Local Government Expert Advisory Panel

Meeting Communique 25 August 2026

The Local Government Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) met on 25 August 2026. Panel members joined the meeting online to discuss the presented papers on Rating Reform and Revenue Prioritisation.

Further consultation across the local government sector, including councils, joint organisations and peak bodies, will be conducted as the financial sustainability reform work progresses.

Rating Reform and Revenue Prioritisation

The EAP were provided an overview of several rating types and discussed the prioritisation for reform of these. The rating types discussed were:

- Special rate for Infrastructure
- Environmental Land (including Conservation Agreements) Exemption
- Special Rate for Water and Sewer Exemptions
- Limiting eligibility to postpone rates from change in the permitted use of their land
- Rate Exemption
- Rate Concessions
- Domestic Waste Charge
- Housing Issues

Discussions were held on each rating type, it's method for updating and the panel's suggestions for whether each type was of high or low priority for reform. This discussion resulted in several recommendations being made for consideration for reform with the panel identifying Rate Exemption as high-priority for reform. Additional information was requested around Rate Concessions and Housing Issues. This additional information on housing will be brought to the September EAP meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EAP is scheduled to be held 30 September 2026.