

**Submission to Local Government ( Auckland Council ) Bill : June 22 2009**  
**Clerk of the Committee, Auckland Governance Legislation, Local Government and Environment Select Committee Office, Parliament House, Wellington : Phone : 04 817 6975**  
email : [AGL@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:AGL@parliament.govt.nz)

**Re Local Government ( Auckland Council ) Bill – Auckland Governance Legislation Bill 2**

**Name : Waiheke Island Community Planning Group Inc - WICPG**

**Address : P.O.Box 49, Oneroa, Waiheke Island, Auckland 1840**

**Contacts : Christopher Wragge - Secretary – 09 372 9541 – 0274 722295 – [ccwragge@gmail.com](mailto:ccwragge@gmail.com)**  
**Pita Rikys – Chairman – 09 372 6414 – 021 026 79048 - [pitarikys@yahoo.com](mailto:pitarikys@yahoo.com)**

WICPG wishes to be heard of this submission : June 22 2009 :

### **Background :**

The Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board was established in 1968. In 1989 the then Waiheke County Council was amalgamated into the ACC. In 2008 the Waiheke Island & Hauraki Gulf community members contributed 28% of the 3500 submissions to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance, and were heard by the Commission at the Conference Centre in Claris Great Barrier on Friday June 27, and on Waiheke at an all day hearing held on Piritahi Marae on Thursday July 10 2008. The Waiheke community especially supported the ARC Option 5 “The One and the Many” proposal for a 2-tier system of governance. Under this option all assets would be owned in common by one organisation, and local communities would be granted more devolved powers to build on local strengths and to respond to local priorities. Subsequently the Royal Commission ( which reported on March 27 2009 ) found in favour of Waiheke and Great Barrier being granted wider delegated powers than they currently receive, in recognition of their unique character which was not well recognised or understood by the ACC. The report went on to recognise the special nature of the Hauraki Gulf which has its own legislation, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000. Subsequently the government introduced the herein referred to Bill on May 13 2009, as the second of a three Bill Auckland Governance Legislation programme.

### **Insights and reflections upon the future for our Waiheke Governance**

Recently secretary Wragge of the Waiheke Island Community Planning Group Inc attended two very important conferences about sustainability governance issues and environmental management issues within New Zealand. The first was arranged by Waihekeans Prue Taylor and Professor Klaus Bosselmann at the Auckland University Centre for Environmental Law (NZCEL) on “[Property Rights and Sustainability](#)”, and the second was organised by the Environmental Defence Society ( EDS ) titled “[Reform in Paradise](#)”. Listen to selected podcasts [here](#).

These conferences have come at a very opportune time when we consider the changes currently being considered for Auckland's future governance as per the Auckland Governance Legislation reorganisation, and as Waihekeans and Aucklanders and New Zealanders there was much to gestate over. The focus for us was in the realisation of the inherent relationships being discussed, and about what priorities competing matters should be given if we are to govern better into our immediate and longer term future. And as all Waihekeans now know, our current Waiheke masters Auckland City Council ( ACC ) do not give much truck to such issues outside of a command and control, and business as usual, worldview.

The first and paramount tension was that between property rights and sustainability and Prue and Klaus were to be congratulated for their courage in arranging such a conference.

The second tension was in the evolution of such ideas into NZ legislation, and the RMA Amendment Bill, and the evolving move now from the more adversarial property rights Resource Management Act 1991 ( RMA ) towards a more collaborative Local Government Act 2002 ( LGA ) approach, especially as recognised by the newly established Land & Water [Forum](#) which was endorsed this month by the NZ Government.

The third priority was in the planning tools which are now evolving to facilitate this evolution – namely

- Strategic Assessment...time effective forward consultation for strategic infrastructure
- Hybrid Governance...project hierarchical and lateral collaborative together for a 2-tier model
- Community PhotoVoice...facilitating a time and cost effective voice for Local Boards

And the last observation was the noting from attendee lists that the Auckland City Council was not represented at either conference among their collective 350 attendees who represented internationally eminent scholars, leading politicians, NZ Treasury officials, Australian & NZ government officials, Regional and T.A. councillors and officers, leading NGO's, media, and others, perhaps because the Citizens and Ratepayers ( C&R ) dominated ACC finds the issues just too challenging and prefers to remain with their collective heads buried deep in the past.

**Hence it is imperative that the Auckland Council incorporates more vision within its sustainability governance practices and associated organisational structures, perhaps as outlined above.**

What this all means for us as Waihekeans within this current debate is that the current ACC administration is simply following the past USA Bush administration ethos of privileged corporate deregulated anti-sustainability and anti-community arrogance, and that due to this cultural incompatibility that our Waiheke survival and future well-being in the Hauraki Gulf will be best found elsewhere.

Thus WICPG endorses the submission of Colin Beardon with its desired outcomes for a more internationally managed, and sustainability focused, protocol for Waiheke and the Hauraki Gulf. Additionally we strongly support a full ward system for the Auckland Council, and most importantly we support optimum legislated powers for a more devolved future governance for Waiheke Island and our Hauraki Gulf.

Submission:

WICPG opposes this Bill as detailed below

**Sect 5 & Sect 7 - Meaning of Auckland & Auckland Council established** – Constitute a separate local governance entity for the Hauraki Gulf and its islands seeking international recognition for its integrated approach to sustainability, as our special iconic geography and conservation history and community demographic together skew our community towards a more collaborative and sustainability governance ideal, which in turn makes us culturally incompatible with isthmus anti-sustainability and anti-community priorities. ( e.g wheelie bins and HGIPP outcomes, and ACC's command and control governance practices ).

**Sect 8 - Governing body of Auckland Council** - and election of members – we support a full ward system with no members to be elected at-large, as opposed to having 8 at-large and 12 ward members.

**Sect 9 - Mayor of Auckland** - we oppose the mayor being able to appoint committee chairs.

**Sect 10 - Local Boards** – establish a separate local governance entity for peri-urban Waiheke Island and another for Great Barrier Island, which reconciles with Sect 5 & 7 comments above.

**Sect 13 - Functions, duties, and powers of local boards** – we support optimum legislated delegated powers for Waiheke and the Hauraki Gulf which reconcile with Sect 5 & 7 & 10 comments above..

**References :**

Neil Gunningham on Innovative Governance & Regulatory Design – Chapter 7 – A New Paradigm ?

[http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/release.asp?Ne\\_ID=278](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/release.asp?Ne_ID=278)

**Dr Bryan Jenkins ECAN CEO on Strategic Assessment**

<http://www.haurakiconservation.org.nz/podcasts/index.php?id=23>

**Alastair Bisley on the Land and Water Forum and Collaborative Governance**

<http://www.haurakiconservation.org.nz/podcasts/index.php?id=24>