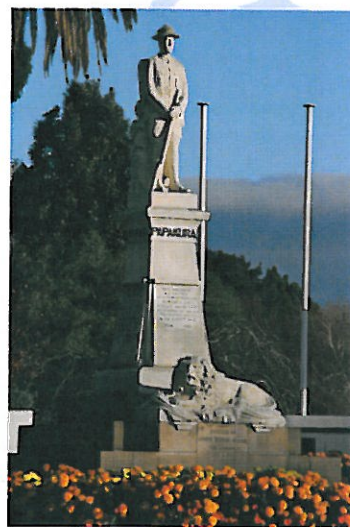


506

Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill

Papakura District Council Submission to
the Auckland Governance Legislation
Select Committee



Introduction

- Bill does not reflect position of Papakura District Council (PDC) on Auckland governance
- PDC opposes the Bill
- PDC supports the need for strengthened regional governance
- PDC considers the “local” must remain in local government



The Community

- Papakura has its own long-standing, strong identity
- Papakura is a district of 46,000 and growing
- Many of our community do not strongly associate with other parts of the Auckland region
- Council has had very clear feedback from the Papakura Community opposing the SuperCity
 - 1000 people attended public meeting
 - 18% Papakura people polled were in support
 - 45% were against



Governance

- PDC has consistently supported need for strong regional governance
- Actively involved in identifying ways to strengthen region
- Support strengthened regional organisation
- Support second tier of governance
 - Local decision-making
 - Power to raise funding
 - Directly accountable to local community
 - Control of local services



Process

- This Bill represents radical change to local government in Auckland
- Government's decisions announced 12 days after Royal Commission released its report
- Bill publicly available for only five weeks before submissions closed
- Poor process for major change and significantly less robust than processes used by Councils when making major change
- Not hearing from all submitters – particularly as community directed to the process



Rejections of submission

Governing body of the Auckland Council

- PDC supports proposal that Auckland Council Mayor should be elected at large - but using STV
- PDC supports proposal that Mayor has power to appoint deputy Mayor and Mayoral staff
- PDC does not support proposal for Mayor to appoint Committee Chairs
- PDC proposes the Auckland Council should have 30 members
- PDC proposed that all Councillors are elected on a ward basis



Maori Representation

- Maori representation should be included in this legislation
- Papakura has established a set of arrangements which ensure Maori are included in the decision-making processes of Council
- PDC proposes that Maori representation should replicate Papakura's arrangement with Mana Whenua
 - Relationship Forum
 - Supported by Partnership Agreement and funded work programme
 - Appoint Maori to key decision-making committees



Local Boards

- Local Boards should be called Community Councils
- Should be fewer in number ie 12 – 15
- Have sufficient scale to be effective
- Have clear, mandated roles and functions including local decision-making



Local Boards

- Shared governance with the Auckland Council
- Should be adequately bulk funded
- Control of local service delivery
- Ward and board boundaries to be aligned
- Papakura should be a Board/Community Council



Southern Boundary of the Auckland Region

- PDC opposes proposed amendment to the southern boundary
- Area contains most of Hunua Regional Park and all of Whakatiwai and Waharau Regional Parks
- Also contains dams providing 37% of Auckland's bulk water storage capacity
- Control of assets should remain where the effects of decisions are felt



Process from here.....

- Local Government Commission must be required to consult on boundaries for wards and boards
- Next Bill – a more inclusive process is needed



