

APPENDIX 2

1 November 2011

Hon Rodney Hide
Minister for Local Government
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Mr Hide

COPY

Draft Auckland Plan

The period for comment on the Auckland Plan closed on 31 October 2011 – Halloween seems appropriate. I have made a submission, supporting the Government's view of the Plan, as described in a news item in the NZ Herald of 22 October 2011, copy enclosed.

A matter of deep concern is that the submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by Council staff, who were responsible for the Plan's preparation. Indicative of bias is an article in NZ Herald of 13 October 2011 by Dr Roger Blakeley, Auckland Council's Chief Planning Officer, who refers to "we are committed to improving the quality of urban living".

"our target is to increase trips by public transport" and

"We must look for innovation funding solutions" ...

An unbiased review of submissions seems unlikely. What is needed is for the submissions to be reviewed by an independent group. However, there are no provisions for that to happen.

The Council has consulted residents and ratepayers to learn their view of the Plan. Consultation is a weasel word, in local government parlance. That means seeking the views of those likely to be affected, but with no obligation to act on the views expressed by the consultantees.

I assume that it is a case of

"What can't be cured must be endured".

Have you any views?

Yours sincerely



WARWICK SMITH