

MEDIA RELEASE

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“HAND OF FRIENDSHIP” SURPRISES PAPAKURA MAYOR

Mayor Calum Penrose has said he is “surprised but pleased” at Papakura MP Judith Collins publicly “extending the hand of friendship” to him.

He says he is surprised because the last meeting he had with Ms Collins was “far from friendly”.

“If Judith regrets her previous statements and is willing to put that behind us, I am more than happy to work constructively with her. For me this was never personal, as the Mayor my job is to represent the people of Papakura and that means holding our local MP to account over issues that matter to the people of the District. The many people who approach me every day and the 1000 people who turned out to our public meeting have made it clear they do not support the Supercity – I just want to make sure that Judith conveys that message to the government.”

Mr Penrose says Papakura District Council has never wanted a super city and it doesn't appear the majority of residents do either.

“However, I understand that as a Cabinet Minister she has to toe the party line. It appears that the government has already made up its mind – Judith herself says ‘the debate is no longer about whether the new authority will happen.’ I had hoped the government wouldn't make up its mind until after they had heard from the people of Auckland – but as it seems that they have then I would like Judith and I to work together to get the best possible outcome for Papakura that we can.”

Mr Penrose said he has written to Ms Collins asking her to ensure that the people of Papakura who took the time and trouble to make submissions do not get them rejected.

“Several people have approached me now telling me that this is what is happening to them. The government made a commitment that they would listen to the people of Auckland through the Select Committee process – we want them to be true to their word.”

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