

2 Fitzpatrick Place
Chatswood
North Shore City 0626

17 March 2010

Dear Sir,

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing in response to your article 'Super City tweaks still an option - PM' (17 March 2010). In this article Jonathan Coleman MP claimed that "feedback from his electorate had broadly been in support of the bill".

As a Birkenhead Northcote Community Board Member who has been involved in many discussions with local community groups, organisations and residents about the Bill, I am surprised to hear that Dr Coleman believes that our local community is "broadly in support". I have not come across much support for this bill at all.

In fact, the vast majority of people that I have spoken to in the Northcote electorate feel as though they don't know enough about the changes taking place and therefore feel unable to adequately take part in the debate, which is a shame. Many also feel that the SuperCity will go ahead no matter what they think, and they feel powerless in the face of such dramatic change; unfortunately they therefore felt that it would be a waste of their time to get involved in the debate or submit on the Bill. From those who did feel slightly more informed, one of the major concerns that consistently came through was around the level of local democratic representation and input into the decision making process.

I do not believe that this can in any way be construed as "broad support" from the Northcote electorate.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Gillon
Member, Birkenhead Northcote Community Board