

# **Waiheke Local Board and Maungawhau-Hauraki Gulf Islands ward as proposed by the Local Government Commission**

## **Ideas for further comments**

*We encourage you to write your own comments on your letter because it will mean much more to the Local Government Commission as it will be a great deal more powerful if you say what you feel in your own words.*

*To help you think of what to write, here are a whole heap of things you can choose (or not) to include in your own letter to the submission –*

- I live in \_\_\_\_\_ and my neighbours and I have little or no relationship with Mt Eden, Epsom, Parnell Ponsonby, Herne Bay or the Central Business District because...
- Putting Waiheke in a ward with one councillor representing all these different areas is not fair because we are so different from them it's like we come from different planets!
- A councillor from Mt Eden Parnell, Grey Lynn or anywhere else on the isthmus have no real idea what life is like for me and my family here on Waiheke.
- Having 1 councillor representing such a large land area and such a huge and diverse population (88,000) makes it impossible for regular people to run for the Auckland Council.
- 88,000 is larger than our Auckland Central Parliamentary electorate! And we know how hard our MP works to represent all the people in Auckland Central including us on Waiheke. It'll be even harder for one councillor with a larger population.
- An Auckland councillor representing me and 88,000 won't be accountable to us. And I doubt that being in such a big ward will encourage people to get involved in local government.
- There are more voters on the isthmus so it's unlikely we'll get a person from the Hauraki Gulf elected on the Auckland Council.
- Our local board needs to reflect our community and will be working really hard so we need to make sure they are paid fairly so that younger people are encouraged to stand.
- Having a smaller population doesn't mean less work for our Local Board. We need at least 6 members on the board to do all the work and get a spread of skills and knowledge
- On our local board we need to make sure that Maori are represented. We should have one member elected or appointed by our Maori community and/or from Ngati Paoa the mana whenua of the island.

- We keep being told that we have an advantage in having our own community board, yet we still haven't the final word on what the rights and responsibilities the board will have. Without the legal rights to manage our own roads, water systems, green spaces and reserves the much celebrated Board will be useless. The language of the latest version of the Act says we would have only the right to indicate to the greater council, our "preferences".
- The best option would still be for Waiheke, with responsibility for the other Gulf Islands (without Gt. Barrier of course) to have it's own councilor. It's going to be impossible to get adequate representation on the Big Council.
- Money is a big issue. If we are to be able to do what is needed for the Island, the Community Board would have to be able to rate, levy a wharf tax and get funding for appropriate care of our environment from national and regional sources.
- Auckland City has ignored the good advice of Islanders who clearly opted for a separation of upgrading of the Library and the Service Center. We know how the place works; the parking, the walking, the spread of activity between villages. A waste of monies for a bad outcome, and we have to live with it. This is a prime example of why we want real control, not bureaucratic decision making.
- I've looked at the Transition Agency website, and it seems that what we can look forward to is rule by bureaucrats; it goes by the name of "management". We've had plenty of this management since we've been amalgamated with Auckland City, and our roads, green spaces and reserves have been tidied up (city style) and damaged as a result. It looks like we can expect more of the same, on a greater scale of destruction with the larger, bigger, more improved bureaucracy.
- We have been designated as Auckland's playground, and our beautiful location in the Gulf and our unique small village ambience attracts many overseas visitors. However without the people who make this wonderful place their home, having the real control over development we stand to lose what makes us special. This has happened in other parts of the globe, we should be learning from that experience. We are aiming to become a Biosphere Reserve, but that takes time, and we want to protect what we have, NOW. The community board needs to be given the necessary powers to protect this precious place.
- The loss of democratic rights in the setting up of the mega-city is shocking. Waiheke has become caught up in the numbers game, and inevitably lost out. The Local Government Act promises us more democracy and talks about the focus being on the "well being of local communities". We are an Island community and there is no way that we will get what we need for our well-being in being lumped in with the City. We've lost out on our own councilor it seems, and our only hope now is that we have some real, legal control invested in the new Community Board.

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