

Post Election Update 2017



The Northern Action Group Incorporated

Dear NAG Member/Supporter,

Well not everyone got what they wanted from the election but NAG did!

We now have Winston where we need him i.e. as King/Queen maker and therefore in a position to provide us with a binding referendum on our local governance.

Let's hope now that he doesn't give that commitment away in coalition negotiations. Not being an issue of national significance we feel it would be unlikely to be a sticking point for either the Nats or Labour who will be desperately wanting to be the party chosen to run the country.

In the meantime, the Local Government Commission (LGC), having delayed us for years, is not wasting time risking a change of policy under a new Government and is rushing in secret to push its own decision for Auckland on us. We have recently received a [communication](#) telling us that no-one will be able to see what they are doing until they have made that decision! Some of you may already have been rung in their survey to provide information to support their preferred options.

We have [written back](#) criticising their high-handed approach and saying it goes against the purposes of the Act and the spirit of democratic determination of local governance.

[Click on the highlighted links to our website to see the correspondence]

In the meantime, it falls to us, contrary to the LGC's approach, to ensure that you, our community, are fully and transparently informed and engaged in considering the options for North Rodney governance.

We want to see that the choice in a referendum on alternatives to Auckland Council's governance for North Rodney, if we get one, is for a viable, realistic and practical change - not one based on the model the LGC recently had done by ML consultants which is so deeply flawed.

We favour a Unitary Council for North Rodney, adopting the philosophy of Devolved Empowerment as used by Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC) but need to be sure that our proposal stacks up under a fair and open assessment (unlike the LGC's closed and un-engaged construction).

To that end, thanks to the funding from our supporters, we have been able to commission ARP consultants to prepare a financial model for a NRUC using costings benchmarked on similar councils, with appropriate variances where local

conditions demand it. This will be in stark contrast to the ML model which is based on Auckland Council's cost structures - far and away one of the most expensive local authorities in the Country.

More importantly we intend to make the model and data publicly available and invite constructive input from all interested parties, including the LGC themselves, to ensure it is as robust and accepted as possible.

Needless to say, we will be watching how the political coalition negotiations unfold and following that up to see how we can use the outcome to get the best local governance deal for you, our community!

Thanks again for your continued support for our efforts!

Yours sincerely

Bill Townson

Chair - Northern Action Group Inc.

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