



**Building
Prosperous Places**

Local Government New Zealand Conference
25 – 28 July, Auckland

**Local Government
New Zealand**
te pūtahi matakōkiri



MEDIA RELEASE

2010 Local Government New Zealand Conference closes on positive note

Wednesday 28 July 2010

A discussion document looking at the constitutional status of local government in New Zealand was announced by Local Government Minister Rodney Hide at this year's *Local Government New Zealand* conference.

An audience of over 500 mayors, elected members and council chief executives listened as the Minister outlined his plans for smarter government and stronger communities.

Minister Hide also spoke about making sure the local was kept in local government.

Prime Minister John Key opened the conference, speaking of the need for central and local government to work closely together.

He also spoke of his concern about the declining number of people voting in local body elections, urging attendees to encourage their constituents to vote.

LGNZ President Lawrence Yule says the two day conference has thrown the spotlight on local government, and was an opportunity for the sector to talk with government Ministers on a range of issues.

“The theme of Building Prosperous Places touched a chord with ministers, delegates and stakeholders alike. It acknowledged we all play a role in helping deliver economic prosperity to New Zealand.”

A range of government Ministers discussed transport, infrastructure, building and construction, and Treaty of Waitangi negotiations.

Conference delegates also heard from the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Campbell Newman, who spoke of the role local government plays in shaping communities.

Economic development authority Greg Clark challenged parochialism and introduced the idea of “co-opetition” - cities and regions supporting cities.

Ends

To view presentations from the conference visit www.lgnz.co.nz

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