



Papamoa Residents & Ratepayers Association

Newsletter March 2022

Dear Members,

Our local democracy future is being decided now in Wellington and again the ratepayers are not being asked for their views.

Restoration of Local Democracy to Tauranga City .

The replacement of democratically elected councillors and mayor with four government appointed commissioners was expected to end this year in time for the regular local government election cycle.

However there has been plenty happening behind the scenes to delay this and when elections are finally called, to have in place a "Crown Manager" who will guide and can overrule any councillors decision.

What's been happening

1. The commissioners wrote to the Local Government Minister in December saying they were doing a marvellous job and should have their term extended by one year as this would allow all their expensive schemes to be locked in and not possible to reverse. See Reading 1 below.
2. The other main thrust appears from the Tauranga developer elite who, we have been told, have been meeting regularly Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta and telling her the commissioners are doing a wonderful job, should have their term extended, and this is just what Tauranga needs to grow quickly and larger. Of course paid for by your ever rising rates.

3. There have been hearings this week with the Local Government Commission about the ward format for any future local elections in Tauranga. The following was reported to me from the hearing.... Commissioner Sellwood, in his report at the beginning, stated, in effect, that the TCC survey results were not reliable because the majority of the replies were from "elderly white males living in Papamoa," and, so, TCC did not regard the results as completely representative. Personally, I find this very disrespectful.

Watch this fully on Youtube. Click on the following link [\(155\) Tauranga City Council Representation Review Hearing - YouTube](#) and start at minute 23.

This shows a high level of arrogance from the commissioners and disregard for their own surveys if the answers do not correlate with their predetermined outcomes.

4. Interestingly the Local Government Minister is in Tauranga tomorrow (Friday 11 March) for an unpublicised meeting with (who knows) but no ratepayer groups have been invited. She may be announcing the extension of the Commissioners term.

Do you want Local Democracy returned to Tauranga? Or keep the commissioners!!

The Local Government Minister is making her decision very soon as to our local democracy future. Please write to her and tell her your opinions.

Her contact details are ..

Hon. Nanaia Mahuta
Parliament Office
Private Bag 18 888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz
Subject: Tauranga City Council

5. If you want local democracy restored, click the link <https://www.restoredemocracy.nz/> and vote online in a petition asking for local democracy to be restored in Tauranga.



Regards,

Philip Brown

Chair Papamoa Residents and Ratepayers Association.

Reading 1 Extract from Tauranga City Council document from commissioners to Government..

Report to: Hon. Nanaia Mahuta Minister of Local Government

From: Tauranga City Council Commission Date: 17 December 2021

Subject: Report for the Quarter ending 31 December 2021

Democratic Arrangements

Further to the changes in democratic arrangements proposed through the city Representation Review, the Commission has also given thought to possible arrangements for a return to an elected Council. Concerns continue to be raised with us through our community engagement activities about the possibility that dysfunctional governance could again impact the future effectiveness of an elected council. We have assessed the perceived risk of that scenario to Council's work programme (as defined through the 2021-31 LTP), activities and capability and we believe the risks involved can best be managed by delaying the city's local government elections by one year (until October 2023) and appointing a Crown Manager to oversee Council governance through until the next scheduled local government elections in 2025. Such an approach would allow the significant work programmes

required to address the city's growth issues and infrastructure and community facility deficits, and the funding and financing arrangements required to support them, to be further progressed.

A Crown Manager would also give the community assurance that the decisions they have supported through the last LTP process could not be readily reversed by a factionalised elected Council. We await the Government's guidance on preferred governance arrangements beyond the commission's existing term.