

Have Your Say on the Super City

Guide to Making a Submission on the Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill

What is a Bill?

Bills are drafts of proposed new laws. Parliament considers several different types of a bill in formal stages. If they pass through all those stages they become new laws, called Acts of Parliament. After the first stage a bill is referred to select committee.

What is a Select Committee?

A select committee provides an opportunity for the public to have a say on the contents of a bill. Once a bill is referred to a select committee, the committee usually has 6 months to examine the bill and prepare a report for the House, although in this case the timeframe is much shorter. The Select Committee on Auckland Governance Legislation has called for submissions on the Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill which are due by **26 June 2009**.

The select committee members are: National Party: Jackie Blue, Simon Bridges, John Carter (Chairperson), Tau Henare (Deputy-Chairperson), Nikki Kaye; ACT: John Boscawen; Green Party: Sue Bradford; Maori Party: Hone Harawira; Labour Party: George Hawkins, Shane Jones, Su'a William Sio, Phil Twyford (one non-voting member).

What is purpose of this bill?

The Bill establishes the governance structure of the Auckland Council, the Local Boards, and provides for the establishment of the Local Government Commission. The Bill:

- Establishes the framework, structure, functions, powers, duties and membership of the Auckland Council – 8 members elected at large and 12 members from wards.
- Provides for 20 – 30 local boards and sets out their functions.
- Provides for the Local Government Commission to establish the boundaries of the wards of the Auckland Council and the local boards, and the number of local boards and their membership.
- Further, it provides specific direction to the Local Government Commission on dealing with the Southern Boundary.
- It also proposes amendments to two local government Acts to allow remuneration, allowances and expenses payable to be determined by the Remuneration Authority, and for the Auckland Transition Agency to approve a process for, and oversee, the planning and management of the integration of Auckland's water supply and wastewater services by Watercare Services Limited.

What the Labour Party supports:

Like many of you, we are concerned about what's happening with the plans for Auckland's Supercity and the impact on democracy. We want to work with you and community groups to help you get a real say in our city's future.

- A Mayor who is accountable to us without some of the extra powers proposed
- All Auckland Council positions to be elected by local wards, to ensure a local voice
- Keeping the "Local" in Local Government with legislated roles for Community Boards or Local Councils, real resources and decision-making powers.
- An agreed system of Maori representation.

What is a Submission?

A submission is the presentation of views or opinions on a matter currently under consideration by a select committee. By writing or presenting a submission, you are providing the committee with your own insights, observations and opinions. The reasons that you provide for any changes that you believe should be made, or actions you believe should be taken, will give validity to your submission.

Written Submissions:

Please present your submission in a way that is ordered and easy to read. You should include the following information in your submission:

Heading: Head your submission with the name of the select committee to which it is addressed and the full title of the bill (Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill).

Who is it from? Clearly state who the submission is from. State your name or give the name of the organisation you are representing. Include a contact address, an email address and daytime telephone number.

Oral submission? Clearly indicate whether you would like to speak to the committee in person. If you wish others to appear in support, include their names and, if representing an organisation, designations.

Content: Your submission does not have to cover everything in the Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill, you can focus on one particular aspect or aspects, or make a general statement. However make sure it only addresses specifically the matters raised in the bill. Consider listing your submission's recommendations or summing up its main points.

Oral Submissions:

Oral submissions provide you with the opportunity to reinforce what you have said in your written submission. They also allow the committee to clarify points raised in that submission. If the committee has decided to hear your submission, committee staff will inform you of the time and place of the meeting and the time allocated for your submission. Notification may be at short notice.

Sending your Submission:

Two copies of your submission should be sent to AGL@parliament.govt.nz or by post to:

Clerk of the Committee
Auckland Governance Legislation Select Committee
Select Committee Office
Freepost Parliament
Wellington

The deadline for submissions is **26 June 2009**.

For more info:

A more detailed version of this guide <http://labourparty.org.nz/supercity>

Download a copy of the Bill
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0036-1/latest/versions.aspx>

Read the Royal Commission's report <http://www.royalcommission.govt.nz/>

Labour views and opinions on Super City <http://blog.labour.org.nz/> <http://www.labour.org.nz/news>