



NORTHERN ACTION GROUP

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

With the local body elections now behind us we can now concentrate on our next goal. This is to have a referendum on whether or not North Rodney wants to be in the super city. It is intended that the referendum result be known approximately 2 months prior to the next general election. This is a time when budding MPs are trying to be elected and need our support, so are most likely to listen to what we want!

Our three newly elected local board members; June Turner, Tracy Martin and Steve Garner are all committed to this referendum as is the ward Councillor Penny Webster. I hope to organise a meeting between all four and NAG to discuss strategies in the near future.

Unfortunately Len Brown is the one mayoral candidate we couldn't secure a commitment from however his published policy on local boards and their relationship with the Governing Council (see below) makes it clear that he intends they will have plenty of input and influence on local issues. This is very much a local issue so hopefully he will be true to his word and give his support to this democratic process and promote whatever the outcome shows.

It is intended that an independent consultant be engaged to carry out a thorough report on all aspects of North Rodney's future both in and out of the super city including what the future might hold under an amalgamation with Kaipara District.

It is envisaged that this study will take several months to complete and will be presented in a factual format with no recommendations in order that the people of North Rodney can make an informed choice on how to vote. The report will go out with the voting papers so everyone will have an equal opportunity. The result will give the Auckland council a very clear mandate and will be able to proceed with confidence knowing they have the collective support of our community.

Before the process can begin our three local board members will need to gain the support of the other six members or at least have a majority so a united front can be presented to the Auckland Council through our ward councillor who will in turn endeavour to gain enough support for the process from that Governing body.

The process we are requesting is very similar to the process that should have been followed for the creation of the super city as laid down in the Local Government Act 2002 but was side-stepped for reasons of expediency by the Local Government Minister, effectively denying us our democratic rights.

NAG intends to do everything it can to restore those rights to the people of North Rodney.

Earlier this year our MP Lockwood Smith, in explaining his apparent lack of proactive support for upholding the select committee recommendation said that although he agreed that we shouldn't be part of the super city he didn't have sufficient facts to argue our case in caucus. He suggested that in a years time the issue could be revisited when a clearer picture will be emerging as to how we will fare long term under the urban Auckland based governance. It is those comments that inspire us to take this path and we sincerely hope he will support us when the time comes.

In the meantime we intend to build a 'dossier' of both good and bad experiences under this urban regime and we invite you to share any personal experiences to give as broad a picture as possible of how we are doing. Please Email us and be assured that strict privacy will be observed and only the event itself (minus any identifying factors) will be recorded.

Finally a big thank you to all those who have contributed financially to our cause.

Any further donations will be gratefully accepted and will still help us succeed.

Thank you

Bill Townson – Chairman

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"Campaigning to get Democracy for the people of North Rodney"