

## **How the Auckland Supercity plans impact you and Papakura**

### **Save Papakura — *it's your town***

SavePapakura.com is a recently formed community action group who came together after the thousand strong public meeting in Papakura. We are committed to fighting the Supercity proposal as we believe it is of no benefit to Papakura and is an assault on democracy.

#### **1. What the current situation is for Papakura**

- a. Mayor & 8 Councillors for 45,000 people
- b. Council office and staff in the community
- c. Deal with: rates, rubbish collections, decisions about water and sewage, community houses, parks, swimming pool, storm water drains, house plans when you move house or do house alterations, dog licensing etc.
- d. Community shaping

#### **2. What the new bill is suggesting**

- a. Mayor & 20 councillors. Of the twenty only 12 will represent a specified area. This area will be decided by the select committee. This works out at about 1 councillor for every 117,000 people. The eight elected 'at large' means that the other eight councillors won't represent a specific area and could be from anywhere in the region. They could potentially be all from the same area – what would their accountability & interest in Papakura be?
- b. All Council staff to be in Auckland central
- c. 20-30 Local Boards in local areas, 4-9 people elected per board. The boards have no decision making or financial powers. The boards can advocate for the people in their area. The Council can delegate duties to the Board, but don't have to. The Council pays the expenses of the Board, and provides administration facilities. But the Council can limit these expenses. If the local population want more services there will either be a rates increase to cover the expense or they may have to choose one service over another. It is up to the board to negotiate with the Auckland Council for additional services. Auckland Council makes all decisions, not the Local Boards
- d. Rates will be divided up across the region – we could inherit other councils' debts; and will have to accept decisions made on big projects. This may not benefit people living in Papakura, but will increase our rates. If your rent, your landlord may pass on the expense to you and increase your rent if the rates increase
- e. The Mayor will be in charge of appointing the Deputy Mayor, the chairperson of every Council committee including appointing him/herself, & will be responsible for the mayoral office staff through the Chief Executive
- f. The Council & City will be called Auckland and the Council will be in central Auckland. When they set up Manukau city they came up with a new name, and a new site for the Council offices
- g. The new city includes very big rural areas (Wellsford to Tuakau) yet it is unclear how these rural areas will benefit from the city
- h. The Hunua Ranges will come under the jurisdiction of Waikato (this is our water supply and one of our regional parks where staff are experts in conservation of endangered birds). What will happen to these?

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### **3. Also...**

- a. By 1 March 2010 the boundaries of the city will be decided – The southern parts cut through the Hunua's. Mangatawhiri and Mangatangi reserve in Waikato; the Cossey and Wairoa reserve included as part of Auckland Supercity.
- b. There is no requirement for any consultation to happen about the boundaries
- c. Names and boundaries of 12 Auckland Wards (if there are 12 elected Councillors)
- d. Number and names and boundaries of 20-30 Local Boards. The boundaries may be part of the third bill

### **4. Information Technology costs and risks**

- a. The IT bill for an Auckland "Supercity" as cited in The Dominion Post will cost the best part of \$200 million and could take eight years to complete
- b. The impact on public services will be serious if the project fails
- c. "The potential for another Incis is there, in fact it would probably make the Incis look like a kindergarten party" – Jim Higgins from the same article. (Incis was a \$107m failed police computer system)

### **5. Economy and jobs**

- a. Jobs that now go to local businesses would be centralised to larger firms operating across the region. This may be a saving but these costs are likely to be eaten up by head office and salaries.
- b. The transition costs are likely to range from \$574 to \$753 for every rate payer. But because the burden of rates often falls on residents through increased rents and the cost of services, this will cost every man woman and child between \$220 and \$289.

(ManukauCourier – Jobs to go in super city)