

**Good governance and democracy—are you engaged?**

Submission by Flash Langley on the *Local Government (Auckland Law Reform) Bill (2009)*  
to the Auckland Governance Legislation Committee

## **Supplementary Submission 04: Stop and think**

Select committee supplementary submission by Flash Langley  
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This supplementary submission documents some of the visual information, and key points, used for the Select Committee oral submission.

### **1 Stop and think... what are we trying to achieve with this legislation?**

I am highly committed to effective local and regional governance; and integrated decision making. Sadly, in my opinion the legislation has failed to achieve those goals.

It is vitally important for Auckland, and the nation, that whatever reforms need to be done is well supported, effective, and relevant.

The government and opposition parties are working hard to steer these plans. Where are these plans heading?

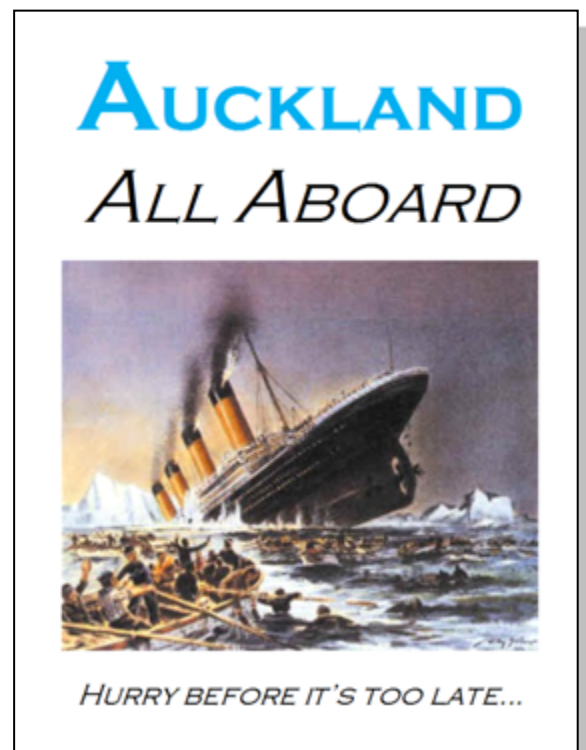


### **2 Where is this journey taking us?**

In considering the Supercity in its totality; or aspects such as transportation, water, the waterfront; and a hasty process – Auckland’s new logo may be overshadowed by a popularist unofficial logo... the Titanic.

The Titanic was heralded as the dawning of a new error [sic]. “The next best thing” and “very safe”. Unfortunately, the Titanic sank on its maiden voyage.

For those hastily promoting the mega-sized ‘Local Government’, please don’t repeat the same mistakes as the Titanic.



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### **3 Orwellian ‘Local Government’**

The proposed metropolitan government is hardly ‘Local Government’.

#### **3.1 UK devolving Unitary Authorities**

The UK were intent on Unitary Authorities in the 1990s and early 2000s; they are now undoing that and devolving as much power as possible to empower neighborhood communities.

#### **3.2 Local Boards repeating the same mistakes as Community Boards**

In principle I strongly support empowered local government.

The so-called Local Boards or Community Councils must be more strongly empowered than existing Council’s to be effective.

I oppose the legislation which is destined to repeat the mistakes of disempowered Community Boards.

I have listened to many platitudes about Local Boards, which have not been fulfilled. I do not consider the Local Boards are adequately empowered.

### **4 Wrong Way — Go Back**

The current Supercity plans and processes need revisiting to be successful.

#### **4.1 People buy-in vitally important**

Many of the issues I raised in the Second Bill submission remain. Of vital importance is buy-in from the people and decent workable plans.

Ownership is supported through meaningful and genuine consultation.



#### **4.2 Local Government Act reorganisation proposals**

The Local Government Act provides strong processes for assessing and engaging the public with reorganisation proposals; including the final vote by the people in a binding poll.

I suggest that the work of the Select Committee get’s built upon; with any plan diverted to a Reorganisation Proposal. Meaningfully engage with the public. “These are our thoughts, how can we make them better?”

#### **4.3 Legislation constraints producing distorted outcomes**

The complex legislation imposes too many constraints, leading to undesirable consequences.

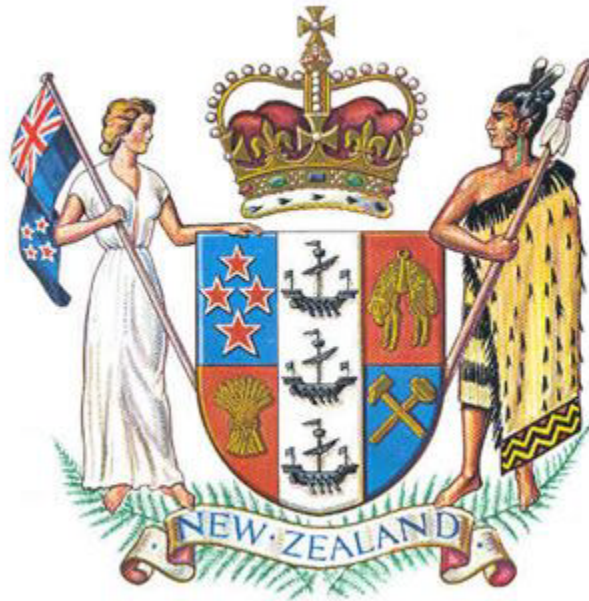
Representation issues will be unable to be fixed prior to the 2010 and 2013 elections. The limits on representation distorted the [draft] outcomes of the Local Government Commission setting boundaries. The legislation and determination will fail Representation Reviews.

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### **5 Partnership**

The New Zealand coat of arms shows a partnership between the Crown and Māori:



The 1850 Colonial Seal shows a settler and Māori:



I believe better outcomes and ownership for the local governance reforms will be produced by meaningfully engaging with Māori, and the people generally. Please do not force these deeply flawed and poorly regarded reforms on us.

### **6 CCO crazy**

My submission discusses whether or not to CCO, and how. I welcome questions or discussion.

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**7 Appendix 1: ‘Auckland — All Aboard’ poster**

Here’s a larger version of the poster.

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(Except ship portrait.)

# AUCKLAND

## *ALL ABOARD*



*HURRY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...*