

A big thank you to all who answered my plea to provide financial help for the local body candidates who voted against the proposal to introduce co-governance of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and are standing for re-election. Your donations have been passed on to the candidates, who expressed their gratitude, not only for the financial help, but also for demonstrating your support. No doubt you are aware voting for local body elections is now open – with postal voting packs being accepted up to noon on Saturday, 8 October. I wouldn't dream of telling you who to vote for, but I hope that the candidates listed below, who voted against co-governance, will be kept in mind as you choose who will represent us and make decisions on our behalf.



- ✓ Councillor John Watson - Albany Ward
- ✓ Councillor Wayne Walker - Albany Ward
- ✓ Councillor Christine Fletcher - Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa Ward
- ✓ Mr Scott Milne - Ōrākei Local Board Chair
- ✓ New Candidate Mike Lee - Waitematā and Gulf Ward

Besides the Auckland City Council, the following local bodies also have representation on the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

Waikato Regional Council,  
Thames-Coromandel District Council,  
Hauraki District Council,  
Waikato District Council, and  
Matamata-Piako District Council

I urge you to ask all candidates standing in your area to ascertain their stance on the co-governance of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park before casting your vote. Most councils have published a list of candidates on their websites. The Auckland City Council list is available [here](#).

Please see below a list of Hauraki Gulf Forum members who voted **for** the co-governance of the Marine Park, and are standing for re-election:

- X Councillor Pippa Coom - Waitematā and Gulf Ward
- X Ms Cath Handley - Waiheke Local Board Chair
- X Ms Valmaine Toki - Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

- X Councillor Denis Tegg - Waikato Regional Council
- X Councillor Anne Marie Spice - Hauraki District Council

### **A victory for democratic accountability**

I have some good news from John Watson, candidate for the Auckland Council Albany ward. On Thursday this week the Auckland Council PACE Committee resolved to remove the proposal to formally incorporate 21 of 28 regional parks into the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (at the same time as the Hauraki Gulf Forum seeks to reinvent itself as a co-governed 'Authority' with increased powers).

John writes: *“The decision is a victory for all those committed to preserving the integrity and democratic accountability of our regional park network so valued by Aucklanders across the region”* and:

*“The Gulf Users Group, more than anyone of course, had a huge hand in mobilising the public to oppose this move”.*

See John Watson’s Facebook page [here](#).

A big thank you to the thousands of people who submitted against this proposal. Thanks for your continued support - it is much appreciated as we strive to retain democratic governance of the Hauraki Gulf.

Lee Short  
Spokesperson  
Gulf Users Group