

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

RODNEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Penny Webster - Mayor (Chairperson)
Crs Ross Craig
Pat Delich
Michael Goudie
Gaye Harding
John Kirikiri
Dave Parker, QSM
Grahame Powell
Zane Taylor
June Turner
Grev Walker
Wayne Walker
Suzanne Weld

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Rodney District Council will take place in the Council Chamber, Centreway Road, Orewa on Tuesday, 23 June 2009, commencing at 10.00 a.m. for the purpose of considering the Council's submission to the Auckland Governance Legislation Select Committee.

for: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Rodger Kerr-Newell

OREWA
17 June 2009

* * * * *

I N D E X

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1.	Apologies	1
2.	Submission to the Auckland Governance Legislation Select Committee	1

* * * * *

ITEM NO: 1

APOLOGIES

ITEM NO: 2

REPORT



TO Council
ON 23 June 2009
FROM Rory Palmer – General Manager: Strategy
APPROVED BY Warren Maclennan – Acting Chief Executive
SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren Maclennan".

SUBJECT SUBMISSION TO THE AUCKLAND GOVERNANCE LEGISLATION SELECT COMMITTEE
FILE REF AH/1/17/2; AE/16/1

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

<input type="checkbox"/> Information only	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory process
<input type="checkbox"/> Community issue	<input type="checkbox"/> Contract decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delegation	<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative matter			

IMPLICATIONS:

(i)	Is this matter significant in terms of Council's Policy on Significance? While the issue of Auckland governance is of high significance, this report is only a step in the process in seeking Council approval for a submission.
(ii)	Implications in terms of Vision Rodney? Not applicable
(iii)	Implications in terms of Long Term Council Community Plan / Annual Plan? Not applicable
(iv)	Implications in terms of other Council Strategic documents or Council Policy? This report is consistent with and follows on from Council decisions on the matter.
(v)	Is a budget amendment required? No

(vi)	Have the views of affected or interested persons been obtained and is any further public consultation required?
	The Council has met with a wide range of stakeholders and further consultation may be carried out. Members of the Rodney public are also able to submit to the Auckland Governance Legislation Committee process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital cost implications	None at this stage.
Is it currently budgeted for?	Any expenses incurred on the submission process are minor arising from staff time and are met from existing budgets.
Funding source of capital costs	Not applicable
Ongoing operational cost implications	Not applicable
Is it currently budgeted for?	Yes
Funding & rating impact (whether resulting from capital expenditure or arising directly)	Not applicable

SUMMARY:

The Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill is intended to establish a single local unitary authority for the Auckland Region. The Bill is very specific on the location of the new Auckland Council's southern border but does not explicitly deal with the northern border. The Minister of Local Government has raised the northern border issue in the media, saying that the Government is seeking public views on where that border should be. The submission (to be tabled prior to the meeting) is a response to that question and the implications arising from it.

On 21 May 2009 the Council resolved to:

"Investigate further the option of Rodney becoming a unitary authority outside the Auckland Council and that this form the basis of the Council's submission to the Select Committee considering the local government (Auckland Council) Bill"

This report presents the findings of that investigation included in a Council submission to the Select Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) **That the submission, including any amendments as agreed at the meeting, to be forwarded to the Auckland Governance Legislation Select Committee by the due date of 26 June, be approved.**
- (b) **That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive be delegated authority to present the Council's submission to the Auckland Governance Legislation Select Committee Hearings.**

1.0 Background

The Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill proposes that the local authorities currently making up the Auckland Region be amalgamated into a single "unitary council". This council would have territorial local authority (city and district), as well as regional council functions.

Submissions on this Bill must be forwarded to the Auckland Governance Legislation Select Committee by 26 June 2009.

2.0 Issues

The Rodney District Council supports the Government in amalgamating the Region's metropolitan councils. It is concerned, however, that Rodney, along with Franklin, comprises mainly small settlements and rural communities and that excluding these from the Auckland Council would improve Auckland's chances for achieving the Government's objectives.

It would also improve the governance of the Rodney District because, as the Bill stands, decisions affecting Rodney would effectively be made by majority support from the 18 metropolitan Auckland councillors and not by the one councillor elected from Rodney.

This leaves Rodney citizens with little real ability to influence decisions affecting them, as the Auckland Council elected members will not be electorally accountable to, or electorally dependent on, citizens from Rodney.

3.0 Options

The Council has previously considered four options and resolved to support the investigation into a unitary council.

4.0 Conclusion

The submission is presented to the Council for approval. It is recommended that delegated Council representatives speak to the submission.