

Appeal Update: 13 February 2015

Time for an update on progress with our appeal in the High Court against the decision of the Local Government Commission (LGC) to decline to assess our application for reorganisation.

Our lawyers filed their submissions last Friday and are preparing for the hearing on the 30th of March. We are waiting for the LGC to file its submissions on the 23rd Feb.

Our submission argues that the decision was wrong in several respects, including that the LGC was wrong to accept Auckland Council's submissions that they needed more time to settle in. Parliament passed a law which placed a 3 year moratorium on the making of reorganisation applications in the Auckland Council (AC) area and decided 3 years was a long enough time for the new supercity arrangements to settle in. We say the Commission had no right to effectively extend this moratorium by refusing to assess our application.

The Commission also said we had to show community support right across the Auckland region. We say this is also wrong as the Act only requires support from the affected area as we have already done which indicates 94% of North Rodney wants to secede. Among other examples we cite the recent Scottish referendum where only residents of Scotland were allowed to take part.

If these and other issues are left unchallenged the Commission could use the same reasoning to refuse to assess other applications from rural areas dissatisfied with the way they are being treated by Auckland Council. (Waiheke Island is one such area looking to separate from the super city and will be watching the outcome of our appeal with keen interest.)

We hope for a positive outcome and a subsequent opportunity to properly make the case for local government of North Rodney. We are hearing many cases of reduced local services, sale of local assets to fund AC expenditure and deferred local development. If you have examples to quote please send them to us so we can add them to the list.

*Bill Townson
Chairman, NAG.*