

Tabled information  
reference 306/12R(b)

**Public participation by the Federation of Wellington Progressive and Residents Associations  
before SPC on Thursday, 18 October 2012**

These comments are additional and complementary to the oral submission and associated report presented before SPC on Thursday, 11 October 2012.

"'ignorance of the law is no excuse"

"the law is the law until it is replaced, and until then only relevant decisions have validity"

"the most influential democratic power available to every New Zealander is their power to vote in central and local government elections"

Section 14 of the Local Government Act 2002 sets out below the salutary principles for every New Zealander:

(1) In performing its role, a local authority must act in accordance with the following principles:

(a) a local authority should -

(i) conduct its business in an open, transparent, and democratically accountable manner; and

(ii) give effect to its identified priorities and desired outcomes in an efficient and effective manner.

etc to (h)

(2) If any of these principles, or any aspect of well-being referred to in section 10, are in conflict in any particular case, the local authority should resolve the conflict in accordance with the principle in subsection (1)(a)(i)

Suburban communities of interest are not the equivalent of community boards as assumed in the council's public notices of 2006 and 2012.

15 submissions to this statutory review is so indicative of a serious deficiency in the communication process adopted, that the primary questions demanding an explanation are "Why" and "What has been done to explain it".

The Federation's submission has been treated as one submission, whereas it was supported by all but three of the associations comprising its membership across Wellington's territorial boundary.

A copy of Federation's submission was handed to the Dominion Post's journalist in attendance last Thursday. We would expect that a better understanding of the Representation Review will emerge as the required process, outlined by Ross Bly on Tuesday, is progressed to the determination to be made by the Local Government Commission before April 2013.

It is not the purpose of Federation to convince you that a review of the electoral system adopted for

the 2013 election should follow a prescribed course. That is determined by the Local Electoral Act and its subsequent amendments. Our purpose is to re-emphasise those statutory requirements to you as we have to our members in support of a desirable change, consistent with the prevailing economic situation. Current predictions globally are that little improvement can be foreseen before 2016. The solution does not rest in the Local Government Commission's determinations from the past: they have little relevance to the economic circumstances faced globally today.

In conclusion, we can only repeat that we welcome every opportunity to work together for the future benefit of our city.

Bernie Harris  
Treasurer