

27 August 2019

Mr Steven Bailey
Inquiry Director
New Zealand Productivity Commission
Steven.bailey@productivity.govt.nz

Dear Steven

Auckland Council's response to Local government funding and financing: Draft report.

Auckland Council appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Productivity Commission's Local Government funding and financing: Draft report.

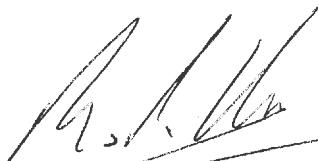
The council's submission identifies the unique challenges of Auckland's scale and the additional economic and social responsibilities this carries. Options for devolving funding tools to the council, including the return of the GST on rates to reflect these responsibilities and to allow the impacts of rapid growth to be better managed are offered. The submission addresses the recommendations for new funding tools made by the Commission and the proposed changes to rating.

Our response to the Commission's questions and recommendations are included in *Attachment One: Response to questions and recommendations*. Local Board views have been incorporated throughout the submission and included in full in *Attachment Two: Local board views of the submission*.

The views from Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED), Auckland Transport and Watercare Services Limited have been considered in developing the submission.

I am happy to discuss our submission on the Issues paper or to further assist the inquiry team. Auckland Council appreciates the opportunities to engage with the Commission throughout the inquiry and looks forward to the Commission's report in November 2019.

Yours sincerely



Ross Clow
Chairperson, Finance and Performance Committee