

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

23 October 2007

Hon Mark Burton  
Minister of Local Government  
Parliament Buildings  
**WELLINGTON**

Dear Mr Burton,

I am writing on behalf of the Local Government Forum in regard to the Government's response to the Independent Inquiry into Local Government Rates.

As you know the Local Government Forum is a group of business organisations with a strong interest in promoting efficiency in local government. The Forum (and its individual members) has taken a close interest in the Rates Inquiry and now that the Inquiry has submitted its report we are very keen to see meaningful progress on consideration of the Inquiry's recommendations.

I note that in its letter of transmission the Rates Inquiry has suggested that a high level taskforce, involving both central and local government and key stakeholders, would be a useful means to address the recommendations. This is an important suggestion as previous reviews (such as the 2001 Review of the Local Government Act and the more recent Local Government Funding Project) failed to adequately engage with ratepayers or take account of the ratepayer perspective.

Business, as such a key stakeholder, is eager to be part of the process going forward. We would therefore be very keen to contribute to whatever process is put in place to address the recommendations.

The Forum would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue. To arrange a meeting please contact Nick Clark (phone 03 357 9459, e-mail [nclark@fedfarm.org.nz](mailto:nclark@fedfarm.org.nz)).

Yours sincerely



Don Nicolson  
Chairman