

SavePapakura.com request to the Auckland Governance Legislation Committee
Bulk review of *Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill (2009)* submissions

To: **Auckland Governance Legislation Committee**
Attn: Committee chair, Hon John Carter
Cc: Committee clerk, Mr Paul Weakley
By e-mail to: AGL@parliament.govt.nz

From: **SavePapakura.com**
By e-mail from: info@SavePapakura.com

Date: Monday, 13^h July 2009

RE: **URGENT** bulk review request of
***Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill (2009)* submissions**

Dear Auckland Governance Legislation Committee,

Our group supports your efforts to ensure people have their say to the select committee on this bill.

We acknowledge the enormous time pressures the committee is facing with the volume of submissions and hearings. We have strong reason to believe that in the haste to quickly screen the high volume of submissions, substantial unintended administrative errors may have occurred that have significantly disadvantaged both the submitters and the work of the committee. We seek your help to urgently rectify these so the Papakura area's many views are known to the committee, in preparation for next week's hearing.

We appreciate the willingness shown by John Carter, supported by Paul Weakley, to more closely investigate.

At the moment there are two main issues:

- A substantial quantity of submissions incorrectly classified as 'form submissions'; instead of written submissions or oral submissions
- A quantity of rejected submissions, including those rejected on appearance as not addressing the matters of this bill

It should be recognised there is no set format required for select committee submissions; though the Parliamentary guide provides some suggestions to streamline the effectiveness and efficiency of the process.

Template inadvertently misconstrued as ‘form submissions’

SavePapakura.com is committed to encouraging people to make their individual views known to the select committee, as simply and effectively as possible. We produced a specific submission instructions template based on Parliament’s template in its submission writing guide. This was done so submitters can avoid technicalities of having their submission mishandled, support the efficient processes of the committee and concentrate on people expressing their individual views. In close association with Parliament in understanding select committee requirements, we intentionally avoided a ‘form submission’ approach, and strongly supported Parliament’s suggested template guidelines to maximise effectiveness for individual submitters.

We have attached some template samples in the appendices.

We believe that some individual submissions were correctly processed as written or oral submissions; but there are substantial quantities that were lumped as ‘form submissions’ on the appearance of the front page only; and the content of the submissions (including subsequent pages) were not consistently looked at during screening.

**AUCKLAND GOVERNANCE LEGISLATION
SELECT COMMITTEE SUBMISSION**

Must Reach Select Committee by Sat. Friday 26 June 2009

Submissions can either be emailed to AGL@parliament.govt.nz or mailed in paper form. Two copies are required of submissions sent in paper form.

Committee Secretariat
Auckland Governance Legislation
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

If you send your submission via email please do not also send paper copies.

Submission format
You can justify your submission as a letter including:

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. Daytime phone number:
4. E-mail Address:

5. Do you want to appear before the Select Committee? (If you say 'yes' you can change your mind later)
Yes/No

6. Who do you represent? (i.e.g. landowner, business owner, community group member, yourself or your family, etc). If you represent a group, outline its purpose and how many members it has.
I represent

7. Are you in favour or against the Bill overall?

8. What are your main concerns? Give examples if possible.
(put your name on each page, and number each page)

Request: Please urgently bulk review all submissions that used a similar template structure (to Parliament’s suggested format or the SavePapakura.com instructions), that have been classed as ‘form submissions’.

This will mainly be paper based submissions, though some e-mailed submissions are impacted. This will often be those submitters in the Papakura district or nearby communities, though not exclusively. Anyone anywhere had access to our cover sheet and Parliament’s suggested submission format.

[However – we know of unrelated form submissions or petitions (that include preformed content or opinions) run independently by other groups in other areas; those are not the focus of this review request.]

There is the small potential that some submissions were rejected where it appeared the submitter didn’t provide any explanation or opinions other than the overall stance on the bill; yet the submitter did provide these (say on the reverse of the first page or there were attached pages).

Request: Please check whether some submissions may have been rejected because the submitter appeared to provide no explanation on their stance for the bill; yet information was supplied by the submitter that was inadvertently not noticed.

Submissions rejected for not appearing to be relevant

Our group is aware of the select committee's decision that submissions need to 'address the matters of this bill' for the efficient operation of the committee's work. We are strongly concerned there has been screening issues of submissions being rejected on appearance of not meeting that criteria, possibly due to style or language. We do acknowledge the difficulties in quickly screening a large volume of submissions and that errors will occur.

Our group believes for efficiency and effectiveness, this issue is best addressed in bulk rather than solely waiting for complaints on individual submissions (due to a fatigued public and lack of timeliness).

Request: Please urgently bulk review all submissions that were rejected—especially those rejected for lack of relevance in 'not addressing the matters of this bill'.

A suggestion may be to prioritise those requesting to be heard; then those linked to areas with upcoming hearings (so the committee is aware of written submissions); followed by the remaining submissions.

Please be considerate that what the public understand to be 'addressing the matters of this bill' be diverge from what the select committee intended. Please also be considerate that the public at large will not have a good understanding of the separate though interrelated pieces of legislation such as the past Act, this Bill, the future Bill, and other legislation; nor see the view any distinction since they the legislation program are all addressing basically the same issues only at differing levels of detail.

Rejected submissions have also disenfranchised those people who took the time to try to understand what the supercity proposal is all about and how it affects them; and the challenge to respond with little time to absorb. In the larger context, the government's message was they need to formally have their say by participating in the select committee process; which they did and now feel rejected and ignored by the government. We believe that was an unintended and unfortunate process outcome, and mismatched expectations.

Given the high level of public interest and the desire of the public to constructively contribute to the select committee process, and unintended process weaknesses, please very carefully review all rejected submissions so justice is done, and that justice is seen to be done. The committee and submitters will jointly benefit.

Warmest regards,

SavePapakura.com

Attached: Submission template examples, from Parliament and SavePapakura.com

Appendix 1: Parliament's suggested submission template

Page 20 extract from [Making a submission to a Parliamentary Select Committee](#)
retrieved from

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/AboutParl/HowPWorks/Procedures/4/9/e/00CLOOCMakingSubmission1-Making-a-submission-to-a-Parliamentary-select.htm>

Suggested submission format

<i>Date</i>	<i>Page number</i>
SUBMISSION on the XXX Bill/Inquiry	
To the XXX Committee	
Introduction	
This submission is from (name of individual/organisation and address).	
I/we wish to appear before the committee to speak to my/our submission.	
I can be contacted at: <i>(List your daytime contact telephone number or the name, address and contact telephone number of the contact person for your organisation if different from above. These details could be included in a covering letter instead for privacy reasons.)</i>	
I/we wish that the following also appear in support of my/our submission: <i>(List names and positions in organisation. If an organisation, give brief details of your organisation's aims, membership and structure and the people consulted in the preparation of the submission.)</i>	
Summary	
I/we support/oppose the intent of this bill because <i>(state reasons)</i> .	
I/we wish to make the following comments <i>(general views on the inquiry)</i> .	
Clause * <i>(if submitting on a bill)</i>	
I/we support/oppose this clause because <i>(state reasons)</i> .	
Clause * <i>(if submitting on a bill)</i>	
Although I/we agree with the general intent of this clause, I/we feel that <i>(note changes you would like made and suggest new wording)</i> .	
Specific comments <i>(if submitting on an inquiry)</i>	
I/we wish to raise the following matters under term of reference 1, term of reference 2, etc <i>(expand on your views and give reasons)</i> .	
Recommendations	
<i>(List any further recommendations or conclusions you wish the committee to consider. You may wish to restate recommendations mentioned earlier.)</i>	

Appendix 2: SavePapakura.com submission instructions example (coversheet template)

AUCKLAND GOVERNANCE LEGISLATION
SELECT COMMITTEE SUBMISSION

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6. Who do you represent? ((e.g. landowner, business owner, community group member, yourself or your family, etc). If you represent a group, outline its purpose and how many members it has.

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7. Are you in favour or against the Bill overall?

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