



The Northern Action Group Incorporated

Press Release November 2016

North Rodney Unitary Council Devolution Model Presented to Local Government Commission

Last Wednesday (November 2nd) members of the Northern Action Group (NAG) committee were invited to address the Local Government Commissioners to 'speak' to the NAG proposal to secede from the Auckland region and in particular the recent supplement which adopts the successful Thames- Coromandel (TCDC) "community empowerment" model.

In a two hour address NAG's approach was to focus on how this very inspiring model could be adapted to our original model. The address began with a brief recap of our recent governance history and moved on to detail how NAG went about gaining such a strong mandate from the community for their proposed 'North Rodney Unitary Council' (NRUC).

NAG then focused on the legislative requirements and showed in detail how its NRUC would meet all the specific criteria, something that none of the other recently filed "alternative" proposals and particularly the status quo could match.

It was then shown how the 'Community Empowerment' model of TCDC would enhance the original 'theoretical' model as it had the advantage of being a tried and working model, the results of which have clearly indicated to be a runaway success. "Lower rates, lower debt and above all better service delivery" and of a type the community itself has actually determined through its community boards. This process therefore results in what the community itself actually wants rather than being told by the bureaucrats what they are to be given (as in the status quo).

NAG was very fortunate to have Mr. David Hammond (the architect of the TCDC model) present to give a first hand account to the Commissioners as to how and why the 'Community Empowerment' model evolved and is so successful.



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The Commission will now undertake evaluating all the feed back they've had from various stakeholders and identify what is described in the legislation as "reasonably practical options". This part of the process will take some time as independent evaluations of each option will need to be obtained so we are unlikely to see any result until February- March next year.

The Commission Chairman (Sir Wira Gardiner) thanked NAG for what he described as a very professional presentation. He added that our community could rest assured that the Commission would work hard to find the best local governance for our area.

Bill Townson
Chair - Northern Action Group Inc.

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