

# PRESS RELEASE

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## YOUNG PEOPLE MISS OUT IN SUPER CITY PROPOSAL

Paula Gillon, member of the Birkenhead Northcote Community Board submitted to the Select committee on Auckland Governance on the importance of youth representation on the new Auckland Council.

She says: “The proposed exclusion of young people from the ‘super-city’ decision-making process is undemocratic. The people of Auckland have already said that they want young people involved in the decision-making process at local government level – this is why we have countless youth forums and youth councils across the region.

“The Government have ignored the issue of youth representation in all three of their bills. It now appears that they will sit back and leave it up to the new Auckland Council to decide whether or not young people should be involved. Young people do not get a vote at this year’s election and will have to rely on the new council to prioritise their input.

“Without provisions being made for youth representation this legislation is discriminatory. Young people are a minority group with no vehicle for democratic input. They have a right to be involved in the decision-making process and it is the Governments duty to uphold that right.

“I have had the distinct privilege of working alongside youth representatives. Our young people consistently make valid and meaningful contributions; their insight into issues, innovative solutions and feedback has proven to be invaluable to our community.

“Without the involvement of our young people Auckland will never be a truly ‘super’ city.”

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