

08 April 2019

Open Letter to His Worship the Mayor  
Auckland Council Governing Body  
Phil.Goff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Your Worship

The 21 Local Board Chairs of Auckland Council hold significant concerns as to what appears to be a gradual but consistent reduction of subsidiarity in their shared governance role within Auckland Council.

In 2017 a review was conducted by Gareth Stiven<sup>1</sup> on the shared governance model of Auckland Council. His report identified Local Boards did not hold enough subsidiarity delegations. His report provided multiple recommendations to the Governing body to improve the governance role of Local Boards, these were addressed under four themes:

- organisational structures and culture have not adapted to the complexity of the model<sup>2</sup>
- complementary decision-making, but key aspects of overlap
- lack of alignment of accountabilities with responsibilities
- local boards are not sufficiently empowered.

As a result, the Governance Framework Review Political Working Party was formed, with participants chosen by yourself, to identify priority recommendations and progress implementation of those including delegations and decision making. This work is fundamental to ensuring the intention of the Act<sup>3</sup> is fulfilled.

It is an irony that Local Boards now find themselves in a worse position than in 2017 in terms of their input into decision making on by-laws, as per the Act.<sup>4</sup>

*s16 (b) identifying and communicating the interests and preferences of the people in its local board area in relation to the content of the strategies, policies, plans, and bylaws of the Auckland Council;*

For example, in the current consultation on the "Policy on Dogs" and "Dog Management Bylaw" Local Boards have been invited to speak to the Hearings Panel with their input **before** the consultation period closes. This is not appropriate if Local Boards are to identify and communicate the interests and preferences of their local board area.

This by-law is going through a formal consultation process, therefore Local Boards should be receiving and analysing the formal feedback before they present their community's views to the Hearing Panel.

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<sup>1</sup> Governance framework review 17 November 2016 FINAL REPORT

<sup>2</sup> Governance framework review 17 November 2016 FINAL REPORT, p6

<sup>3</sup> Local Government (Auckland Council Act 2009)

<sup>4</sup> Local Government (Auckland Council Act 2009) s16

A similar approach was taken with the 'Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw' where by Local Boards were again limited to their input in the process of the development of the by-law.

There has been no sympathy from the Community and Social Policy Department in response to the advocacy of many Chairs on the right for their governance role to be respected. They are unmoved. In fact, one Chair has been advised they may attend a formal 'Have Your Say' event but may not speak.

The 21 Local Board Chairs are united in their concerns over limitations being placed over our legislated roles for our communities. This culture of marginalising Local Board's input and undermining of the shared governance model is particularly an issue we have encountered within the Community and Social Policy Department.

It is unclear to us why the previous practice of Local Board input has changed, particularly when we are dealing with internal Council processes where the Council organisation is totally in control of the timeframe and could easily add in time to properly include Local Boards as required by the legislation and allocation table.

Another consequence of the limitation of our input is that it places us in a difficult position with our communities. The perception is we are not fulfilling our responsibilities on their behalf and as the first point of contact for the public we are front facing their understandable angst with no apparent recourse to adjust the current process.

We respectfully request a meeting with you and a delegation of local board chairs to discuss our concerns.

Yours sincerely



Peter Haynes  
Chair – Albert Eden Local Board



George Wood  
Chair – Devonport Takapuna Local Board



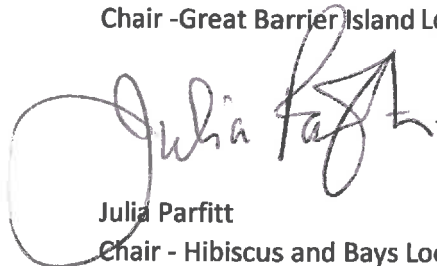
Angela Fulljames  
Chair – Franklin Local Board



Izzy Fordham  
Chair -Great Barrier Island Local Board



Shane Henderson  
Chair - Henderson-Massey Local Board



Julia Parfitt  
Chair - Hibiscus and Bays Local Board



David Collings  
Chair – Howick Local Board



John Gillon  
Chair – Kaipātiki Local Board



Leumaga Lydia Sosene  
Chair - Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board



Chris Makoare  
Chair – Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board



Angela Dalton  
Chair – Manurewa Local Board



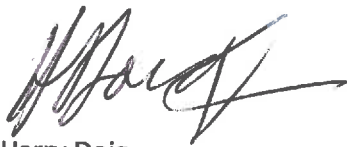
Kit Parkinson  
Chair - Ōrākei Local Board



Lotu Fuli  
Chair – Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board



Brent Catchpole  
Chair - Papakura Local Board



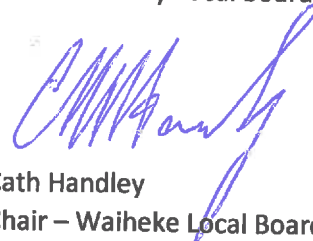
Harry Doig  
Chair - Puketāpapa Local Board



Beth Houlbrooke  
Chair – Rodney Local Board



Margaret Miles  
Chair – Upper Harbour Local Board



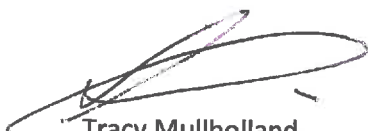
Cath Handley  
Chair – Waiheke Local Board



Greg Presland  
Chair – Waitākere Local Board



Pippa Coombes  
Chair – Waitematā Local Board



Tracy Mullholland  
Chair - Whau Local Board