

Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta



MP for Hauraki-Waikato

Minister for Māori Development

Minister of Local Government

Associate Minister for the Environment

Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing)

Associate Minister for Trade and Export Growth

23 OCT 2019

Raymond Mudford
Hamilton Residents & Ratepayers Association
hcc2019review@gmail.com

Tēnā koe Raymond

Thank you for your email dated 17 September 2019 to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern about concerns related to the Hamilton City Council (the Council). I am responding to your email as the matters you raised fall within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister of Local Government.

I acknowledge your concerns about the performance of the Council. Councils are accountable to their communities, rather than to Ministers, for their operational policies and subsequent decisions. For this reason, there is a high threshold that must be met for any Ministerial intervention to be taken. Based on the information you have provided, it is not clear to me that statutory intervention by the Minister of Local Government would be the most appropriate course of action in this case.

I note that, following recent Local Government elections, Hamilton has a new mayor and several new councillors. This would be a good opportunity to discuss your concerns with your new council at one of their upcoming meetings.

I have forwarded a copy of your letter to my officials in the Department of Internal Affairs. This will ensure they are aware of your concerns, and can advise me should a case for intervention become apparent.

Thank you again for writing.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nanaia Mahuta'.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Local Government