



21 May 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa

Publication of local government metrics

In August 2024, the Government announced measures to refocus councils in response to cost of living concerns. The Prime Minister articulated this as a concern about rising rates, a desire that council spending concentrates on core services and infrastructure, and that the efficiency of decision-making is improved.

In November, Cabinet approved proposals included in the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill. This Bill lays the foundation for a new council performance measurement framework.

The overarching objectives of the performance measurement project are to ensure that information about how councils are performing is readily accessible in a central location, consistent and comparable.

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) will publish a set of council profiles on its website annually, including key performance metrics for each council, with the first release scheduled for 30 June 2025. The initial profiles will include metrics relating to financial performance. Other metrics and benchmarks will be added in future years, following some changes to council reporting requirements in law, to provide greater context and a more complete picture of council performance.

The initial set of metrics is based on already-public data from sources including your annual reports and long-term plans. They have been developed in collaboration with a working group of local government experts. Council profiles will be accompanied by a guide and glossary to provide contextual information about each metric. To list a few examples, the guide will include concise explanations about the necessity of debt, the impacts of a high growth population, relevance of land area, and the roles and responsibilities of different council types.

On Tuesday 3 June 2025, you will receive a draft version of your council's profile, along with the metrics guide and glossary. While we have undertaken a comprehensive quality assurance process to ensure the validity of all data, you will have until Friday 13 June 2025 to double-check that the data provided for your council is correct. The metrics guide will include a methodology section, stating where data was sourced from and how it was calculated, to assist your data-checking process.

If you encounter any inconsistencies during your data-checking process, please contact us by 13 June at LGdata@dia.govt.nz

Additionally, this early look at your council's profile and metrics will give your own communications team the chance to prepare for the 30 June launch.

Ngā mihi
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