

Newsletter August 2017



The Northern Action Group Incorporated

Sadly Mahurangi Matters gets it wrong!

Dear NAG Member/Supporter,

The model council behind the headlined article “Big rate hike if Rodney leaves Auckland” by Mahurangi Matters, in breach of a government embargo, is **NOT** the model NAG put forward for consideration by the Local Government Commission. In fact far from it.

NAG’s model, entitled “Community Empowerment”, is based on the successful Thames Coromandel District Council model and is projected to produce at least a **15% reduction in rates** , much **lower debt**, and above all provides for a lot more Community involvement and influence in Local Governance.

Described as “**Local governance by the people for the people**” it produces a much higher efficiency in delivering local services and amenities. It gives to communities what they want not what some bureaucrat thinks they should have.

The Morrison Low model, described in MM’s article, is based on financial data provided by Auckland Council and as such imports many of the inefficiencies and extravagances of that administration - an administration which is arguably one of the most lavish, expensive and inefficient in the Country.

We believe the Commission, far from being the independent and objective government department required of them, have deliberately prescribed a model destined to fail miserably in a clumsy attempt to support the Status Quo, discredit our proposal and persuade the North Rodney Community it will not work.

Morrison Low’s model is far more closely aligned with how a microcosm of the existing administration would work in isolation and illustrates the very shortcomings we are trying to deliver our Community from before it is too late.

Why would they do this?

Clearly we believe it is in pursuit of some mistaken policy or belief (proven wrong by all empirical studies) that bigger is necessarily better, and since the whole super city model championed by the Government is not working, they are desperately trying to stave off the inevitable day when Auckland Council’s failings are plain for all to see.

In the meantime many will believe this disgusting propaganda so we will be using all avenues at our disposal to mitigate the damage they have visited on us by not even seeking our comments before going to press. MM made no attempt to research,

review or balance the conclusions of Morrison Low before publishing - which in itself is very unprofessional journalism and is unbecoming of the standard we expect from our local paper.

You can help us mitigate this unfortunate state of affairs by writing to the editors of both MM and the Times and expressing your disgust at MM and the Commission's behavior which is a direct assault on our democracy and press professionalism. Demand that they not only publish an apology but investigate and report the whole matter properly to try and retrieve some balance in their coverage.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Bill Townson
Chair - Northern Action Group Inc.

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