

Save Papakura 'Form' submissions group

Thank you for the opportunity for us to follow up the 54 'Form' submissions from people who used the SavePapakura.com format guidelines.

We are aware that Select Committee members may not yet have had the opportunity to view these submissions, so we have collated the contributions from those submissions and grouped them under headings to enable members to gain an overview of these 54 Papakura residents' opinions. (See attached pages.)

Speaking today

Ten people indicated on their forms that they wanted to speak. All ten have been contacted, some could not make it. The following four people have chosen to proceed and have their voices heard in the group slot you have allocated for this purpose this morning. They are:

1. Jan Rout
2. Sue Martin
3. Teresa Matheson
4. Parkash Singh

Thank you once again for allowing these people to have their voices heard.

Janet Phare
SavePapakura.com

Note: Views are those of the individual submitters

PAPAKURA ‘FORM’ SUBMISSIONS

All 54 ‘Form’ submissions from people using the format guidelines of the SavePapakura.com group were against the Bill. Their main points are as follows:

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Papakura's unique identity & community spirit

- Our needs and wants are very different in Papakura and surrounding districts than urban Auckland. (Stace)
- Papakura has a local identity where we all count, we are all important and known (Whibley).
- Our Council is working hard to make Papakura a better place and we do not need to be swallowed up and disappear (L. King)
- Loss of individuality of small town. My choice of residence being interfered with without any input of mine. (McKinley)
- Concern that Papakura will lose ownership of its unique identity, community spirit, and independence (Atiga, Bedford, Black, G. Collecutt, M. Collecutt, Graham, Grayson, Lennox, G. King, Munn, O'Shaughnessy, Parry, Simpson, Stevens, Taylor, Thompson, Whibley, Williams)
- Concern that Papakura will be ignored by the Super City (L. King).
- When I moved here, I chose not to live in Auckland, and deliberately chose to live in Papakura. Nothing about Auckland appeals to me (Whibley).
- If I wanted to live in Auckland, I would have moved there (M. Collecutt)
- Concern that the cultural diversity of all Auckland (North, South, West) will disappear (Lennox)
- It will lose its sense of freedom as far as rates, sense of purpose and drive in its community are concerned (Grayson).
- I feel one big voice would be more detrimental than lots of smaller voices (Aqrawe, Stace).

Rates

- Concern re cost to households of the unaffordability of the extra rate to establish the Super City
- Concern that rates/change in rating system will increase Papakura residents' rates and impact on people's modest budgets (Aqrawe, Bedford, Black, Falgate, Jury, G. King, L. King, Lennox, Matheson, Parry, Rout, Stevens, Taylor, Teuira, Thompson, Williams, Whibley)
- Concern that if rates collected in Papakura go to a central Council, they will not be re-allocated for use in Papakura and other smaller communities. (Renwick, Rout, Ariki)
- Concern that the Super City is to the advantage of Auckland City which is running at a loss, funding of major events many of which are unsuccessful so they take 'our' money to replenish coffers (Whibley).
- If rates are all collected by a central Auckland Council, rates collected from Papakura should be earmarked for spending in Papakura (Matheson)
- Want Papakura rates collected in Papakura spent on amenities, roads, streetscapes etc. within that area (Aqrawe, Atiga, Cain, G. Collecutt, Columbus, Emery, Falgate, Lennox, Matheson, Munn, Noble, D. Peart, O'Shaughnessy, Williams).

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- Concern that standard of living in Papakura will go down as our rates will be spent on other areas of Auckland (especially central Auckland issues) and not in Papakura as should be. (Jury, Matheson, Singh, Thompson)
- Do not want rates spent on beautifying Auckland (Cain), football stadium (Falgate) or grand schemes (King).

Local assets / others' debts.

- Concern that local assets will be sold (Parry, D. Peart, Rout, Taylor).
- Loss of assets (council office, signage, parks/reserves, Hunua Ranges) with nothing in return (D. Peart, Whibley)
- We don't want to be involved with other cities debts. (Hodgins, Whibley)

Auckland Council representation

Marketing & publicity alternatives

- I like the idea of international marketing of Auckland to the world – like Singapore, but think there are avenues to do this without forming a Super City (Lennox).

Centralised power concerns

- It is not good idea to centralize the power. (Singh)
- Large organisations become unwieldy and inefficient (Colombus, Lennox, Lisle, Singh)
- If you are thinking about Super City, it is against democracy. I think it autocracy to hand over the power into few people's hands. (Singh). Concern that the power will end up in the government's hands (Lapwood).
- Loss of rights for ordinary people (Simpson)
- If we feel we are not being listened to our recourse is limited (Lennox)

Mayor / Councillors

- Who will appoint the supreme being to rule over us? Not the ratepayers of Papakura (G. King).
- The newly elected Council should vote for its mayor and deputy mayor (Parry)
- Why not appoint Mayors of each Council to the greater Auckland Committee? (Emery)
- There should be at least one Councillor to every 10,000 people (Matheson)
- A stepping stone for political representation (Simpson)
- Concern that local people will not have enough representation (probably only one Councillor) or power in big Super City (Ariki, M. Collecutt, Grayson, Jury, Matheson, Thompson, Whibley)
- Decisions being made by citizens with no connection to my area (McKinley)

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At large Councillors

- In favour of all Ward councillors and against 'at large' councillors (Parry, Waaka, Whibley)
- At large Councillors will come from a different, elite social strata because of the cost of standing across the region (Whibley).
- Voting for people you do not know is impersonal – relying on the 'blurb' about people's achievements. We should vote for people from our own area (Parry).
- Lost in the network – not knowing the Councillors appointed hence not voting for them (Waaka).
- A Councillor from another area would not have the same passion and concern for Papakura District (Waaka).

Accountability / voice being heard

- Concerned at lack of accountability of elected representatives to the local community so far away from the Council (Whibley)
- I cannot see how or why they would have our best interest at heart, when it is such a vast area between the two cities (Atiga).
- Concern that small towns like Papakura and ordinary people will have difficulty making local voice and needs heard (M. Collecutt, Graham, Lennox, Lisle, Parry, Tupou, Waaka, Whibley)

Papakura District Council does a great job in its current form, why change it?

- The local mayor and council has governed well, it isn't broke, and there is no need for change. How will the change benefit people in Papakura? Leave our community alone. (Aqrawe, Atiga, Bedford, Emery, Grunlinton, Hodgins, Kahui, G. King, L. King, Lloyd, Lynch, Munn, Parry, D. Peart, J. Peart, Singh, Stace, Teuira, Thompson, Vemoa, Whibley).
- What Papakura District Council has established we will lose in the future. We will have no say about our town. (Edwards).
- Concerned at the loss of personal approach (Taylor). Our Papakura Council does a great job looking after everyone in Papakura area. Our mayor walks the streets making sure we are all okay. (Hodgins).
- I feel more comfortable with Papakura Council representing Papakura with people and issues for our area. Every community has its local needs (community groups and issues) and we feel they will not be met by the new structure (Warrilow)
- We can now attend meetings in our own area and know decisions that are made (Falgate)
- When something needs doing in our community we can ring our local office and our concerns are dealt with immediately. (L. King, Tupou) Where do we go to now for community support? (Thompson).
- Keep our community facilities under local government (Matheson). We are now getting a great enjoyment from the sports fields, the roads and shops are getting a

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great benefit for us. (Munn) I am concerned that many of our programmes and funding opportunities will disappear with the loss of our local Council.

- Papakura township has been upgraded to a standard we can be proud of. Sports grounds and reserves, parks and library are available to residents of Papakura and others from outside. In my view all this will be lost if we become part of the Super City (Teuira).

Want two tier system as at present

- We are paying ARC rates now and I would be agreeable to paying extra for roading and public transport transport, sewage (Cain), waterfront (Colombus) – we have our own water at the moment (United) who have the franchise for 32 years. (Cain)
- I wish to retain our own Council elected by us.

Local Boards / Local Council

Legal rights

- As the Bill stands, my Local Board and my voice will have no legal rights (Lennox).

Local Board powers

- Want Papakura residents to have easy access to the decision makers (Colombus)
- There should be a Papakura Local Board with similar powers to our local Council (Matheson, Peart, Renwick, Whibley), including the ability to make decisions independently of the Auckland super city council for the benefit of Papakura residents.(Aqrawe, Lennox, J. Peart, Rewiti)
- Planning and decisions concerning Papakura should be made by the citizens of Papakura. (Cain, Columbus, Emery, Falgate, Parry, Rout, Singh)
- Local boards should have the ability to deliver local services and to set up their own budgets. (Lennox, Matheson, Parry, Renwick, Rewiti).
- Local boards should collectively vote on any Auckland council to make rates, pass a by-law, adopt an Annual Plan or Long Term Community Council Plan (LTCCP) and purchase or dispose of assets if such a proposal is not included in the LTCCP. (Rewiti)
- Want local council funding for local events as at present (eg free movies in the park, the Youth Awards) (Whibley)
- Local boards need to continue current security in Papakura (the Ambassador scheme, guards on the street) (Whibley)

Local representation

- We want our Mayor and Councillors who know Papakura and its people to represent us (Falgate, L. King, Lloyd, McKinley, Whibley).

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- As South Auckland often has negative connotations from other parts of Auckland, we need people that are local and have a history to our area, to sort out our issues, along with the many community groups. (Atiga)

Retain Papakura's Council office and staff

- Papakura Council staff do an excellent job (Thompson). We want the people in our Papakura region to keep their jobs, and not be absorbed into central Auckland (Falgate, Parry)
- Removing Council staff (enforced unemployment) in a time of recession is not good for our town or our economy (Parry)
- Want an office in Papakura that people can contact for any Council issues (Matheson), eg paying rates in person (J. Peart), local building records, paying licences - who wants to travel to Auckland city to check these? Not everyone has internet access. I want people to be available who can fix things when broken as soon as possible and not deterred by some distant, anonymous Council. (Whibley)
- Who will cover animal, noise control? This is an excellent service and I am against losing that (Whibley)

Hunua Ranges / environment

- Believe in ARC and the great work it has achieved (Simpson).
- Who will look after our lovely parks, water ways? (Hodgins)
- Country environment will be lost (Black)
- Do not want to lose/have split up our very precious Hunua Ranges to the Waikato (Stace, Stevens, Whibley, Williams)

WaterCare alternatives

- If water is to be privatised please make it another firm than Water Care (Parry)

Boundaries

- Do not want to be amalgamated with Manurewa (Parry)

Maori representation

- If the Super City goes ahead, I want Treaty of Waitangi, partnership, delegated Maori representation (Simpson).

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Concern about the change in Governance process

- I am very angry and disappointed at the way the Government has rushed this proposal through without our input first. (Atiga)
- I am not happy about the way the super city was passed. The people of Auckland did not have a say as to whether we want a super city or not. (Jury)
- Strong impression of dictatorship. (McKinley)
- Too rushed, too little input from local residents (J. Peart, Whibley)
- No referendum binding or otherwise has been held to determine peoples thoughts especially ratepayers (Bedford)
- I was in favour of the democratic system and outcome of the Royal Commission. I am concerned that the Act Party polled 2% at the last national election and has been given 30% governance in New Zealand (Martin).