

Oral Submission To The Royal Commission

Themes: Appropriate decision-making;
Organisation scale; Action oriented

By Joel Cayford – 30 June 2008

In support of his written submissions
and further think-piece

Problems to solve

- RMA culture of planning for what we don't want – rather than planning for what we do want
- Poor alignment between the plans and strategies that exist – and their implementation
- Poor alignment between Auckland governance functions and funding requirements – and Central government functions & funding abilities
- Excessive infrastructure focus – neglecting urban & community development

Making regional government stronger

- Analogous with Australian State Government with its direct responsibilities for transport, water, energy infrastructure, and economic development
- Needs the power to collect Regional Development Levies – which will drive a more LGA oriented approach to regional planning
- Needs the asset base and responsibility for Watercare, ARH, ARTA
- Should have the duty to prepare 20/50 year implementation plan for the region, and the responsibility to oversee and drive its delivery

Main regional governance functions

- Planning of regional transport, Ports, water industry, energy infrastructure, parks – integrated with future land use planning
- Delivery of regional infrastructure services for water, parks, passenger transport and Ports
- Coordination of Urban Development projects and liaison with central government funding agencies
- Funded through: rates; development levies; fees; dividends from assets; central government contributions
- EPA regulatory responsibilities under RMA

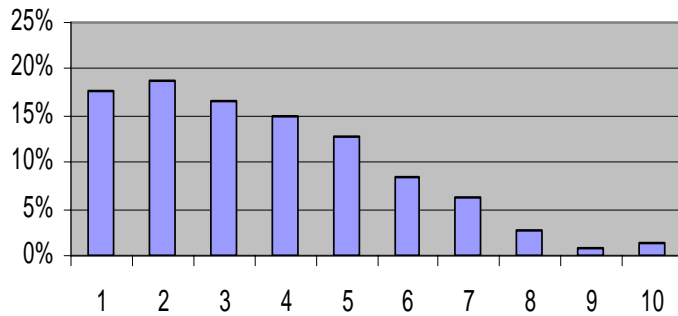
Appropriate territorial government

- To give effect to regional plans....
- Place making & planning
- Local infrastructure building & planning
- Community building & planning
- Cultural/heritage protection & development and associated planning
- Of sufficient scale to deliver & implement

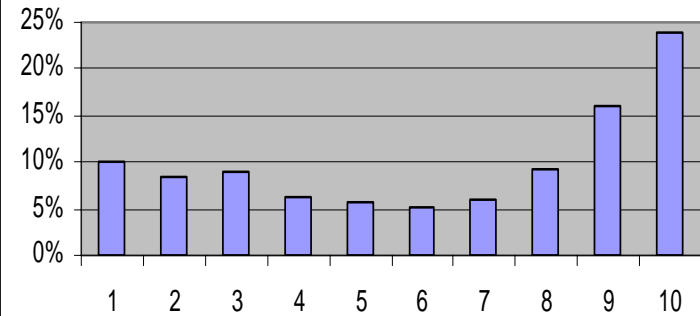
...taking account of the
actual needs of the place...

Deprivation Indices – 2006 census

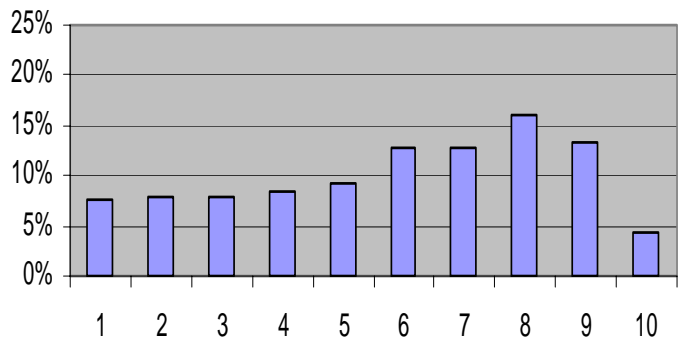
North Shore City



Manukau City



Waitakere City



% of city population
at different levels of
socio-economic
deprivation.

1=low, 10=high

Place making – Urban regeneration

- Sharp end of plan implementation
- Urban regeneration projects prioritised by Regional government
- But delivered by existing Local government through master planning & development agencies
- Master planning includes liaison, and integration of centrally provided infrastructure including: schools, state housing, energy corridors
- Regional govt responsible for regional infra and central service liaison & coordination
- Local govt responsible for local buy-in and land-owner involvement

Development Agencies

- Perth examples demonstrate need for strong local government to drive and manage projects which go beyond electoral term and have costs greater than Local Council budget
- Include appointed boards, and appropriately skilled CEO and senior staff
- Must have confidence of central government to ensure funding support & cooperation
- Essential tool for economic development and urban regeneration and community building

Community Governance

- Rec: retain Community Boards
- Good functioning Community Boards are the essential eyes and ears of Local government
- Currently have successfully produced master plans for town centres (eg Devonport, Onehunga) with Council support
- Would be empowered by requiring Local Annual Plans and LTCCPs to be organised by Community Board area
- CBs could be renamed Community Councils

Local/District Governance

- Rec: retain Local Councils
- Critical role managing Development Agencies
- Auckland City Council – it's the CBD - has a Mayor elected at large
- North Shore, Manukau, Waitakere to be recognised as Area or District Councils of the Auckland Region, where elected councillors appoint an Area/District mayor
- Rodney District Council to be amalgamated into North Shore and Waitakere Area Councils

Regional Governance

- Rec: Establish Greater Auckland Council
- Greater Auckland Council has a Mayor/Chair appointed by GAC elected councillors
- Major new role is implementation-oriented Urban Development and Regeneration planning
- Critical role to link with central government to ensure coordinated planning and funding

End