



WHANGAREI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Public Notices and News continued

A Whangarei Leader and WDC joint venture for Whangarei ratepayers.

"Haven't seen Joe today?"

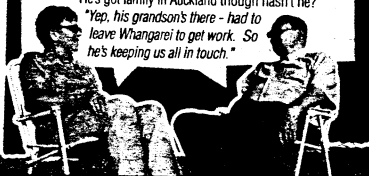
"No - he went to Auckland for his operation."

"Really? Thought he was on the waiting list up here."

"Nah. Would've had to wait too long, the doc said, getting urgent, so they sent him down there. Val was upset though - she couldn't go with him 'cause of her hip."

"He's got family in Auckland though hasn't he?"

"Yep, his grandson's there - had to leave Whangarei to get work. So he's keeping us all in touch."



Other reasons to find out more:

- We can do better!
- One tier of local government means no more 'buck-passing, less confusion.
- A better, cleaner environment.
- A brighter future for our kids.
- The Auckland Supercity will be finalised before we know it.

Next year central government will release a discussion paper about reform in the rest of NZ.

- Conversations like ours are happening right around NZ. Like other regions we need to stay ahead of the game and tell government what we want - not be caught unprepared like Auckland.

Not the future you want?

This is just one of the reasons we're making a noise about 'local government reform'.

So what's the connection with local councils?

Good health services aren't all up to the health boards. Councils are the ones that influence 'sense of place' - the vibe and the facilities that make a region, town or city attractive to people with hard-to-find skillsets like doctors, engineers and mechanics.

If it's important to you that Northland is a vibrant place that you like to live in and attracts the right people to service all our

needs, **ACT NOW**. Get involved! Read the information, get a copy of the McKinlay Douglas report on local government options for Northland, attend a public meeting, but above all, **HAVE YOUR SAY** on what you want for Northland's local government, before 31 May. See advertisement on this page or email havesay@northlandoptions.co.nz or visit www.wdc.govt.nz.

OK, I understand what you're on about, but I'm suspicious....

What about the assets? This is just about one council 'grabbing assets' from another.

A: Councils don't own assets - they just look after them on behalf of the ratepayers (you). District and regional council ratepayers are all the same! After a reorganisation, the situation will be exactly the same - the assets will belong to the ratepayers. The existing councils will morph into something different.

What about the environment?

Can a unitary council successfully be both poacher and gamekeeper - grant resource consents for its own work, then monitor them?

A: Many regional councils hold consents for work they do themselves, and monitor them successfully. But to safeguard against any problems, McKinlay recommends the use of independent commissioners, and that the Environmental Protection Authority should be given more 'teeth' so it can monitor unitary councils' resource consents.

Weren't the consultants just briefed to come up with the answer they did?

A: McKinlay Douglas says: "In a word, we do not put our reputation at risk to satisfy the whim of a couple of mayors in regional New Zealand."

GET INVOLVED - FIND OUT MORE - TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR MATES - HAVE A SAY