

Not such a super deal for Rodney

Mayor Penny Webster has been working hard over the past few weeks to increase the Government's understanding of the issues facing Rodney and the effect being part of a Super City may have on the district.

"A Super City Council will be focused on sorting out Auckland's transport problems, developing the CBD, improving parks and putting on events in the city," says Mayor Webster.

"We are facing different issues to metropolitan Auckland. For instance, Rodney has more kilometres of unsealed roads than North Shore City has of roads in total. Our focus is on providing residents with core services such as water and wastewater, as some of our communities don't have access to adequate systems."

Mayor Webster says she is concerned that if Rodney is subsumed into a Super City, its residents are likely to end up paying for projects and services in metro Auckland which they won't use. "We won't have enough votes on the new Council to ensure that local issues in Rodney get the attention they need."

Mayor Webster has been busy lobbying key stakeholders and attending meetings in recent weeks to raise these issues. She has chaired two regional meetings involving Auckland Mayors and Local Government Minister Rodney Hide.

The Mayor has also met separately with both Rodney Hide and Prime Minister John Key to express her views on the Super City proposal.

"I have recommended to the Government that they look seriously at leaving Rodney out of the Super City on the basis that we face different issues to the metropolitan Auckland Councils and that a Super City will not represent Rodney's interests well."

Prime Minister John Key says, "We're continuing to discuss proposed changes to Auckland's local government structure with the region's leaders and we're listening to the views of Aucklanders."

Mayor Webster points out that regardless of whether residents agree with the decisions this Council has made, under the current system they have the right to vote for elected members every three years who can decide what services should be provided and how Rodney should develop.

"Under the Super City proposal we are only likely to have one ward Councillor representing all of Rodney, who will have very little influence over the decisions that are made for this district."

Mayor Webster is encouraging Rodney residents to contact their local MPs and let them know what they think of the Super City proposals. The district is represented by:

- Rodney MP Lockwood Smith. Email: mp.rodney.warkworth@xtra.co.nz, and
- Prime Minister and Helensville MP John Key. Email: j.key@ministers.govt.nz.
- Northland MP John Carter. Email: j.carter@ministers.govt.nz.



The Mayor reading to Tauhoia school pupils last week.

May Reading Challenge

This month Rodney Mayor Penny Webster is leading 'Mayor Penny's Reading Challenge' which encourages children to 'read for half an hour a day during the month of May.'

To promote the challenge Mayor Webster will be visiting a number of schools in Rodney to share stories with school pupils.

It's simple to take part in the challenge. Entry is open to children in Years 1 – 8. Entry forms are available from Rodney libraries and have also been distributed to schools throughout the District. Children just need to read for half and hour a day during May and have their reading verified by a parent, caregiver or teacher.

All children who complete the challenge will receive a certificate and will go into a prize draw to win a bike or other consolation prizes.

Helensville Says No to Super City

Waitakere City Council has recently released the results of a telephone survey of what residents who form part of the Waitakere and Helensville Electorates think about being part of a Super City. Only 34% of Waitakere residents living in the Helensville electorate said they supported the Super City proposal, while 48% said they weren't in favour of being part of Auckland.

The survey also asked whether people preferred the idea of having 6 local Councils as recommended by the Royal Commission or 20 – 30 local boards which the Government supports. 72% of Waitakere residents living in the Helensville electorate said they preferred having 6 local Councils, while only 19% said they liked the idea of local boards being introduced.

Exhibit has Impact



More than 600 people visited a "Grenade" Exhibit during Anzac Day weekend, many of whom were stunned into silence at the display.

The exhibit showed the effect on a car of a head-on collision at 125 kph, the equivalent of 10 grenades exploding simultaneously. The graphic exhibit, which showed the car a micro-second after the explosion, was the brainchild of Saatchi & Saatchi who funded the two-day display with support from Rodney District Council.

The Council's Road Safety Coordinator, Jacki Dawson, says evidence indicates that people speed quite regularly, women generally 5 -10 kph over

the posted speed limit while men tend to travel faster. Speeding is seen as socially acceptable. "But most people were unaware of the destruction a head-on collision at that speed could cause," says Jacki.

Jacki surveyed a sample of people who saw the exhibit and found that most of them would rethink how quickly they travelled after seeing the result of the collision.

"To put it simply speed kills. The faster you go, the bigger the mess," says Jacki. "People who attended the exhibition saw a visual demonstration of the impact of a high speed collision and it is something they are not likely to forget."

Kumeu Huapai Consultation

Rodney District Council is holding a series of open days to talk to Kumeu and Huapai residents about how their towns could develop in the future.

Kumeu and Huapai currently have a population of 1,400. The towns are expected to experience rapid growth over the next decade – with the population forecast to triple to 4,200 by 2021.

The high level of growth expected means that additional land will need to be made available for new homes and businesses.

The open days will discuss possible changes to planning rules to allow new industrial, commercial and residential land to be developed. Council staff will be on hand to explain how new zones will be serviced by water, wastewater, stormwater and roads.

The New Zealand Transport Agency is also preparing a transportation study for Kumeu's Main Road. Representatives will be using the open days as an opportunity to consult the local community about traffic issues on the Main Road section of State Highway 16.

"Rather than running a series of separate consultation processes we have decided to hold a series of open days to consult residents about a whole range of issues affecting the future development

of Kumeu and Huapai," says RDC's Western Sector Project Manager Gavin Flynn.

Mr Flynn is encouraging local residents, businesses and developers to come along to the sessions and let the Council know their views about how the towns should develop in the future. "We are particularly interested in hearing what people think of the idea of a new residential area in Huapai North and the zoning and layout for proposed business land in Huapai South."

The open days are being held at the following times:

- Saturday 16th May, 1 - 3pm, Kumeu Hall (Small Hall)
- Wednesday 20th May, 7 - 9pm, Kumeu Masonic Lodge
- Sunday 24th May, 1 - 3pm, Kumeu Hall (Small Hall)

For more information about the open days go to www.rodney.govt.nz.

Composting Workshops

Rodney District Council is holding a series of free composting workshops over the next few weeks. The sessions are being held at the following times:

- Saturday 16 May, Warkworth Masonic Hall, 2.30 - 4.30pm
- Saturday 23 May, Orewa Community Centre, 2.30 - 4.30pm
- Saturday 6 June, Orewa Community Centre, 2.30 - 4.30pm

To book a place at the sessions phone 0800 426 5169.

upcoming Rodney District Council Meetings

Full Council.....next meetings 21st May, Extraordinary Council meetings to hear submissions to the LTCCP: 18th May (Kumeu Community Centre), 19th May, 20th May and 22nd May (Catholic Church, Warkworth)

Infrastructure and Environment Committee next meeting 4th June

District Plan and Regulatory Committeenext meeting 6th May

Strategy and Community Committee..... next meeting 7th May

Meeting starting times

All meetings commence at 9.00 a.m. unless otherwise notified.

Meeting venues

Meetings are normally held in the Council Chambers, 50 Centreway Road, Orewa.