

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Whangarei Report 1/4/10

Light relief

It is always amusing to read the light relief in your "Our Patch" column.

"The report is finished", says Mr Semenoff, "And has gone out for public consultation, and what happens now is entirely up to you, the people of Northland."

Yeah right!

Perhaps if Mayor Semenoff had any respect for public opinion he would have consulted with the public as to what they wanted before rushing off to engage a consultant to come up with an entirely predictable report.

Just how Northland will do better with two unitary authorities beggars belief and the McKinlay Douglas report is pretty sketchy on this.

And who did McKinlay Douglas talk to?

At the Dargaville "consultation" meeting Mr McKinlay admitted talking to just 30 people, all of whom were suggested to him by the councils involved!

At the Whangarei gathering he also admitted never attending a council meeting, making and/or following a submission process, applying for a resource consent or applying for information under the Official Information Act.

The Regional Council weren't having a bar of this self serving charade and so he didn't talk to them either.

In other words, Mr McKinlay knows diddly squat about how our councils operate at present but feels qualified to participate in an exercise to throw the baby out with the bath water.

Perhaps Alan Dick, writing in NZ Today a few years ago, is closer to the mark when, referring to Northland, he said: "I've had the impression that the place has been a bit feudal in the way that it's run, with considerably more self interest than vision."

Well Alan, self interest has just taken on a whole new dimension.

— Wayne Deeming,
Maungakaramea