

# A message from John Banks

July 2007

*Dear Citizens*

## **Auckland City Council is failing you**

The council is unfocused. It is consumed by pet projects and has massively increased your rates. Spending is out of control and debt is projected to blow out. Accountability is absent, standards are lax and mismanagement is endemic. It is a gratuitous insult to tell residents on fixed incomes to “take out a loan and borrow against their home” to pay for their rates hikes.<sup>1</sup>

## **Is this the worst council in living memory ?**

At council, there is poor financial discipline and wasteful spending. Leadership has been erratic and inconsistent. Council is riven with political correctness and is out of touch on symbolic issues like overseas junkets, confidential meetings and excessive water charges.

While it funds séances and tarot card readings<sup>2</sup>, it presides over the chaos of upgrading Queen Street.<sup>3</sup> This council is failing the basics and failing you with infighting and poor judgment.

## **Your next council must listen and build goodwill**

I lost the last election because of concerns about the haste and magnitude of the projects I sought to achieve. Since then, I have reflected long and hard, and have learned some lessons about listening and goodwill. If you give me the opportunity, I will promote common-sense policies with openness and accountability.

## **I will deliver you value for money**

Here is what you get if you support me: affordable progress - value for money, improved public transport, safety and security, and improvements to water quality and our beaches.

This city has been kind to me. Auckland is a good place to live - but could be a great place to live. That is why we need decisive leadership that focuses on core council responsibilities.

**If given the opportunity, I will deliver this for you.**

Yours sincerely



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John Banks

**PS – I would value your support and your vote this October!**

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<sup>1</sup> Central Leader, 16 August 2006

<sup>2</sup> Herald on Sunday, 13 August 2006

<sup>3</sup> NZ Herald, 28 February 2007