



# Auckland Regional Council

21 Pitt Street, Auckland, New Zealand Private Bag 92 012, Auckland  
Telephone 09 366 2000, Facsimile 09 366 2115, [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz)

## OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

16 September 2009

Hon Rodney Hide  
Minister of Local Government  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

File Ref: L230/1201

Dear Minister

### **URGENT - Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill - Proposed Southern Boundary**

I write to implore you and the Government not to support the recommendations of the Auckland Governance Legislation Committee in respect of the proposed southern boundary of the Auckland Council. The boundary as recommended by the Committee in its report back on the Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill, whatever the politics behind it, is simply a nonsense. It is just as irrational and harmful to the interests of the Auckland region as the proposed change (now aborted) to the northern boundary.

The proposed southern boundary will separate the residents of northern Franklin from essential services and infrastructure, and will divide the towns of Waiuku and Pukekohe. It will also remove critical water supply capacity (54% of Auckland's water supply) and three major regional parks, all of which have been paid for by Auckland ratepayers, from the jurisdiction of Auckland. This latter provision is not just nonsensical, it is daylight robbery.

The Government must amend the southern boundary to ensure that all of the current Franklin District north of the Waikato River and Miranda (following the Franklin District boundary between the Waikato River and Miranda) is included in the Auckland Council.

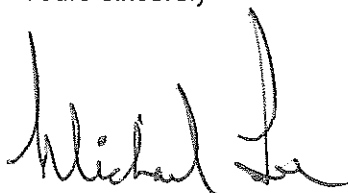
If this cannot be achieved for all functions of the Auckland Council, then I urge you to consider a compromise solution and adopt this boundary for the territorial local authority functions to be carried out by the new Council in the current Franklin area north of the Waikato currently under the jurisdiction of Environment Waikato. This would ensure that the new Auckland Council could sensibly deliver services to the community of interest north of the Waikato river catchment under the RMA. We are more than happy to discuss the details of this proposal.

At the very least, the Government must enshrine in legislation the ownership of all affected regional park land, including reservoirs, by the Auckland Council. To do anything less would be a grave disservice to the ratepayers of Auckland.

I urge you and the Government not to accept the recommendations of the Auckland Governance Legislation Committee; they will inevitably fail to meet the interests of the residents of Franklin, the Auckland region and New Zealand as a whole.

There is a good deal of unhappiness amongst residents in Franklin about these changes, and the ARC will work with the community to support a reorganisation proposal to the Local Government Commission to have this ill-considered, non-viable southern boundary overturned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Lee'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M' and 'L'.

Michael Lee  
**Chairman, Auckland Regional Council**