

Introduction

This is a qualitative assessment to uncover the reasons for Papakurians' attributed towards the Auckland Supercity plans (up to Monday 08 June 2009).

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

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