

Our Appeal hearing in the Wellington High Court on March 30<sup>th</sup> will be something of a landmark legal event as well as being a crossroads for the future of local governance in North Rodney.

This new law was only passed in December 2012 and reflects Parliament's clearly expressed desire to reform local government and give communities like ours more say in their own governance.

It is the first time that this new law is being tested in Court and will hopefully clarify definitions of what is meant by terms it uses, such as 'affected area' and 'public Interest' in the context of the reorganization process.

The Judge's decision will be final and cannot be appealed so these interpretations will have significant implications for other groups and Councils around the Country contemplating (or facing proposals for) reorganization of their local governance (Northland, Waiheke, Hawkes Bay and the Wellington Region to name a few.)

The poor performance of the Auckland mayor and Council and the growing discontent of Aucklanders has soured many New Zealanders who hoped for great things from amalgamation and supported it. Sadly, as North Rodney has discovered, amalgamation under the current administration has meant that the greater pain is to be shared, while advantages only accrue to a lucky few.

We invite those of our community and those who support our campaign, to attend the hearing in Wellington if they possibly can and see history in the making.

The outcome will almost certainly have a considerable impact on our future whatever the Judge's decision is.

Bill Townson  
Chairman