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Chief Executive  
Radio New Zealand  
PO Box 123  
Wellington 6140

## Broadcasting Standards Complaint

Dear Mr Thompson,

This complaint is in regard to two programmes:

**Morning Report**, on 9 September 2016, from 8:00 am, duration: 50 minutes+  
An Auckland mayoral candidates' debate featuring Victoria Crone, Phil Goff,  
John Palino, and Mark Thomas. Including live-streamed video.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/312706/video-debate-akl-mayoral-hopefuls-battle-it-out>

**Checkpoint**, on 22 September 2016, from 8:02 pm, duration: 26' 02"

A Checkpoint episode "Mayoral Bus Ride" featuring Phil Goff, Victoria Crone,  
Mark Thomas, John Palino and Chloe Swarbrick. Includes video.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/checkpoint/audio/201817224/auckland-mayoral-candidates-take-bus-ride-with-john-campbell>

This complaint is made under the Radio Code, Standard 8: Balance.

*When controversial issues of public importance are discussed in news, current affairs or factual programmes, broadcasters should make reasonable efforts, or give reasonable opportunities, to present **significant points of view** either in the same programme or in other programmes within the period of current interest.*

I assert that my bid for the mayoralty of Auckland represents a significant point of view (see below), and that Radio New Zealand has not made a reasonable effort to include that point of view either of these debates, which were broadcast on its flagship current affairs programmes.

I further assert that, in failing to include me in either of these two debates, Radio New Zealand is in breach of its obligations under the Radio New Zealand Charter, specifically section 8A (1)(a) and (b):

*The public radio company must, in fulfilling its Charter, exhibit a sense of social responsibility by (a) having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates; and (b) endeavouring to accommodate or encourage those interests when able to do so.*

## **A Significant and Credible point of view**

I contend that it is in the interests of voters in Auckland to hear from all of the credible candidates for the Auckland mayoralty, so that they may make an informed voting decision in the 2016 local body elections.

I contend that my views are significant and credible on the basis of the following facts:

1. **Relevant Education:** I hold bachelors degrees in politics and economics from Auckland University, and a Master of Public Policy (merit) from Victoria University of Wellington.
2. **Relevant Experience:** I have worked for 25 years in central and local government, including ten years (in total) at Auckland City Council, Manukau City Council and Auckland Council - most recently as a Principal Policy Analyst.
3. **Duration of candidacy:** I am not among the “last minute entry” candidates. I announced my run for the mayoralty on [20 November 2015](#), prior to Phil Goff ([22 November 2016](#)), John Palino ([29 February](#)), Victoria Crone ([14 December 2015](#)) and Chloe Swarbrick ([4 July 2016](#)).
4. **Policy Platform:** I have announced and published a [suite of policy statements](#) that are comprehensive and credible, in the sense that each and all of them have either already been implemented (in New Zealand or elsewhere in the world), and/or are expressing my priorities within Auckland’s existing planning framework, and/or rely on and reference the specific powers of local authorities in New Zealand law.
5. **Vision for Auckland:** I am standing with a clear vision statement, in accordance with section 9 (1) of the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009: *The role of the mayor is to (a) articulate and promote a vision for Auckland; and (b) provide leadership for the purpose of achieving objectives that will contribute to that vision.*
6. **Significant difference:** I am the only candidate for the mayoralty whose vision for Auckland emphasises the need to reduce carbon emissions and respond to rising sea levels and other impacts of global warming, which I intend to achieve by reinforcing and extending Auckland’s existing [Energy Resilience and Low Carbon Action Plan](#).

## **Summary**

If voters in any New Zealand election are to make a properly informed voting decision, they must be properly informed.

Neither the Broadcasting Act nor the Radio New Zealand Act specifically require Radio New Zealand to properly inform voters about all the candidates. I acknowledge that some editorial judgement is required in selecting which candidates should be included in election-related programmes, and will therefore receive more media attention than others.

In the case of the two programmes that are the subject of this complaint, I do not understand why Radio New Zealand chose to exclude me from these programmes, and to include others.

I am making this complaint because I am genuinely mystified by these editorial decisions and I would like you to clearly explain, in writing, the basis on which they were made.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DAVID HAY', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**David Hay**

For Mayor of Auckland - 2016

[www.heydavidhay.nz](http://www.heydavidhay.nz)