New Zealand House of Representatives
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

Governance and Administration Committee
Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Whakahaerenga

54th Parliament
August 2025

Auckland Council (Auckland Future Fund) Bill

118—1

Presented to the House of Representatives
by Camilla Belich, Chairperson

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Recommendation
The Governance and Administration Committee has examined the Auckland Council (Auckland Future Fund) Bill and recommends that it be passed without amendment.

Background

In 2024, Auckland Council decided to sell its remaining shares in Auckland International Airport Limited, committing the proceeds to a dedicated investment fund. The aim of the fund is to enhance Auckland's long-term financial resilience by generating a stable and ongoing income stream. The Auckland Future Fund was established by the Council as part of its 2024–2034 Long-term Plan.

About the bill

The Auckland Council (Auckland Future Fund) Bill is a local bill in the name of Dr Carlos Cheung and promoted by Auckland Council. The bill seeks to safeguard the Auckland Future Fund as a long-term financial asset benefitting communities in the Auckland region. It aims to build public confidence in the fund's management while preserving the Council's flexibility to make decisions regarding its structure and oversight. The bill requires the Council to ensure that the fund is governed and managed with the intent of maintaining or increasing its value for the benefit of Auckland's present and future communities. The bill requires any investment decisions to be made independently by suitably qualified and formally appointed financial managers.

The Council may, through a long-term plan process involving public consultation and a resolution passed by at least 75 percent of its members, approve a distribution from the fund if:

- the proposed distribution will achieve a benefit that is better for the current and future communities of the Auckland region than maintaining or increasing the real value of the fund's capital; and
- reducing the real value of the fund's capital is the best available means of achieving that benefit.

Legislative scrutiny

As part of our consideration of the bill, we have examined its consistency with principles of legislative quality. We have no issues regarding the legislation's design to bring to the attention of the House.

Submissions received on the bill

We received submissions from 12 groups and individuals, and heard two oral submissions, including a joint submission from Auckland Council and Auckland Future Fund Trustee

Limited, on the bill. We also heard from the member in charge of the bill, Dr Carlos Cheung. Of the 12 submissions received, four generally supported the bill, two opposed the bill, and six did not state whether they supported or opposed. A full summary of the submissions is available in the departmental report prepared by our advisers. We thank submitters for sharing their views on the bill.

Some submitters also raised questions about the local bill process. We raised similar concerns about the use of local bills in our commentary on the Auckland Harbour Board and Takapuna Borough Council Empowering Act Amendment Bill.[1] In this instance, we consider the use of a local bill to be both appropriate and justified. In light of the Auckland Future Fund's significance, the clear and consistent request from Auckland Council, and the confidence the fund will offer Aucklanders, we unanimously support its passage.

Our conclusion

We note that a number of submitters made recommendations about how the fund could be used in the future. However, those points are operational matters and not within the scope of the bill. We thank submitters for their contributions, but we are not convinced that the issues they raised require further consideration. We are satisfied with this bill proceeding without amendment.

1 Our commentary on that bill can be found here.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The Auckland Council (Auckland Future Fund) Bill was referred to the committee on 19 February 2025. We called for submissions with a closing date of 8 April 2025. We received and considered submissions from 12 interested groups and individuals. We heard oral evidence from two submitters.

We received advice on the bill from the Department of Internal Affairs and Auckland Council. The Office of the Clerk provided advice on the bill's legislative quality. The Parliamentary Counsel Office was available to assist with legal drafting.

Committee members

Camilla Belich (Chairperson and member from 12 March 2025)
Rachel Boyack (Chairperson and member until 12 March 2025)
Tim Costley
Andy Foster
Hon Melissa Lee
Stuart Smith (until 9 April 2025)
Lemauga Lydia Sosene
Tom Rutherford (from 9 April 2025)
Celia Wade-Brown

Dr Carlos Cheung participated in our consideration of this bill.

Related resources

The documents that we received as advice and evidence are available on the Parliament website.