

Tuesday 09 June 2009

Two weeks for you to Save Papakura

SavePapakura.com spokeswoman Sandi Wirepa says “Papakura’s future is in your hands. The time to act is now. Make your voice and your submission count. Let the government know whether you care about Auckland making decisions for Papakura, charging you Auckland’s high rates, owning Papakura’s assets, losing the Hunua Ranges to Waikato, taking Papakura’s identity? If this is not what you want then people have only two weeks to have their say by writing a submission to the Select Committee. Submissions close on Friday 26 June, 2009. “Unless we speak out, Papakura may not even have one person on the ‘new Council’, trying to fight for Papakura’s share of resources.”

According to a recent survey carried out by the Business Council for Sustainable Development only 18% of people in Papakura are in favour of the Supercity. “Some of the people we talk to have been very distressed at having their District Council removed at the stroke of a government pen. Others are really angry that there may be no local representatives to make local decisions about Papakura amenities, (libraries swimming pools, parks, sports grounds) or to decide how Papakura money is spent. One woman was particularly irate that the cost of the Transition Authority will be passed on to ratepayers. She, like many others, is someone who does not normally get involved in community action, but is concerned about how she will pay for this extra cost that she has no control over.

The proposed bill s delivers financial control and decision making into the hands of the few. The proposed Supercity council will Auckland council is an assault on democracy; and a very powerful mayor of the Supercity

“Many people we speak to in the street feel powerless about the proposed changes. We have heard some people say that it is too late, and that there is nothing they can do. I think it’s very important that they realise that they are not alone in their thoughts,” say Janet Phare. “After all 1,000 people turned up to the public meeting held in Papakura on the Supercity issues, and in a show of hands only 3 people supported the proposed changes.”

Writing a submission is not as difficult as it sounds. We are holding free submission workshops over the next two weeks which will provide the people of Papakura with some factual information and the opportunity to write their submission on the spot. SavePapakura.com would like as many people as possible to write to the Select Committee, so the government is in no doubt about what the people of Papakura think. “We’re the people saying we need representation, so come on Papakura Let’s do it not just for us but for future generations..”

Workshops details:

Saturday 13 June 2009 10am-noon or 1pm-3pm Selwyn Arcade (Gt South Rd)

Thursday 18 June 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm Accent Point Level 4 function room

Saturday 20 June 2009 10am-noon or 1pm-3pm Selwyn Arcade (Gt South Rd)

Monday 22 June 2009 9am-11am or 1pm-3pm 18 Smiths Ave (old netball courts)

Monday 22 June 2009 5pm-7pm Papakura Marae

Select committee submissions close 5pm Friday 26th June 2009

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

or (if not e-mailed) send two copies and allow for at least three days delivery time.

No postage stamp required within NZ.

“FreePost Parliament, Clerk of the Committee,

Auckland Governance Legislation Select Committee,

Select Committee Office, Parliament Buildings, WELLINGTON”

[SavePapakura.com consultation results follow on the next page]

Summary of concerns raised by Papakurians

Rates will rise. Don't want to lose out to Auckland.

People less familiar with the detail of the government's Supercity plans and the impact for them.

In general (regardless of how aware of the detailed proposed changes) people are:

- overall opposed to the Supercity
- distrustful of government's handling of the issues including lack of engagement
- distrustful and cynical around the Supercity
- government's arrogant forcing through Supercity changes
- believe rates are sure to rise due to the changes
- unaware a Select Committee has called for them to make a submission
- most understand Supercity is about centralisation; and believe centralisation ultimately fails to deliver benefits and destroys communities; particularly those smaller communities farthest from the central Auckland
- believes Mr Banks (if he become the Supercity's mayor) doesn't understand nor care about Papakura

Those who have some awareness of the government's plans:

- don't see any benefit for Papakura of an Auckland Supercity
- don't want Auckland people deciding for Papakura, that don't live here and understand their community's needs
- see all benefits flowing out of Papakura, into Auckland or Waikato. Decision making, power, money, nature reserves, jobs and water
- concerned about having a say in how their rates is spent in Papakura
- identity and diversity of Papakura as a community. Town, residential, farming, Hunua Ranges, small business & industry. Those will not be honoured nor respected by Auckland
- not sure how to make their views heard and be counted
- want a referendum so the public is given the power to decide on a Supercity
- concerned about WaterCare's role

Those who are not aware of the detail of the government's plans:

- dislike the way the government is rushing to make changes; and feel powerless to stand in the way. Believe 'someone is pushing an agenda'
- are confused about what the government is proposing and what it will mean for them
- lack of information from government how the changes will affect them
- are not aware the proposed local boards are effectively powerless

SavePapakura.com is in contact with other groups, and wants to make it easy for you to take simple, effective actions that will stop the sham Supercity.

Some specific comments received

On process and result:

“The way the Supercity is being foisted on the public, is the way the supercity will be run.”

On referendum:

“Whanganui had a town referendum on their name; yet the Auckland Council is a name change and a dramatic change to the way Papakura is managed. When will I have a say in a binding poll?”

Web comments on

<http://johnkey.co.nz/index.php/?archives/717-John-Carter-Your-role-in-Aucklands-success.html#c3441>

[relating to the context of <http://www.national.org.nz/Auckland.aspx>]

F Langley says:

[#1](#) 2009-06-04 15:26

What National is saying vs doing is full of contradictions. The Auckland supercity select committee is so hasty, there's too little time for National MPs public meetings to encourage formal submissions. Does National seriously want to 'hear your views'?

John - I agree the public needs to lodge formal select committee submissions, and be encouraged to present at a nearby suburb hearing. Yet the select committee has allowed only three weeks for a third of NZ's population to be mobilised to make submissions – yeah right!

Very few of the National MPs 'Have Your Say' tour dates coincide with the 02-26Jun2009 submission timeframe. <http://www.national.org.nz/web/auckland3.pdf> That tour is equally important for the MPs profiles to engage with the public to encourage submissions. The submission timeframe was too short for my local MP (National's Judith Collins) to arrange a meaningful public meeting. She is conspicuously absent on this debate.

So how do you intend to effectively hear that many in the electorate are dissatisfied with National's lack of grassroots engagement; and complaints about the supercity not being addressed?

ENDs

[Contact details removed from internet version of the media release]

Facilitation contacts:

Holly Putwain and Flash Langley

Spokespeople:

Ms Sandi Wirepa

Ms Chris Archibald