

5 May 2009

## **SUPERCITY: PAPAKURA VOICES ITS CONCERN**

More than 1000 Papakura residents flocked to a public meeting on a cold Monday evening to voice their concerns about the Government's proposals for the future of Auckland.

Calum Penrose, Mayor of Papakura, hails the turnout as "fantastic, a true show of Papakura's concern about this vital issue that sends a strong message to Parliament."

Attending the meeting were MPs Judith Collins, Nanaia Mahuta and John Carter. Mr Carter answered a number of questions from the floor but clearly did not convince the meeting that the Government had got it right. On a show of hands there was almost unanimous rejection of the Government's proposal.

Many comments reflected the concern that the people of Papakura want decisions that affect them, made locally and their local Councillors to be responsible and accountable to them for local service delivery. There was also real concern about the cost of the changes and the effect on the ratepayers of Auckland. As one speaker put it "think how many kids you could clothe and feed for \$240 million".

Deputy Mayor Peter Goldsmith said the Council supports formation of a Super City to make regional decisions but wants to keep the "local" in local government to make sure that the second tier of local government has real teeth and can deliver for its community.

The meeting also heard from Tony Mayow who is the spokesperson for the Community Coalition for Auckland who spoke of the need for change but stressed the need for Government to do it "with us, not to us". A number of residents volunteered to form an action committee in Papakura to ensure that the local community's voice continues to be heard.

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For more information, please contact:

Mark Baker  
Communications Advisor  
Papakura District Council  
Telephone: 09 295 1300  
Mobile: 027 442 3044  
Email: [mbaker@papakura.govt.nz](mailto:mbaker@papakura.govt.nz)