

MBRR

Mangere Bridge
Residents & Ratepayers
Association

MHRS

Manukau Harbour
Restoration Soc.

TOES

The Onehunga
Enhancement Soc.

Friday, 6 September 2013

2013 Auckland Council Local Body Elections

Dear Candidate,

Our three organisations welcome your candidature and, respectfully, seek your views on some issues that are critical to the future development of the city. The issues are:

1. The Proposed Central Interceptor.

This proposal, which is currently being deliberated on by the Hearing Commissioners, is critical to the future of Auckland. The cost of this project (\$800 million) is small compared to overall cost of the strategies of which this project is a part. Of equal importance are the environmental risks to the area of these strategies.

The justification for the project is the replacement of the Hillsborough Tunnel and the Manukau Syphon which could be done with a 2 metre diameter tunnel for \$150 million.

The rationale for increasing the tunnel to 4.5 metres is to reduce the combined system overflows in the Western Springs/Herne Bay areas as the cost of stormwater/sewage separation is quoted at \$55,000.00 per household. This has been achieved elsewhere in New Zealand for \$9,000.00 per household.

Further justification is the disruption caused by separation. However, the combined system is over 100 years old and needs replacement so disruption will still occur.

Can the desired outcomes be achieved more economically and environmentally friendlier?

Attached is a copy of the submission by the Mangere Bridge Residents & Ratepayers Association which gives a relatively brief outline of the recent history and concerns. (Watercare's application and Notice of Requirement, the reports presented by Auckland Council's Officers, the Hearing Agenda, etc. are, so far, still available online or at libraries for reference)

In addition to the procedural shortcomings itemised in this submission, it is noteworthy that in their directives to the Commissioners, the report by Officers stated:

- that the Commissioners should consider only the application before them
- that the Applicant was not obliged to present the best possible option, only that it has considered other options
- It is also felt that the action of Auckland Council in not permitting Local Boards or Local Board Members to express an opinion on the proposal denies them the opportunity to properly represent their constituents.

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2. The ecological state of the Manukau Harbour and its tributaries

In addition to the potential consequences of the Central Interceptor on the Manukau Harbour – covered in the above submission - there are other issues that need urgent attention:

- The quality of water in the Manukau Harbour and its tributaries is **not** improving - in the 2013 State of Auckland report, tributaries in Otara, Manukau and Mangere are graded 'F'. Tributaries in Manurewa and Papakura 'D' and the Manukau Harbour 'D'. The harbour and its tributaries are being choked by silt, pollution and mangroves.
- Currently, \$28 million is being spent on a project to landscape and restore the foreshore adjacent to the motorway at Onehunga. The beaches are being created not of sand but of gravel. This is to discourage use of the beaches for water contact because they are subject to overflows from a local sewer which, Watercare are reported to have said, do not have a high priority.

3. Dissatisfaction

There is considerable dissatisfaction with the way in which Auckland Council has handled many of the very important plans and issues facing the city – Auckland Long Term Plan, the Central Interceptor, the Draft Unitary Plan, etc. It could well be appropriate to review and assess the Councils performance in respect of compliance with relevant Acts and its responsibility to act democratically.

It would be greatly appreciated if you will indicate your views on these important subjects – and any other issues on which you wish to comment - on the attached questionnaire which can be returned by mail, email or fax.

Thanking you for your time

With Best Wishes



Roger Baldwin

For: Mangere Bridge Residents and Ratepayers Assoc.; Manukau Harbour Restoration Society and The Onehunga Enhancement Society.

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Questionnaire for Auckland Council Local Body Candidates

In respect of the request for an independent inquiry (unrestricted and able to consider all aspects and ramifications of the proposed Central Interceptor and associated strategies)

- Would you be prepared to initiate such an inquiry? Yes/No.....
- Support such an inquiry? Yes/No.....
- Have no interest in the matter? No interest.....
- Comments.....

In respect of the request for a comprehensive study with reliable modelling to establish the effects of the proposed Central Interceptor and related strategies on the Manukau Harbour before the proposal is implemented

- Would you be prepared to initiate such a study? Yes/No.....
- Support such a study? Yes/No.....
- Have no interest in the matter? No interest.....
- Comments.....

The costs of the Central Interceptor and of the associated strategies versus alternative options being worthy of a full and transparent economic study

- Would you be prepared to initiate such a study? Yes/No.....
- Support such a study? Yes/No.....
- Have no interest in the matter? No interest.....
- Comments.....

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Given the serious state of some of the waterways and harbours in the region

- Would you be prepared to initiate an urgent corrective action Yes/No.....
- Support such action Yes/No.....
- Have no interest in the matter No interest.....
- Comments.....

Given the dissatisfaction on its handling of the Central Interceptor proposal and other matters – the Auckland Long Term Plan, Unitary Plan, Transport Plan etc. it could be appropriate to assess and review Auckland Council’s performance in respect of its compliance with the requirements of relevant acts and its responsibility to democratic principles

- Would you be prepared to initiate such a study? Yes/No.....
- Support such a study? Yes/No.....
- Have no interest in the matter? No interest.....
- Comments.....

Name.....Signature.....Date.....

Please attach any further comments on these or other issues you wish to mention and send your reply to:

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