

# Review seeks better future for Northlanders

By WDC Chief Executive Officer  
Mark Simpson

The review of Northland's local government now under way gives our people an exciting opportunity to make Northland a better place.

Our region has historically fared worse than much of the country. We are poorer, not as well educated and die younger than our cousins to the south.

It is obvious we can't just keep rolling along the road we are on and expect improvement and better lives for our citizens.

Albert Einstein defined insanity as do-

ing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

The leaders of Northland's four Councils do want different results for our people, and initiated a review of local government, which plays an important and influential role in Northland's fortunes.

The review came out of a meeting of the Northland Mayoral Forum last month, at which all three District Mayors and the Northland Regional Council chair agreed there should be only one level of local government.

At present, and for the past 20 years, district councils and the regional council have formed two separate levels.

Where there are two levels, there can be tensions, and it is not always easy to pursue a collaborative and sharing working relationship between levels.

The Mayoral Forum tasked me with engaging an independent expert to review Northland's governance and to consult widely with community leaders, government and health agencies, iwi and others to suggest the best path for the future.

The reviewers chosen, McKinlay Douglas Ltd of Tauranga, recognised as New Zealand's pre-eminent local government experts nationally and internationally, have begun their work, and last week held a workshop involving Councillors and chief executives from all three District Councils - Kaipara, Far North and Whangarei.

The regional council chose not to attend the combined council workshop but we are still hopeful it will take the opportunity to help shape Northland's future.

The workshop involving the three councils began with an open discussion



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on the role of local government and whether the current review was a tinkering with the existing structures or a clean sheet exercise.

It also explored the impact that global changes could have on local government activities. The open and honest discussion was a positive start to this important project.

I see this independent review as being hugely important if we want to know how best to make Northland go forward. Local government has a vital role to play in the economic development of Northland, and we want this role played as well as possible within the right structure.

Shared services, such as the recent savings of up to \$1 million by enabling the NRC to hook into WDC's computer data storage system, are one of the keys to efficient local government.

A one-stop shop for consents, and the many other areas in which local government operations can be shared, offer Northland the opportunity to lift its game for the benefit of its people.

In the UK, councils are being ordered to reduce rates by 1.5 percent a year. For Whangarei, this would mean saving \$2.5 million annually. It is a goal WDC's management has already set itself, and has exceeded.

At WDC we are looking to work smarter and concentrate on the services which will most benefit the people of Whangarei and in turn Northland.

Achieving the most efficient and effective structure of local government under which we work will enable us to maximise those efficiency gains and to focus on improving the lives of Northlanders.

The lower we can keep rates, the more money we leave in people's pockets for them to spend on the things that matter most to them, particularly health and education.

I and many others look forward to seeing the local government review's recommendations.

## What's On...

**Tuesday 22 September**

**The Keeping Life Real Seminar – The Three Divas**

Capitaine Bougainville Theatre: 7pm  
Price: \$46.50 – www.3divas.co.nz

**Thursday 24 September**

**Whangarei Film Society**

Capitaine Bougainville Theatre:  
6pm A Bunch of Amateurs  
8pm Welcome to the Sticks  
Price: \$12 non-members, \$10 members (per film)

**Friday 25 & Saturday 26 September**

**Whangarei Orchid Show**

Expo Hall: Friday 10am-5pm  
Saturday 9am-4pm  
Price: Gold coin donation

**Friday 25 – Sunday 27 September**

**Northland Performing Arts – Competition Festival**

Vocal Section, Capitaine Bougainville Theatre  
Price: Door sales only, single sessions \$4, season tickets \$20, under 16 free

**Sunday 27 September**

**Dorothy The Dinosaur Show**

Expo Hall: 10am (sold out), 12.30pm avail  
Price: \$22

**Tuesday 29 September**

**Public Lecture: '10 Things the Alcohol Industry Won't Tell You About Alcohol'**

Dr Doug Sellman, Professor of Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, University of Otago, Christchurch  
Capitaine Bougainville Theatre: 7.30pm-9.00pm  
Price: Free

**Phone 09 430 4244**

or check our website for more information:  
[www.forumnorth.co.nz](http://www.forumnorth.co.nz)



**WHANGAREI LIBRARIES**  
WANANGA WHAKATUPU MATAURANGA



**Mobile Library Schedule**

**29 September to 3 October**

**Tuesday 29 September**

Big Steps Early Learning Centre,  
Cross Street ..... 9.15-9.45  
Mains Ave, near Abbeyfield House..... 10.00-10.30  
Park Ave, near Park Lane ..... 10.45-11.15  
Cnr Princes Street and Mercer Street,  
Mairtown ..... 11.30-noon  
Waiatawa Road,  
near Lupton Masonic Village ..... 12.15-12.45  
Mill Road, outside Shalom Rest Home..... 2.15-3.00  
Maungatapere,  
in front of old Dairy Factory ..... 3.30-4.15

**Wednesday 30 September**

Whatitiri Hall, 33 Whatitiri Road..... 9.15-9.45  
Poroti School, Mangakahia Road..... 10.00-10.30  
Mangakahia Community Library,  
Mangakahia Area School..... 10.45-11.15  
Parakao Hall, Mangakahia Road ..... 11.45-12.30  
Pakotai School, Mangakahia Road ..... 1.15-2.15

**Thursday 1 October**

Kamo Road,  
near Parahaki Court Rest Home ..... 9.15-10.15  
Northland Homebased Childcare ..... 10.30-11.00  
Balmoral Road Tikipunga,  
near Kohanga Reo..... 11.30-noon  
The Falls Estate, 94 Boundary Road..... 1.30-2.15  
Lochiel Place, Kamo ..... 2.30-3.00

**Friday 2 October**

Kohe Street, near Bahama Place ..... 8.45-9.15  
Simply Kids Childcare, Waverly Street..... 9.30-10.00  
Manaia Kindergarten..... 10.30-11.00  
Whangarei Heads Community Library... 11.30-12.30  
Taurikura Hall, Whangarei Heads Road .... 1.30-2.00  
Waikaraka, Attwood Street ..... 2.30-3.00

**Saturday 3 October**

Woolworths Supermarket,  
near Kamo Road entrance..... 9.00-10.00  
Outside Parua Bay Primary School..... 10.45-11.15  
Pataua South near footbridge..... 11.30-noon

For more information go to our website:  
[www.whangarei-libraries.com](http://www.whangarei-libraries.com)  
or contact us on 09 430 4206

## Public Notices

### Community Fund

Applications for funding for Round 1 2009/2010 of the Whangarei District Council's Community Fund are being invited now.

The purpose of the fund is to assist community based agencies/organisations that are undertaking a project or event. Special eligibility criteria apply. Please refer to the application form. Application forms are available on line at [www.wdc.govt.nz](http://www.wdc.govt.nz) or from Council's Customer Service Counter at Forum North, and Council's Service Centres at Hikurangi and Ruakaka. Applications must be received by 4.00pm on Friday 9 October 2009. Decisions for this round of funding will be made in November 2009.

For more information please contact Jenny Teeuwen on phone (09) 430 4230 extension 8716 or email [jennyt@wdc.govt.nz](mailto:jennyt@wdc.govt.nz).

### Notice of Meetings

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and Local Government Act 2002 of the following meetings of council and its committees to be held in the Council Chambers, Forum North, Rust Avenue, Whangarei during the month of October 2009:

**Wednesday 14 October**

9.00am Environment Committee  
10.00am Infrastructure and Services Committee  
11.00am Community Funding Sub-Committee

**Wednesday 28 October**

9.00am Finance and Support Committee  
10.00am Council

**Cancellation of Meeting**

The meeting of the **Licensing, Exemptions and Objections Committee** to have been held on **Wednesday 14 October 2009** at

**1.00pm** has been **cancelled** as there is insufficient business for consideration.

### Notice of Meeting for Hearing Submissions on Private Plan Change 84 Pipiwai Investments Ltd

**Plan Change Description:**

The applicant proposes to rezone Part Lot 3 DP 100672 from Living 3 to Living 1 Environment.

Public notice is hereby given pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 of the above meeting of the Hearings Committee, to be held in the Council Chambers, Forum North, Rust Avenue, Whangarei on

**Monday 12 October 2009 at 10.30am and Tuesday 13 October 2009 at 9am.**

Signed for and on behalf of Whangarei District Council by:

M P Simpson  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER