

# **BAY OF PLENTY** REGIONAL SPATIAL PLAN

**Council Workshop - 5 August 2026**



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# Workshop Purpose

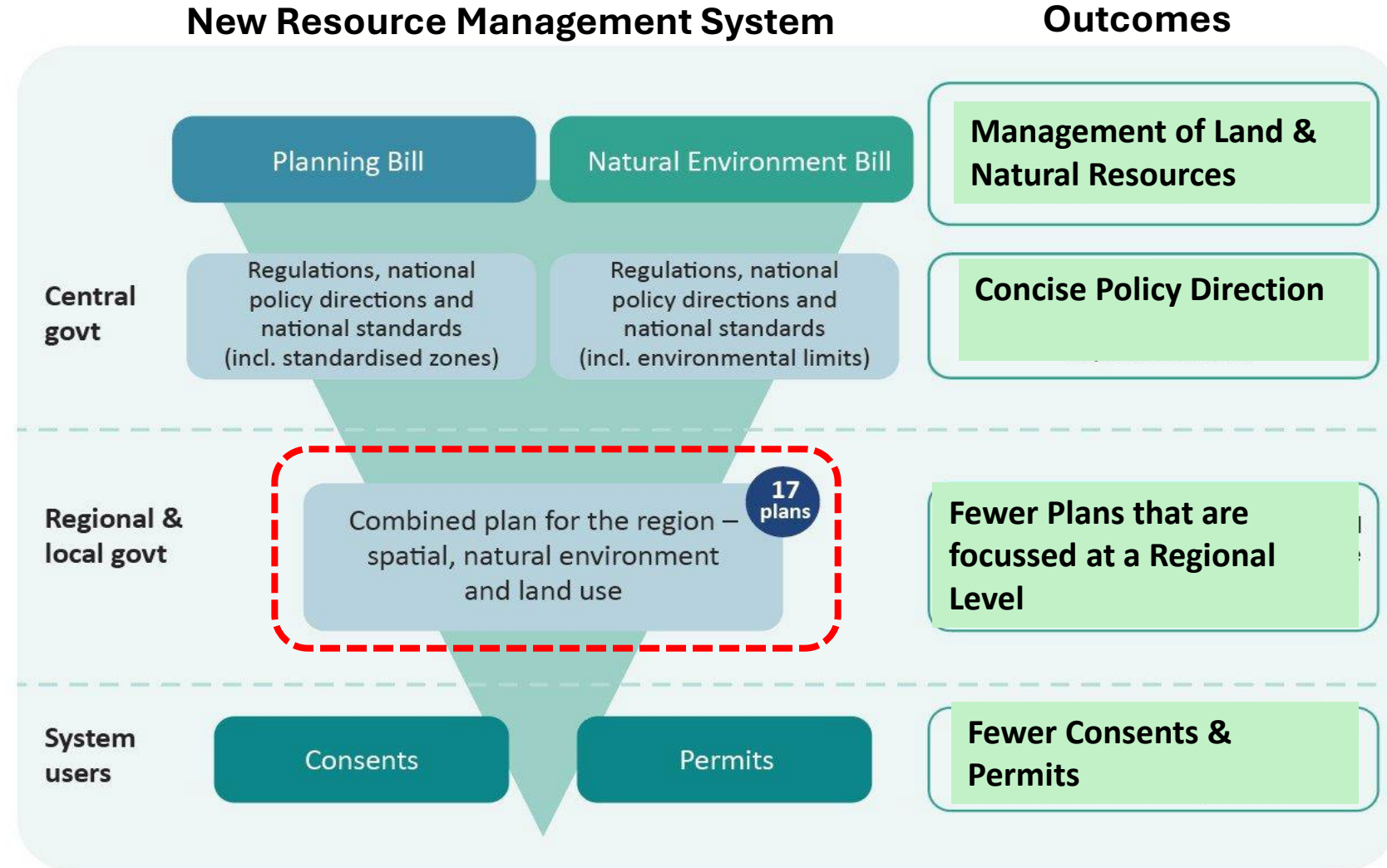
## Broad Objectives

- Informal session to share information on regional spatial planning
- Create understanding Regional Spatial Plan (RSP) programme & progress to date
- Obtain feedback & direction on proposed aspects of programme
- Seeking direction only, Councils make final decisions post-enactment

# Legislative Context

## A New RM System

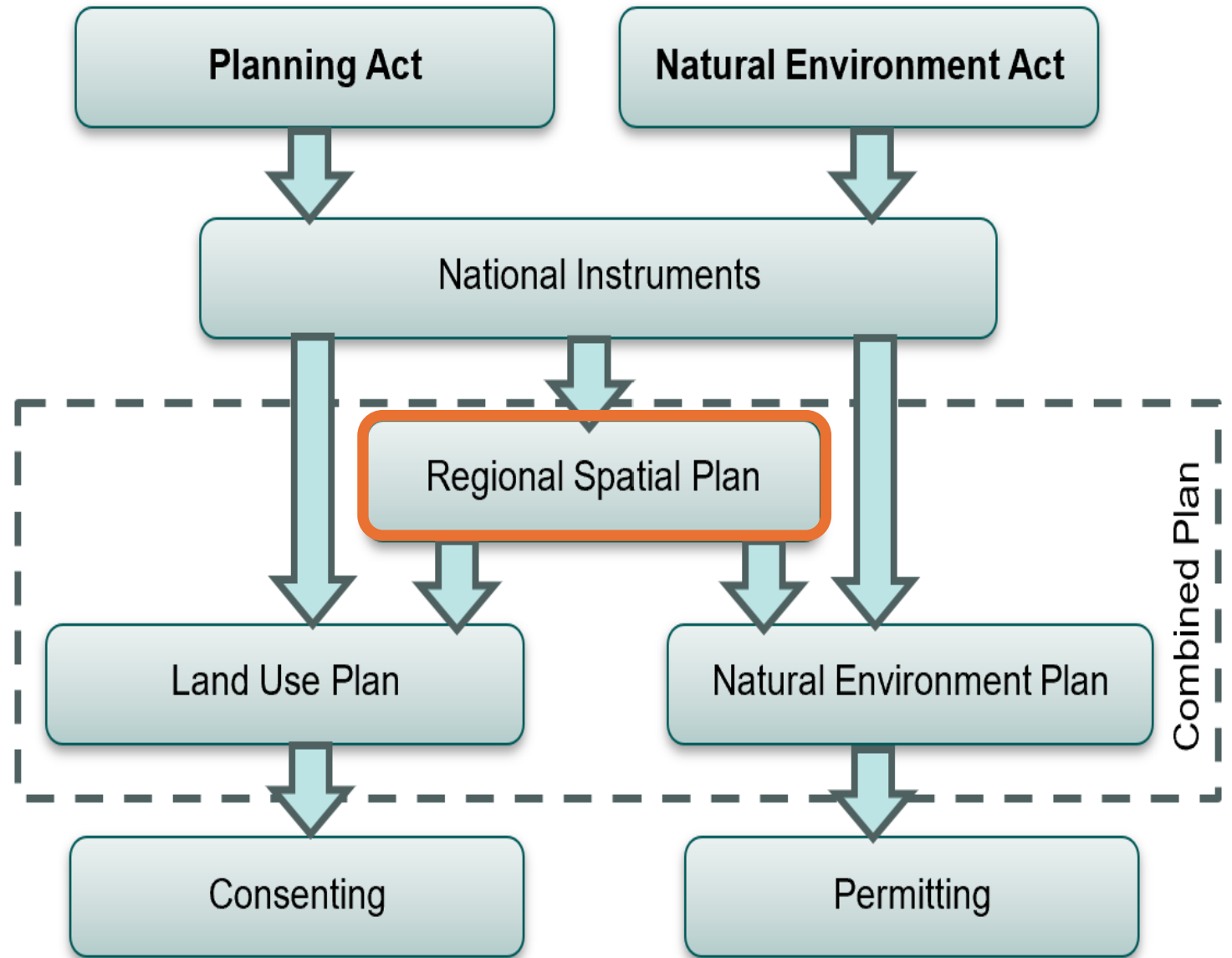
- New system applied from the top down
- National policy direction & standards (at top) play central role, setting clear objectives & expectations
- As directions applied at the regional & local level, scope of matters that can be regulated intended to narrow



# Legislative Context cont...

## A Central Instrument

- RSP is cornerstone of reform proposals
- Fill gap in planning hierarchy between national instruments & implementation
- National instruments inform **RSP** – Key part Regional Combined Plan
- LUPs & NEPs are then required to implement it



# Legislative Context cont...

## Select Committee Report- 20 July 2026

- Core architecture remains unchanged- new 2 Bill system retained- goals & national instruments setting direction from top
- Requirement remains for RSP set strategic direction for growth & change
- RSP must implement relevant national instruments under the Acts
- RSP must in incl. maps, objectives & actions & may include policies & methods but no rules
- Transition timeframes have been extended from date of Royal Assent:
  - 12 months for National Instruments (NPD and Standards) relevant to RSP
  - 21 months for notification Draft RSP (or 9 months after National Instruments)
  - 30 months (9 months after RSP notification) – Adopt first RSP

# Legislative Context cont...

## Select Committee Report cont...

Select Committee report outlined in S 67B(2), what RPS is obligated to contain (replacing the mandatory matters):

- (a) map or otherwise record the broad spatial layout of the region over the next 30 years or longer, including—*
  - (i) priority locations for growth and change; &*
  - (ii) existing and future infrastructure that is significant for the district, region, or nation; &*
  - (iii) significant constraints on using or developing—*
    - (A) land; or*
    - (B) the coastal marine area; &*
  - (iv) priority locations for planning for adapting to the effects of climate change; and*
- (b) set out the key drivers of growth and change in the region; &*
- (c) map or otherwise record the following in the region:*
  - (i) any existing designation that applies in the region, if the project to which the designation relates is significant for the district, region, or nation:*
  - (ii) any designation to which clause 35(2) of Schedule 5 applies:*
  - (iii) the indicative location of any future designation and details of that future designation (see clause 14 of Schedule 2):*
  - (iv) statutory acknowledgements (see clause 68A):*
  - (v) sites of significance to Māori:*
  - (vi) customary marine title areas & protected customary rights areas:*
  - (vii) aquaculture settlement areas.*

# Regional Spatial Planning

## What is it?

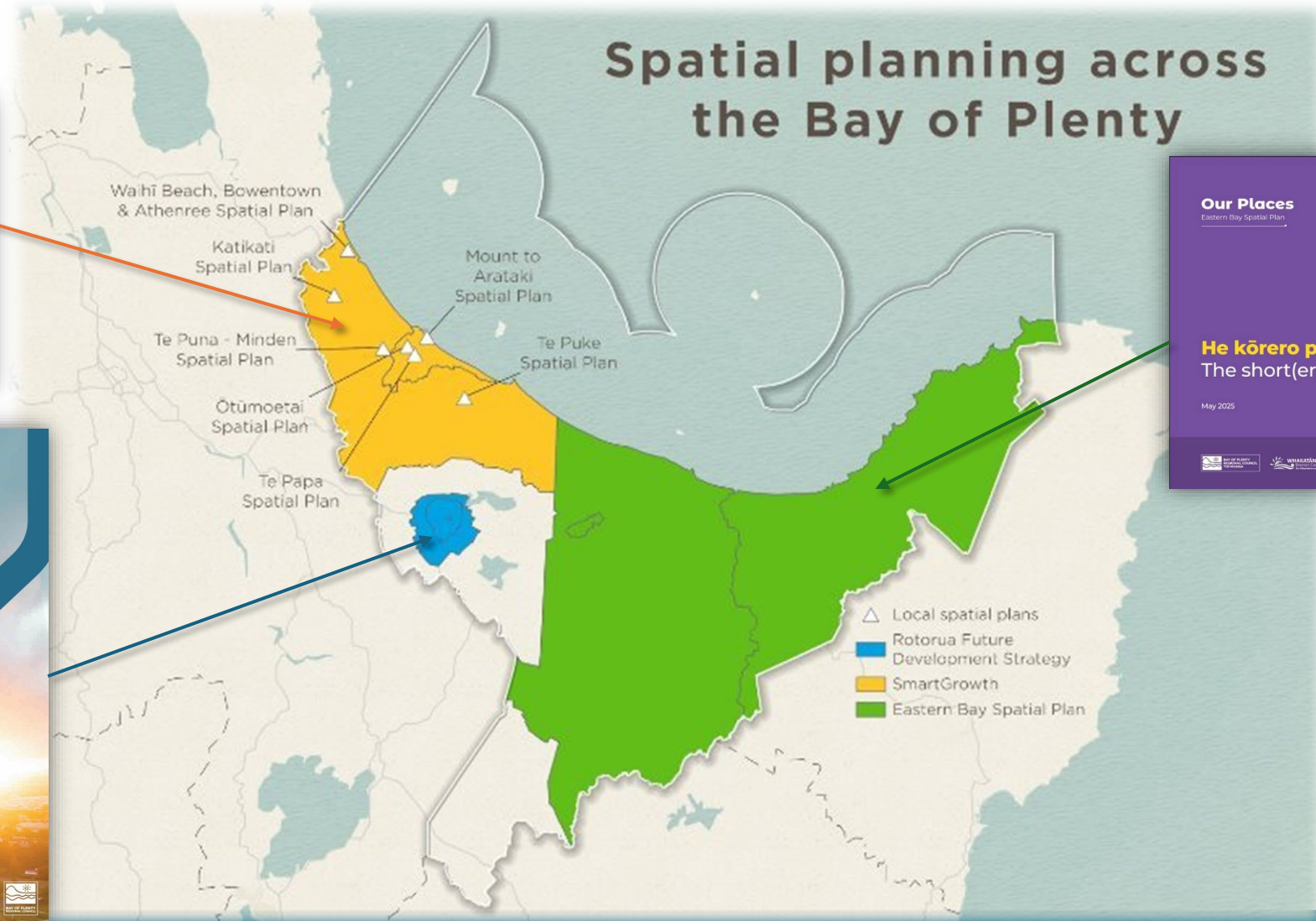
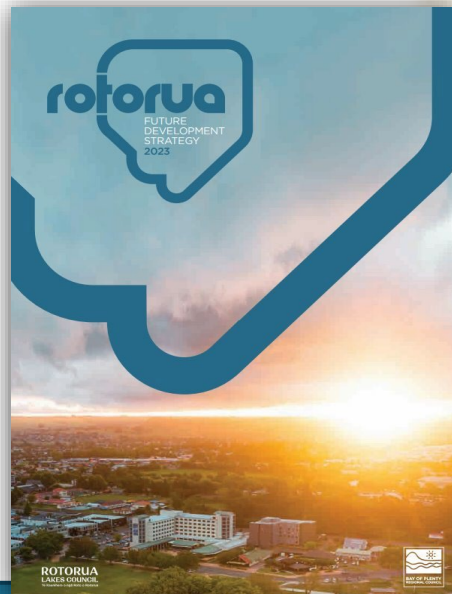
- A strategic and long-term (30 years) approach to making choices about growth & change across a region
- Provides spatial clarity to guide future decisions on planning, investment & implementation

## The Benefits

- Considers region as a whole- more effective planning & enablement
- Ensures greater alignment between national direction, land use planning & environmental protection
- Strengthen investment conversations partners & agencies
- Greater consideration given inter-regional linkages & opportunities

# High-level Composition/ Scope

A good starting point



# High-level Composition/ Scope

## A New Scope

- The Planning Bill shifts spatial planning from voluntary collaboration to statutory ‘regional operating machinery’

### **Mandatory status**

RSP becomes part of the new statutory planning architecture

### **Region-wide scope**

Urban, rural, coastal, hazards, infrastructure, environment & adjacent-region matters

### **Formal machinery**

Process agreement, RSP Committee, secretariat, IHP & coordination document

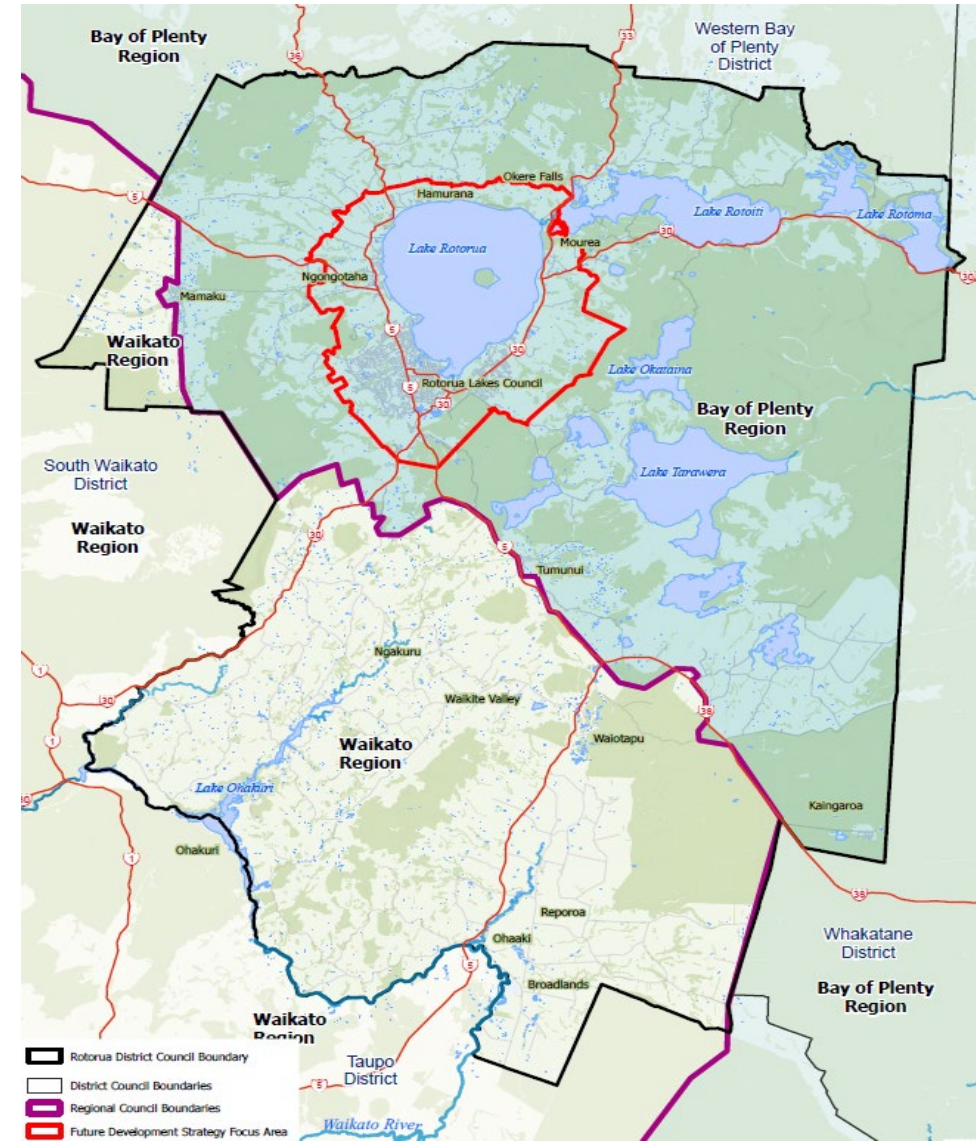
### **Implementation link**

RSP must shape later- land-use, natural environment, transport & LTP decisions

# High-level Composition/ Scope cont...

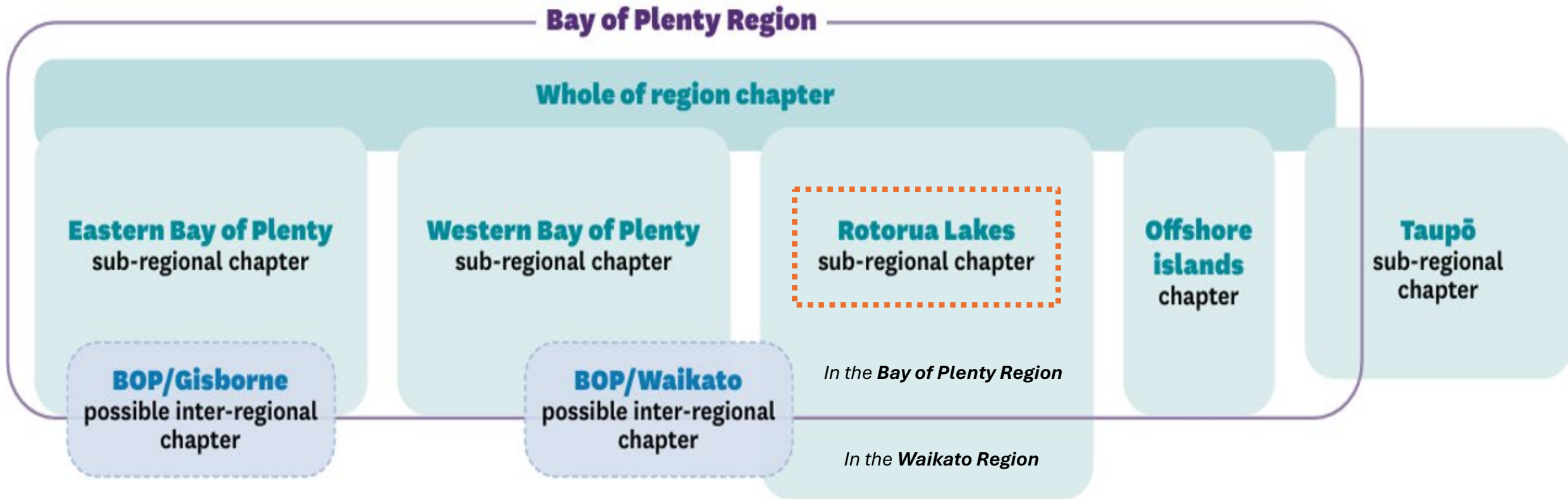
## Regional Approach

- **Bay of Plenty Region**- On 12 March BoP Mayoral Forum supported foundational 'no regrets' proactive approach
- **The Waikato Region** – currently exploring proposed process for a Waikato spatial plan
- Project initiation meeting August
- RLC complement FDS with Rural Trends, Issues & Options Analysis
- Analysis focus on socio-economic assessment during pre-enactment period



# High-level Composition/ Scope cont...

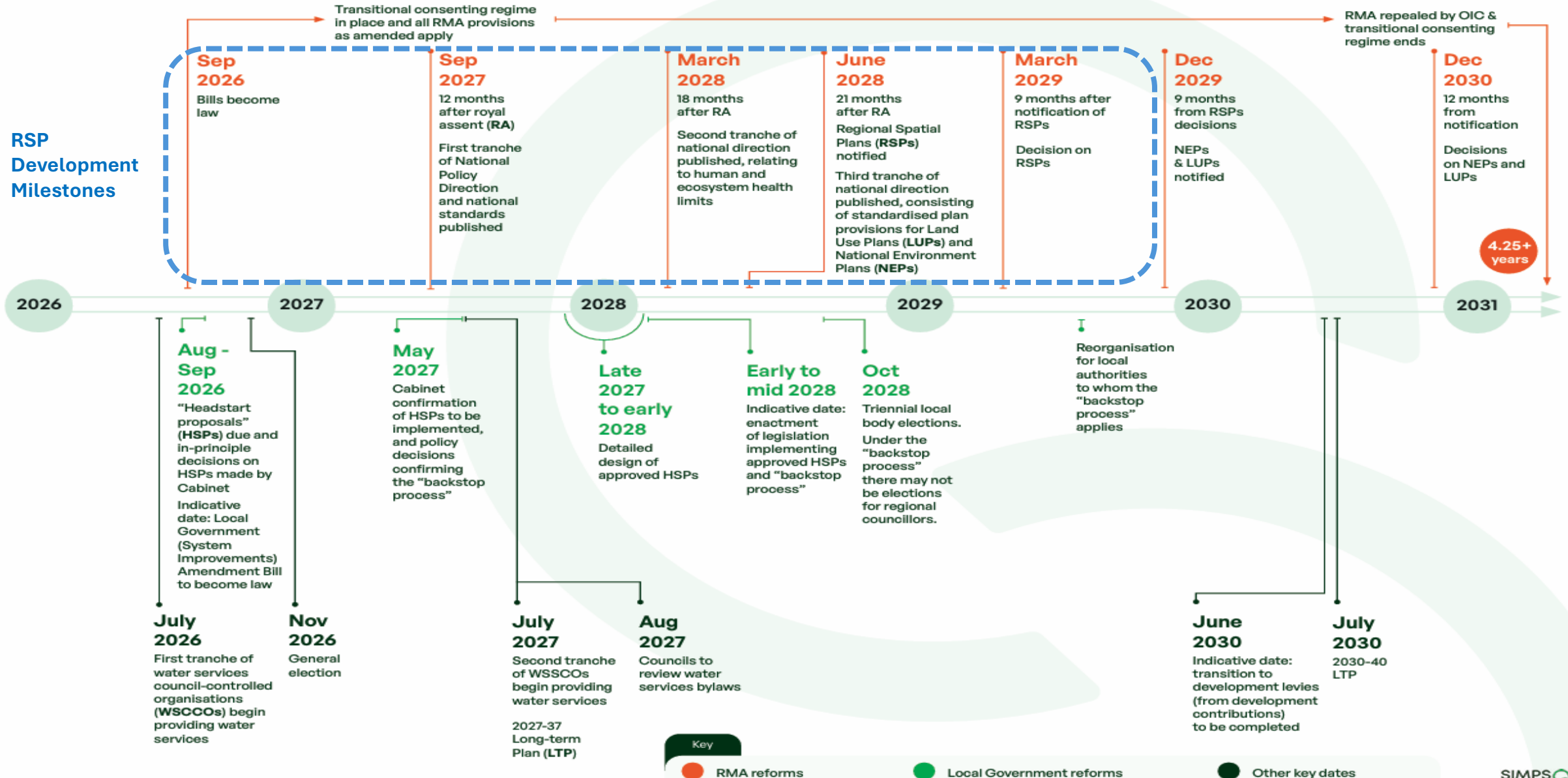
## Proposed High-level BoP RSP Structure



# Timeframes & Deliverables

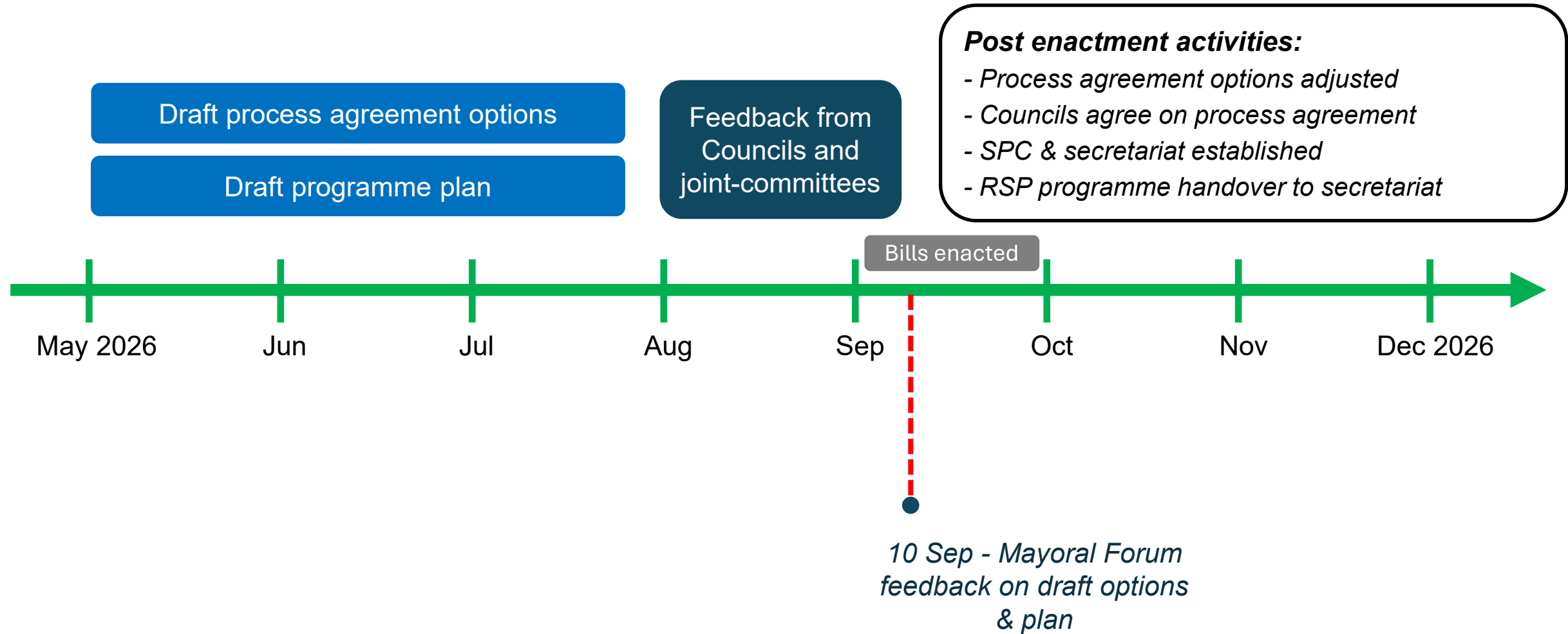
## RMA & Local Government Reforms

### RSP Development Milestones



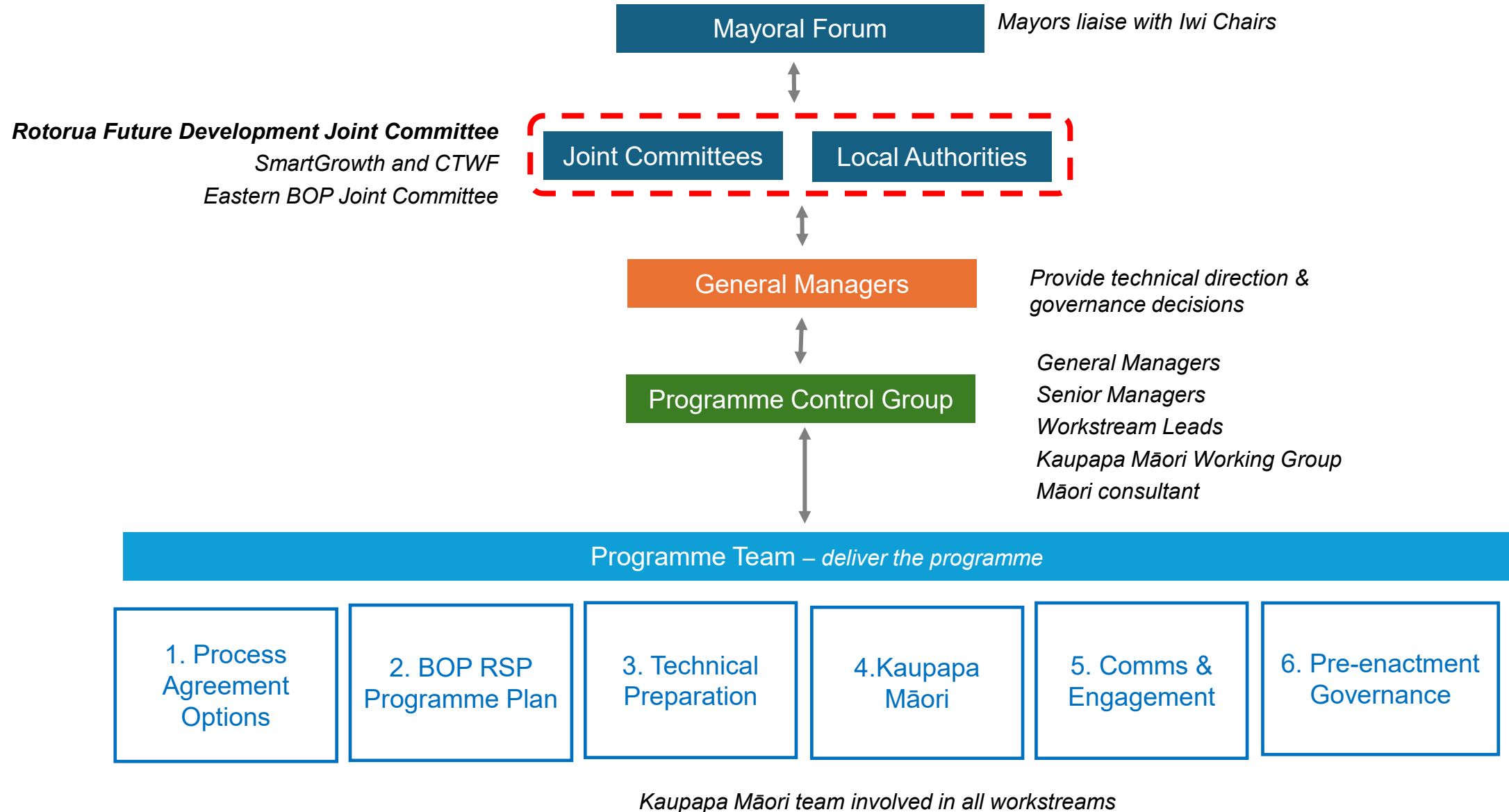
# Timeframes & Deliverables cont...

## Pre-enactment timeframes



# Pre-enactment Programme & Governance

## Pre-SPC Programme Structure



# Technical Preparation

## Stocktake and Gap Analysis

- Strong starting point & support for creating a shared evidence base to support preparation of the RSP
- Focus on relevant & reliable information to support decision-making
- Identify regional gaps & priorities
- RLC complement FDS with the analysis of rural issues & priorities considered when developing the RSP
- Pre-enactment focus on socio-economic assessment & trend analysis
- Engage Lakes & Rural Community Boards & other stakeholders

## Rotorua Lakes District Regional Spatial Plan

Rural Environment Socio-Economic  
Assessment and Trend Analysis

27 July 2026 – draft contents

m.e  
consulting

# Process Agreement

## What is the Process Agreement?

Section 69 of Planning Bill asks councils to agree on the statutory preparation pathway & practical relationship architecture around it

- Key elements of the agreement are therefore:
  - **Governance establishment**- Who is involved, who leads, who decides
  - **Programme design**- How evidence, engagement, workstreams & approvals fit
  - **Risk control**- How uncertainty, disputes & triggers are managed
  - **Public-facing settlement**- Explains how the region will work & how participants are involved



# Process Agreement

## Key Assumptions

- RSP prepared for region
- Flexibility built into the approach to minimise impact of any Head Start changes by recognising 3 sub-regions within the region
- Māori interests & responsibilities will be reflected throughout the process
- Existing joint committee arrangements continue pre-enactment & refined as required, once we have certainty in legislation
- Approach will remain flexible to respond to changes in legislation & national direction
- Scope, form & content of regional spatial plans & Combined Regional Plan will be directed by the Acts & national instruments - we continue to operate in partnership & with a 'no regrets' approach
- 1st generation RSP will be developed using good planning practice to ensure relevant issues, opportunities, & interrelationships are considered appropriate to deliver the RSP

# Regional Spatial Plan Committee

## Purpose & Functions

Statutory platform where governance, evidence, partners, public process & implementation meet. Key aspects:

### **Draft RSP**

Preparation &  
Options Assessment

### **Consultation**

Iwi/Māori, public  
and provider  
interface

### **Notification**

#### **Advice**

Recommendation  
to local authorities

### **IHP Response**

Advice on  
Recommendations

### **Review/amend**

Ongoing plan  
stewardship

### **Coordination**

#### **Document**

Implementation &  
monitoring

# Regional Spatial Plan Committee cont...

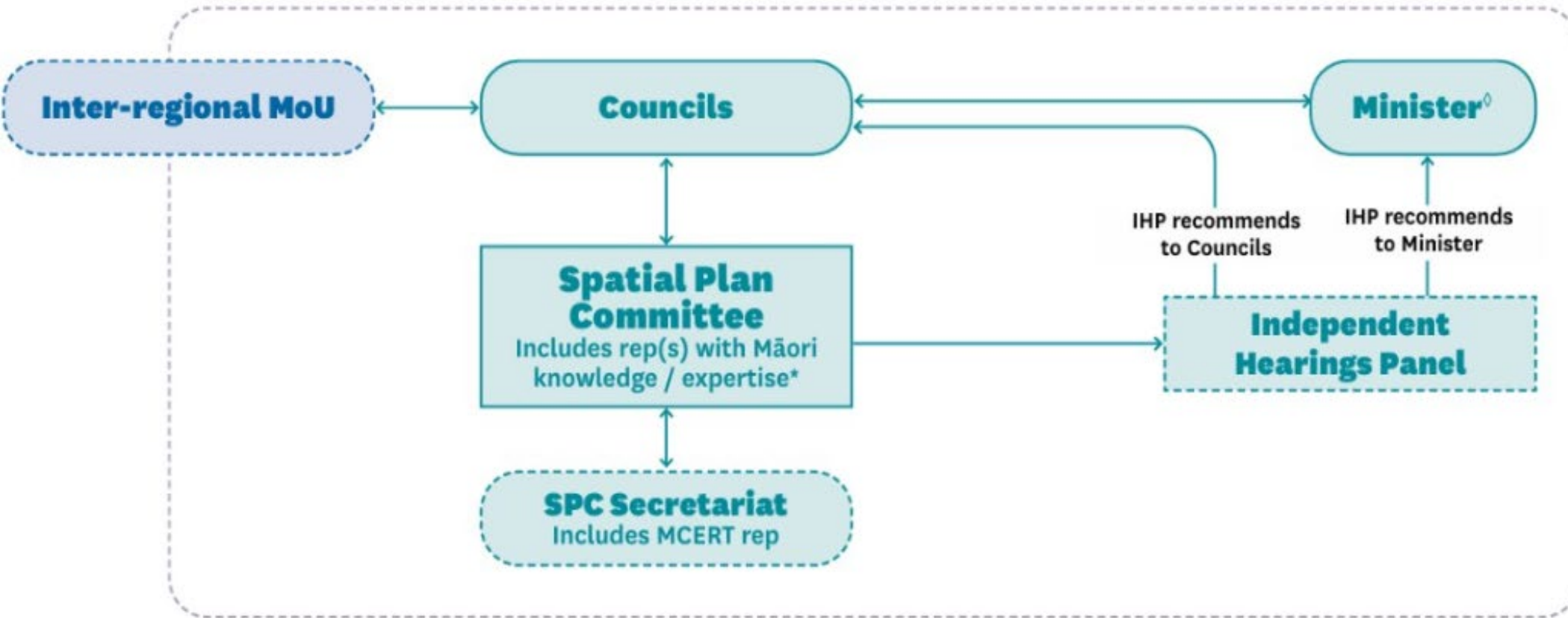
## Principles for Evaluating SPC Options

1. **Representative Regional, Sub-regional & Local Perspectives** – Regional, sub-regional & local perspectives appropriately represented & considered
2. **Tāngata whenua representation** - Ensure governance arrangement provides for tāngata whenua representation
3. **Collaborative** - Set up to share knowledge & expertise & address issues early
4. **Simple, practical, effective and efficient** - Have as few governance layers as possible, with clear purpose & delegations, supporting timely decision-making
5. **Capability** - Ensure governance arrangement has access to resources needed to discharge role effectively, e.g. Independent chair & specialist advisors
6. **Future-proofed / adaptable** - Able to evolve in response to legislative change, project phases & changing partner or stakeholder needs
7. **Legally recognised** - A SPC that meets statutory requirements & observes tikanga & principles of Te Tiriti

# Spatial Planning Committee

## Decision Making Option

**Statutory Minimum** SPC & decision making structure



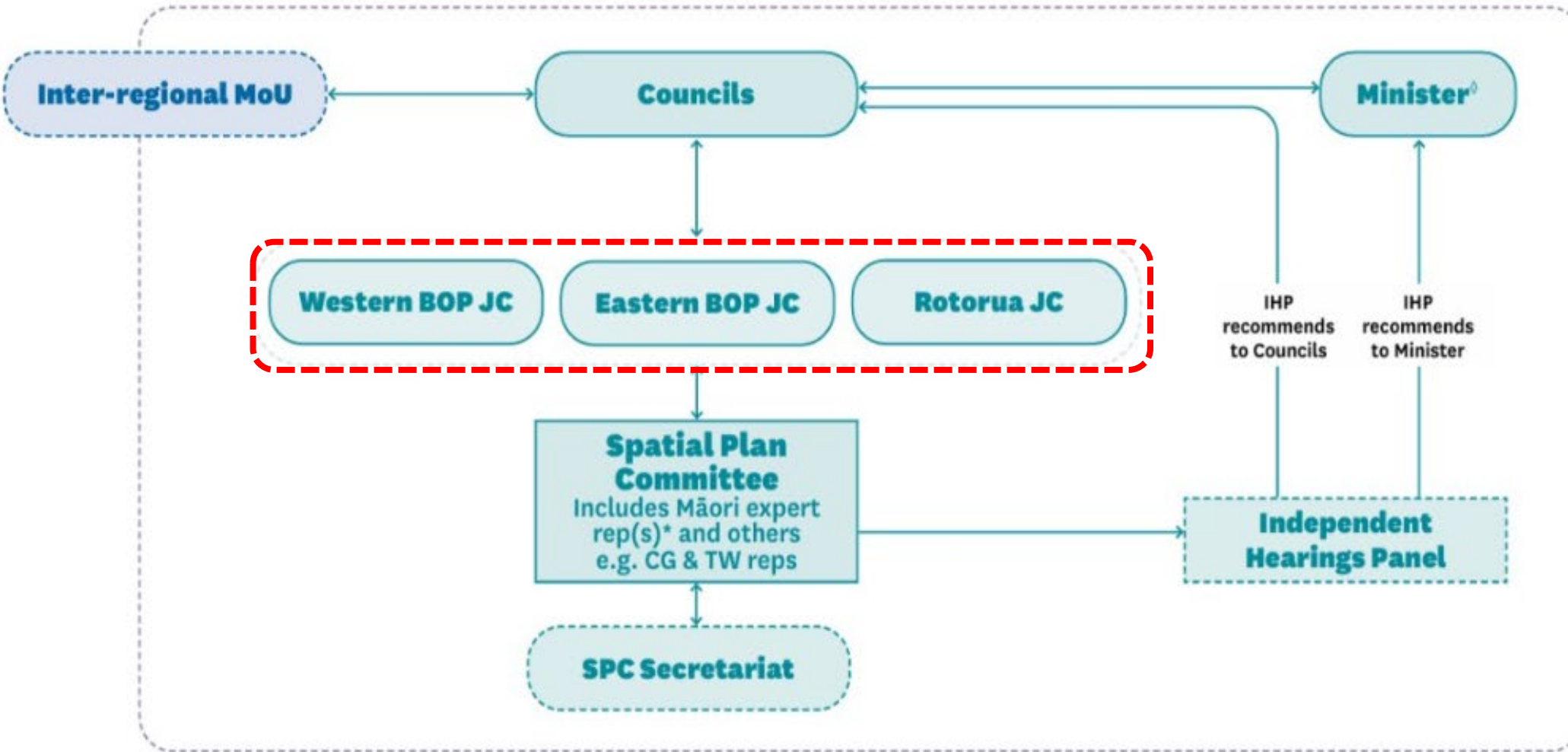
\*See CI71(4) as amended - local authorities must ensure that 1 or more of the members of the spatial plan committee has knowledge, skill, and experience relating to te ao Māori and Māori development.

<sup>o</sup> Scope of Minister's decision-making is limited by Schedule 2 Cl 27(1) to recommendations relating to nationally significant infrastructure and Crown-owned or Crown-funded assets, and nationally significant matters in the coastal marine area.

# Spatial Planning Committee cont...

## Decision Making Option

### Enhanced SPC & decision making structure



\* See CI71(4) as amended - local authorities must ensure that 1 or more of the members of the spatial plan committee has knowledge, skill, and experience relating to te ao Māori and Māori development.

† Scope of Minister's decision-making is limited by Schedule 2 Cl 27(1) to recommendations relating to nationally significant infrastructure and Crown-owned or Crown-funded assets, and nationally significant matters in the coastal marine area.

# Spatial Planning Committee cont...

## Further Considerations

- More than 1-2 members per local authority
- Independent Chair for the SPC
- Māori representation options
- Māori Advisory Group or sub-committee to the SPC
- Additional voting and non-voting members may be co-opted from time to time



# Draft Programme & Plan Structure

## Draft Programme- Post enactment

Aug 2026

Dec 2026

Feb 2027

June 2028

March 2029

Pre-enactment

1. Finalise Process Agreement (PA)

2. Establish SPC, Secretariat, Project Governance

3. Prepare draft BOP Regional Spatial Plan

4. Recommend RSP

5. Independent Hearing

6. Adoption of RSP

7. RSP Coordination

- Draft Process agreement options

- Draft programme plan

- Legislation enacted Sep

- Update draft options for final legislation
- **Councils sign PA**
- Publish signed PA

- Establish SPC
- SPC appoints Chair and Secretariat
- Confirm any ministerial appointments to SPC
- Develop project plan, Governance structure and engagement strategy

### Step 1

- SPC confirm matters of strategic importance
- Engage iwi authorities, customary marine title groups and designating authorities
- Review of relevant strategic documents

### Step 2

- Draft-Topic Papers incl. regional and sub-regional matters
- Draft Scenarios and Options assessment report for SPC review
- **Councils approve scenarios with regional/sub-regional variations**

### Step 3

- Develop draft RSP and populate e-plan platform

- SPC recommends draft for public notification
- **Councils notify RSP for public submission**

- SPC assigns Independent Hearings Panel (IHP) to run hearing
- IHP report sent to SPC and Councils
- SPC provides advice to Councils on IHP recommendations

- **Councils make final decisions on RSP**
- Final RSP adopted

- Prepare, adopt and monitor RSP coordination document

## Risks, compromises and dependencies

- Lead time for Council decisions – fewer governance layers can speed up process
- Timing of National Policy Direction available for first RSPs
- Scope & timing of digital platform
- Establishing a Secretariat & integrated project structure
- Aim to finish first generation RSP as soon as practically possible balancing resources & impact

# Draft Programme & Plan Structure cont...

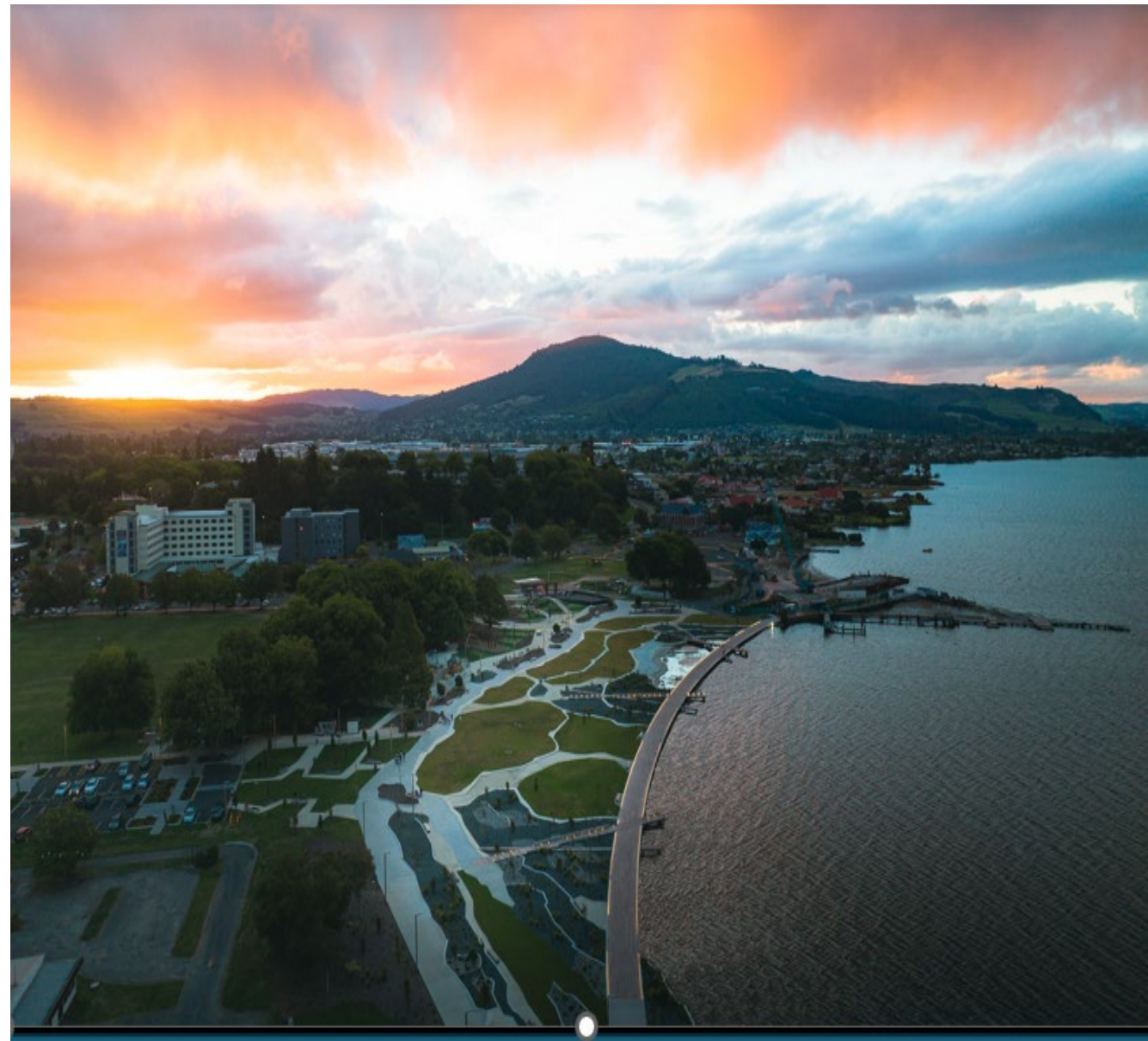
## Proposed Topic Paper Themes

- Draft themes relating to the RSP obligations:
  - Environmental Constraints and Protections
  - Environmental Limits
  - Development and Urban Growth
  - Infrastructure
  - Additional Infrastructure
  - Climate Resilient Development
  - Land Use Patterns
  - Cultural Environment
  - Other Matters of Strategic Importance



# Resource Requirements

- Refined resource requirements will be presented to Councils in late 2026
- Costs are likely to be higher where external expertise is required, greater use of existing council staff may reduce overall costs
- BOPRC have 2026/27 costs covered
- Secretariat to confirm resource requirements and cost allocation in early 2027



# What we are Asking Council

- Support collaborative ‘no regrets’ RSP approach to date
- Endorse the approach to the Process Agreement
- Confirm the SPC evaluation principles
- Confirm the identified SPC options & recommended direction
- Acknowledge 1<sup>st</sup> RSP for BoP will be a collaborative exercise

Paper to Council – 19 August

# Next Steps

- **19 August** Council Meeting
- **21 August** Rotorua Future Development Joint Committee Meeting
- Royal Assent of Planning & Natural Environment Acts expected **September**
- Mayoral Forum **10 September**
- PCG will draft outline Process Agreement. Includes responding to council and Mayoral Forum direction direct engagement with iwi / Māori
- Local authorities adopt Process Agreement by **December 2026**
- Establishment of a SPC, Secretariat & project governance **early 2027**