, and can lead to bottlenecks in policy-making & implementation when empowered local government could just get on and get things done.

New Zealand needs local innovation and local solutions to the problems and challenges of

economic growth, housing, roading and all those other issues that affect people's lives.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Subsidiarity and place-based
2. Incentivising the delivery of value
3. Citizen participation and local democracy

Our outcome

To strengthen New Zealand's democracy by rebalancing the relative roles of central and local government in order to bring government closer to communities.



THE WHY

Local democracy powering community and national success

Phase 1



1. Setting the context

Making the argument for localism and its importance.

- > The problems caused by New Zealand's centralist approach.
- > Agree the core localist principles.

Phase 2



2. Role and function

Review roles and functions in accordance with subsidiarity principle to decide "who does what".

- > Assess public services to determine optimal mix for sub-national governments including national direction.
- > Identify and assess localist initiatives in practice to identify lessons.



3. Funding

Review the distribution of tax revenue between central and local government.

- > A new funding model of local government which incentivises innovation and meets the cost of localised responsibilities.



4. Constitutional framework

Assess the implications of localism for central and local government processes and structures.

- > Design legislative and machinery of government change programme:
 - LGA 2002;
 - Constitution Act;
 - Cabinet composition;
 - Civil service; and
 - Constitutional status.

Phase 3



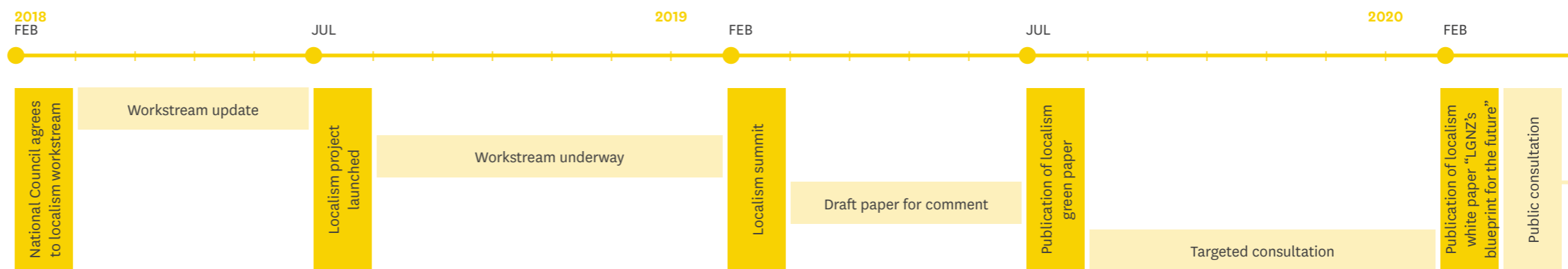
5. Implementation

Design a process to move to localism, including external competency and capability thresholds.

- > Design transition to localism:
 - "Opt in approach";
 - Capability threshold for councils including governance capability;
 - Gradual process for widespread adoption.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

WORKSTREAMS AND DELIVERABLES



PARTNERS

Creating a cross-party localist coalition

- > Members of Parliament
- > Individuals
- > Councils
- > Iwi/Māori

- > Universities
- > Think tanks
- > Grassroots organisations
- > Businesses

- > National representative organisations
- > Voluntary organisations
- > Youth