

Tuesday 23 June 2009

Last chance for your Supercity submission



Assessing supercity impacts at an information workshop.

L-R Whaitiaki member Ms Natasha Kendall,
Papakura resident Mr Ryan Jack-Midgley,
and SavePapakura.com steering group member Mr Ross Williams.
Photo: SavePapakura.com

Papakura local groups SavePapakura.com and Whaitiaki have been very busy during the last fortnight discussing the Supercity plans with residents. Tens of thousands of Papakurians were encouraged to find out more information, and hundreds attended one of ten workshops for help in having their say with a submission to the Select Committee.

“I know Aucklanders are passionate about their local communities and their region and we want to hear their views” said Local Government minister Hon Rodney Hide. Your submission to the Auckland Governance Legislation Committee must reach Parliament (in Wellington) before 5pm this Friday, 26th June 2009. Late submissions will be rejected.

SavePapakura.com has revealed the government has not done their homework.

“We asked what are the predicted impacts of the Supercity plans. The government’s official replies came back there has been no assessments” stated SavePapakura.com steering group member Mr Flash Langlely.

“I’m surprised the government has not done any relevant assessments, such as the economic or social impacts for Papakura, let alone the Auckland region. How will the Supercity plans impact Papakura’s ratepayers, residents, small businesses and the valuable work of community groups?”

Ms Janet Phare, who led recent SavePapakura.com workshops, offered some submission writing suggestions. “The select committee wants to know your views on how the government’s proposed changes impact you, your family and your community; and your constructive suggestions to improve the legislation are valued. Some people have summed up

their reasons in a few lines, and others in detail over many pages. The select committee also wants to know if you wish to discuss your views in person at a hearing. Some people have requested to appear so they can effectively communicate with the committee.”

“Mr Hide has mentioned his commitment to ‘promoting local democracy’; yet his plans show the opposite. It appears the local has been taken out of local government. If you value local democracy, you must speak up now to hold Mr Hide to account.”

Ms Phare summarised some of the frequent themes people expressed at the information workshops:

1. That the people:
 - a. Want Papakura to retain its identity
 - b. Want there to be a Mayor and Council of Papakura situated in Papakura
 - c. Want local rates spent in Papakura and those decisions to be made by people who live in and understand Papakura
 - d. Want to retain the personal accessibility that they have now with the local Council. People talked about many instances when they had dropped in to the Council to speak to the Mayor, or had a Councillor give them personal service about their particular concerns
 - e. Want to be able to lobby directly with the decision makers about community services
 - f. Want to retain Papakura’s Council office and staff – many older people especially stated how helpful it is to be able to speak face-to-face about their queries
 - g. Want a realisation from the Select Committee that Auckland is 30km and half a day away from Papakura – much the same as Hamilton and Thames. They do not feel they have anything in common with central Auckland or most other areas of the proposed Supercity
 - h. Are concerned that Papakura’s voice will be lost in a Supercity Council
 - i. Are concerned that money will be spent on events and facilities in central Auckland to the detriment of Papakura events and facilities
2. Most people wanted to have separate rates for regional activities (as happens currently with ARC) and local activities (as happens currently with Papakura District Council)
3. Many people acknowledged the need for a regional approach to regional transport and conservation activities, but did not want local democracy to be reduced or changed to enable the regional activities to be sorted out

Further information is available at the website SavePapakura.com and at Papakura’s library.

Select committee submissions close 5pm Friday 26th June 2009.

Mention it is a submission on the *Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill*.

Address to “Clerk of the Committee, Auckland Governance Legislation Committee, Select Committee Office, Parliament Buildings, WELLINGTON”

Send by e-mail to AGL@parliament.govt.nz

or (if not e-mailed or already posted to Wellington) send a fax in fine mode to:

(04) 499 0486.

If you need to check with Parliament that your fax has been received OK, ring (04) 817 8090.

ENDs

Attributions:

Mr Rodney Hide

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/minister+calls+public+input+auckland+governance>

Alternative attributions:

Mr John Carter

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/taking+next+step+auckland039s+future+-+your+help>

[Detailed contact details removed from the web version of the media release]

SavePapakura.com facilitation contacts:

Holly Putwain and Flash Langley

SavePapakura.com spokespeople:

Ms Sandi Wirepa

Ms Chris Archibald