



The Northern Action Group Inc.

The Northern Action Group Inc.(NAG) had its day in the Wellington High Court last Monday 30th March.

NAG is appealing the decision of the Local Government Commission to refuse to assess our proposal because it said it was 'not in the public interest'

After the Auckland Council was set up, there was a three-year moratorium preventing reorganisation applications affecting it. That moratorium expired in October 2013. NAG immediately applied to the Local Government Commission proposing that North Rodney secede from Auckland Council and set up its own unitary council after a poll showed overwhelming support for the application in the North Rodney community.

The Commission refused even to assess the application, purportedly because it considered the moratorium had not been long enough for the new Council to 'settle in'. The Commission also suggested that before an application could be assessed, NAG would have to poll and demonstrate support from the entire Auckland district. They also wanted us to define the Southern and seaward boundaries of North Rodney at a level of detail impossible for any community based group who do not have access to the necessary data bases.

In essence, our case was that the Commission acted unlawfully in rejecting our application. It had no power to extend the moratorium set by Parliament. It also makes no sense to poll people outside of the North Rodney area, as the proposal doesn't materially affect them and they would not be entitled to vote even if it were adopted by the Commission. Seaward boundaries can only be set by statute and land boundaries by the Commission itself who do have access to the data bases required.

Our Counsel, from the Wellington Public Law firm of Franks Ogilvie, argued our case strongly and we are confident of success which will restart the process of finding the best Local Governance arrangements for our community as clearly laid down as the principle purpose of the new revised reorganisation law.

Justice Collins has reserved his decision but has promised to give us an answer in the near future so watch this space.

Bill Townson
Chairman

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“ Campaigning to get Democracy for the people of North Rodney”