

SavePapakura.com research paper 0004:

Estimated internal and external boundaries of the proposed Auckland Council (supercity)

Executive summary

This paper lists the Government's responses to questions about estimated boundaries (particularly estimated local board boundaries) and ward boundaries within those local boards.

There is not much relevant information from government.

Preliminary analysis is included, comparing supplementary information (though that may not necessarily align with the government's proposal).

Version history

Version	Status	Date	Comments
01	Issue	23 July 2009	Initial release

Introduction

Official information request from SavePapakura.com dated Friday, 19 June 2009 09:34 NZST.

Response from Hon Rodney Hide (Minister for Local Government) dated Tuesday, 14 July 2009.

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(supercity)**

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Background to request (supplied with the information request)

The official Auckland Governance Reform Enquiry line (run by the Department of Internal Affairs) has instructed me to instead approach the office of the Minister for Local Government.

A prompt response and answers are requested, due to both ongoing consultation with the public; as well as working back from the 26 June 2009 submission deadline to the Auckland Governance Legislation Committee (some people have already lodged their submissions; and others are about to).

Please indicate when a response is expected.

Please identify the source and age of the information, as I am seeking the most relevant and timely information.

Should the information not be completely available (or there is withheld information that would have altered the answer to the question), please explain why some information was not provided or the extent of incompleteness.

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Information request

In regards to Papakura district and the neighbouring city councils and district councils, where may the ward boundaries fall and where may the Local Board boundaries within those ward boundaries fall?

Is there any planning information (visual and/or written) on what the boundaries and carve up for the proposed 12 wards and 20-30 Local Board allocation within Wards? Yes – I'm fully aware that the proposal is to refer boundary and assignment issues to the Local Government Commission under the second and third Bills; though there must have been some expectation or projection of what the carve up may look like; or possibly consultation with the Electoral Commission.

An issue we are already experiencing are questions about the carve up. Eg for Papakura region:

- Proposed split within the Hunua Ranges (some of that info seems to be available)
- Whether the government is siding with the urban / rural split suggested by the Royal Commission (seems to be)
- Amalgamation with neighbouring urban areas; transfer of urban areas to other boards
- Amalgamation with neighbouring rural areas; transfer of rural areas to other boards

Official responses

The Department of Internal Affairs prepared an indicative map showing potential boundaries. This map will soon be publicly available via the Department of Internal Affairs' website www.dia.govt.nz. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act *that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available*. I encourage you to check the Department's website in the coming weeks.

As you have noted, the Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill (the Bill) proposes that the Local Government Commission determine the boundaries of the Auckland Council, its wards, and local board areas. The Bill is currently being considered by the Auckland Governance Legislation Committee.

The Department of Internal Affairs has been appointed as advisors to assist the Auckland Governance Legislation Committee with the Bill. In this role, the Department is undertaking work in response to submission on the Bill. However, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) and refused under section 18(c)(ii) of the Act.

The remaining information you have requested is not held by me or the Department of Internal Affairs. I have no grounds for believing that this information is held by any other departments or Ministers.

Consultation has not been undertaken with the Electoral Commission.

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Therefore, your request is declined under section 18(g) of the Act, on the grounds that the information is not held. For further information about the boundaries I refer you to the Royal Commission's report on Auckland governance.

Analysis

23 July 2009

External boundaries

To date this mainly appears to be textual description.¹

Various information has been produced by Auckland Regional Council to support its select committee submission, that provides an estimate of the Government's proposal.

Auckland Council estimated Ward boundaries

There does not appear to be any information on an estimated breakdown of a twenty to thirty local board option. At the moment it appears the government focused on representation ratios without to considering where those local boards may end up in the region or the associated impacts; to be a future assessment for the Local Government Commission.

This should be contrasted with the planning that the Royal Commission did for its preferred option, which listed and discussed the second-tier estimated boundaries (both textually and in a diagram).

Aside: Various information has been produced by Auckland Regional Council to support its select committee submission (on ARC's opinion rather than the government's view). Includes both visual and textual description.

Rural / urban split

The Royal Commission recommended an urban / rural split for its proposed second-tier councils, in their view to provide a focus; including partial service delivery.

The government's current proposals are quite different in the service delivery being performed solely by the region wide council only; though may have indirectly retained a rural split for representation (rather than identity).

Briefing diagrams leading to the cabinet's April 2009 decisions were modified from the Royal Commission view to a similar diagram (with altered names and numbers). This appears to express an estimated split of rural vs urban wards. (Although it is acknowledged that Local Government Commission will have a role in assessing wards).

¹ *Making Auckland Greater*, New Zealand Government, April 2009, p18

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