

Royal Commission on Auckland Governance

**Te Kōmihana a te Karauna mō te Mana Whakahaere
o Tāmaki-makau-rau**

Volume 2

Executive Summary

March 2009

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Hon Peter Salmon (Chair) | Dame Margaret Bazley | David Shand

Royal Commission on Auckland Governance

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Report

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Preface

The Commission wishes to extend its thanks to all those who made contributions to its inquiry and to those who supported the work of the Commission.

The Commission was given wide terms of reference, as discussed in this report, demonstrating an intent that our inquiry should be thorough and far-reaching. With this in mind, the Commission instituted a number of processes intended, on the one hand, to inform itself and, on the other, to obtain the views of the general public and specific communities. We advertised widely for submissions from the public, while at the same time conducting our own detailed research and consultation. Our processes included

- a public submission process, which resulted in more than 3,500 written submissions (a summary of submissions is contained in Volume 3 of this report)
- publication and promotion of two information booklets to support the call for submissions, one in English and one intended for Māori people
- formal hearings conducted in nine locations throughout the region, including Waiheke and Great Barrier Islands (these involved hearing nearly 550 submitters presenting over 27 hearing days)
- a Māori consultation programme, involving four hui with mana whenua (local Māori tribes from the region) and taura here (Māori living in Auckland from tribes outside Auckland)
- a workshop with representatives from Pacific communities
- a workshop with representatives from other ethnic communities
- specific approaches to various organisations, groups and individuals to tap their particular knowledge and experience
- commissioning a number of background research papers written by experts in fields relevant to the Commission's inquiry (these papers are contained in Volume 4 of this report)
- undertaking our own research and consultation (information contained in this report is current to March 2009)
- promotion of our website as a forum for information about the Commission (all written submissions and most research papers prepared for the Commission were made available online)
- encouraging media coverage of the Commission's work in order to stimulate public interest and debate.

These activities resulted in a wealth and depth of information being made available to the Commission. We believe we have obtained views from a broad cross-section of the Auckland public and have benefited from the knowledge of many individuals and groups with a special interest in Auckland, ranging from former mayors to interest groups and think tanks such as the Committee for Auckland. The result is this four-volume report.

First, we wish to record our appreciation for the time and trouble taken by those who made submissions to the Commission or met with us. The often passionate way in which people have expressed their views, and the amount of thought and research that went into submissions, reflects the depth of feeling Aucklanders have for their region and the desire for positive change. The Commission also acknowledges the cooperation of Auckland local government in providing submissions and information, and generally engaging with the Commission. The Commission also benefited from the contribution of councils from outside the Auckland region.

We express our thanks to Counsel assisting the Commission, David Kirkpatrick, and Wharehuia Milroy, the Commission's consultant on Māori issues. David's legal advice has ensured that we are able to make firm recommendations on the statutory amendments necessary to implement our recommendations. Wharehuia's sound and knowledgeable guidance was of inestimable assistance in our hui with Māori and our understanding of Māori issues.

The Commission acknowledges the contribution by consultants contracted to undertake work on particular aspects of the inquiry, and by those individuals who agreed to peer review material at the draft report stage.

We would like to thank the representatives of Government departments who assisted us, especially the Department of Internal Affairs (which administers Commissions of Inquiry), the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the State Services Commission, Treasury, the Ministries of Economic Development, Social Development, Pacific Island Affairs, and Civil Defence, Te Puni Kōkiri, New Zealand Police, and the Offices of the Auditor-General and Ethnic Affairs. We acknowledge the useful assistance provided by GUEDO in Auckland, and by the Local Government Commission, Local Government New Zealand, and the newly formed New Zealand Transport Agency.

In addition to undertaking desktop studies of overseas models, members of the Commission were able to visit Australia, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom to pursue enquiries relating to alternative governance structures. Although our overseas enquiries were compressed, we found the meetings to be invaluable in developing our views. We wish to thank the many people in each country who assisted us. We are also grateful for the assistance provided by the British and Canadian High Commissioners to New Zealand, the US Ambassador, and the New Zealand High Commissioner in London, in organising our programme.

The Commission has received excellent service and advice from its Executive Officer Heather Harris, and her team of analysts and other staff members. Their enthusiasm for the task and the effort they have put in, to ensure the very highest quality of research and production in this report has been outstanding. This is their report as much as it is ours. We express our appreciation and gratitude to them all.

Royal Commission on Auckland Governance

Hon Peter Salmon QC, Chairman



Dame Margaret Bazley DNZM, Member



David Shand, Member



25 March 2009

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