

**Jamie Crabb**

**From:** Simeon Brown (MIN) <S.Brown@ministers.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 January 2024 2:36  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** RE: Concerns over legislation  
**Attachments:** Ministerial response to Mayor Vince Cocurullo.pdf

**Categories:** Ministerial comms

**EXTERNAL:** This email originated from outside Whangarei District Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Cocurullo

Please find attached Hon Simeon Brown's response to your recent correspondence.

PTO

Kind regards,



**Office of Hon Simeon Brown**

**Minister of Transport, Minister of Local Government, Minister for Energy, Minister for Auckland**

**Email:** [s.brown@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:s.brown@ministers.govt.nz) **Website:** [www.beehive.govt.nz](http://www.beehive.govt.nz)

**Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand**

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## Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy  
Minister of Local Government  
Minister of Transport  
Minister for Auckland  
Deputy Leader of the House



COR126

Mayor Vince Cocurullo  
Whangārei District Council  
[mayor@wdc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@wdc.govt.nz)

Dear Mayor Cocurullo,

Thank you for your letter of 7 December and email of 10 December 2023 regarding the concerns you have around the decisions required for the Whangārei District 2024 Long-Term Plan (LTP).

Last December I announced that Cabinet agreed to repeal the previous government's water services legislation and signalled next steps for implementing our plan for water services, Local Water Done Well.

I trust you received my letter by email on the day of my announcement, which outlines the Government's new direction for water services delivery starting with the repeal of the previous Government's water services legislation to begin early this year. The letter also outlines options that will be available to councils once the repeal bill has passed, to support them to prepare their 2024 LTPs.

This includes enabling councils to continue to consult on their LTP under previous policy settings and include water services material in the final plan, without re-consulting (but must consider the views and preferences of affected and interested persons as they consider appropriate). For those councils needing more time to develop and consult on long-term planning material, the statutory deadline by which this must be adopted will be extended by three months to 30 September 2024, and they will also be permitted to have unaudited LTP consultation documents.

I understand Simon Weston, Chief Executive of Whangārei District Council, has met with DIA officials to discuss the options that were outlined in the letter following my announcement. I believe this meeting would have been helpful in enabling the council to proceed with the best advice possible.

I acknowledge councils have been operating in a period of uncertainty and complexity for some time and may be seeking additional options with respect to their long-term planning obligations. I am continuing to consider advice to support affected councils in this respect and will provide an update as further decisions are made.

On the question of your revenue and financing policy, the legislation you refer to, the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021, was passed by the previous Government. Officials at the DIA can discuss with you the application of this legislation and its implications for local government. Please contact Keith Miller, Principal Policy Analyst, Local Government Branch [Keith.Miller@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Keith.Miller@dia.govt.nz) should you wish to discuss.

Work is underway on broader detailed policy to implement Local Water Done Well, with further decisions expected early this year. I look forward to meeting you in person and working with you to refine our approach to water services delivery.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Brown'. The signature is stylized, with a large 'S' and 'B' connected by a horizontal line.

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Local Government**

## Jamie Crabb

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**From:** Jamie Crabb  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 February 2024 4:22 pm  
**To:** Simeon Brown  
**Subject:** Letter of thanks from Mayor Cocurullo  
**Attachments:** Letter of thanks Hon Simeon Brown.pdf

Kia ora Hon Simeon Brown,

Please find attached letter of thanks from Whangārei Mayor Vince Cocurullo.

Thanks and regards,  
Jamie

**Jamie Crabb** *she/her*

EA to Mayor and Deputy Mayor | Democracy and Assurance Department

Whangarei District Council | Te Iwitahi, 9 Rust Avenue | Private Bag 9023, Te Mai, Whangārei 0143

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Office of the Mayor



13 February 2024

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[www.wdc.govt.nz/ContactUs](http://www.wdc.govt.nz/ContactUs)

Hon. Simeon Brown MP  
Via email: [simeon.brown@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:simeon.brown@parliament.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Minister Brown,

I am writing to thank you for your time during our recent meeting in Wellington.

The discussion we had touched upon critical matters affecting our community, and your commitment to addressing these issues left a lasting impression.

I look forward to collaborating with you in the future, and I would value the opportunity to meet with you again to delve deeper into the topics we discussed.

I appreciate your commitment to serving New Zealand, and I look forward to meeting again soon.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vince Cocurullo", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vince Cocurullo  
**Mayor of Whangārei**

## Jamie Crabb

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**From:** Mayor  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 January 2024, 7:39 am  
**To:** Simeon Brown; Jamie Crabb  
**Subject:** Re: INV23-135 LG Briefing from the Northland Mayoral Forum

Hi Emma and Simeon,

Thank you for the opportunity.

My main reason for coming to Wellington is for Grant McCallum maiden speech. I am also keen to make my meeting with Simeon work, therefore will fit into his busy schedule.

Thank you again.

Regards

**Vince Cocurullo**  
Mayor / Koromatua  
Whangārei District Council  
09 430 4200

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**From:** Simeon Brown <Simeon.Brown@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 28, 2024 9:01:38 PM  
**To:** Jamie Crabb <jamie.crabb@wdc.govt.nz>; Simeon Brown <Simeon.Brown@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Mayor <mayor@wdc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: INV23-135 LG Briefing from the Northland Mayoral Forum

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Good evening Mayor Cocurullo

I understand you have been in contact with Hon Simeon Brown regarding a meeting on Wednesday, 31 January 2024. The Minister has a full diary however is able to squeeze in a meeting in the parliamentary dinner break 7pm-7.20pm.

Would you kindly confirm the time works for you please?

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards  
Elena

**Elena Hood**  
Senior Private Secretary | Office of Hon Simeon Brown  
Minister of Transport, Minister of Local Government, Minister for Energy, Minister for Auckland



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