

Tabled Information from Nick Jennings and Bernie Harris – Reference 204/12C(a)

My Name is Nick Jennings

Good evening your worship and Councillors.

This evening I appear as part of the Federation's Deputation to your Council Meeting and thank you for hearing us this evening.

You may note that some of us who appear before you regularly are not here tonight, and on their behalf I apologise for their unavoidable absences.

Tom Law, the Federation's President;

Robin Buxton, one of the Federation's Vice-Presidents;

Stephen Moore;

Bruce Patterson;

Wayne Newman; and

Ray Lindsay.

It's not often the Federation comes to a full Council meeting by way of a deputation.

In fact the last time that can be remembered was in 1975 when Frank Kitts was Mayor, and we appeared with a full suite of news media in tow - TV, radio and the press.. However, that was then, not now.

For tonight we need to emphasise that we, on behalf of the Federation,, have already made a formal submission - which was supplemented by an oral presentation.

However, we feel so strongly about the Formal Statutory Requirement relating to the Representation Review that we have taken the further step of appearing before you today.

I'll now hand over to Mr Harris to further explain our position.

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FWPRA deputation to the WCC on Wednesday, 24 October 2012 (continuation after brief introduction by Nick Jennings)

Your Worship, and councillors,

You will recall that Federation has already made three submissions to the present Review of Representation for the 2013 local authority elections, to be held on 12 October 2013 i.e. 5 October 2012, 11 October 2012 and 18 October 2012.

It is therefore extremely disappointing that Federation has yet again to bring its concerns before you as a deputation. This is considered to be necessary before the formal decision, as required by the Local Electoral Act 2001, is made by the Wellington City Council today.

It has been noted in Appendix 4 of Report 1 of the SPC meeting of 9 August 2012, that the legislative deadline of the Council decision on the "final" proposal is 'Before 19 November 2012'. Federation is therefore indicating its sincere desire to avoid a direct confrontation with Council should it confirm its decision of 29 August 2012 this evening. This would be despite Federation's clear indication that the Review of Representation arrangements have deviated from the established 'good practice' - Step 2 Consider preliminary consultation - in Appendix 5 of (the above) Report 1.

To even suggest that the 15 submissions to this statutory review represents a considered view by the 200,200 population shown in the Public Notice of the Council's decision on 29 August 2012, defies our comprehension.

Where the Public Notice states - "It is proposed the arrangement will apply unless (our underlining) there is more wide ranging local government reorganisation in the wider Wellington area between now and then." completely removes any possibility of a 'democratically accountable manner' arising in this statutory review.

As the resolutions from the SPC meeting of 18 October 2012 are to be presented to Council today for approval, it will naturally follow that the unchanged proposal in the Public Notice will apply henceforth.

Federation will be left with no other option but to object formally should that decision occur. Federation's objection will be directed at the agreement not to carry out any preliminary consultation, following a briefing councillors received on 20 March 2012 unrelated to this statutory review. This agreement does not comply with any previous decision process to deviate from the established practice of carrying out preliminary consultation, as part of its statutory representation reviews.

Federation is unable to accept, that any relationship to local sector reforms contemplated in March 2012, should in any way justify this deviation from the past best practice of Wellington City Council's statutory Reviews of Representation arrangements. Federation's understanding is that any local authority reforms are conditional upon Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Furthermore, it may be construed that, Council maintaining its decision from 9 August 2012, is to preserve councillors well remunerated positions, due to neglect in following best practice in conducting the preliminary representation review. Such a conflict of interest must be avoided to maintain the validity of any statutory process.

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Federation trusts that this deputation will be accepted as a further confirmation of our belief that we continue to work together for the future benefit of our city.