

# Did Action Hobson Councillors behave *unethically* with your rates money?

## You be the judge.



Miss G Fredericks  
40A St Georges Bay Road  
PARNELL 1001

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Dear Miss Fredericks

Local Councillors Simpson and Caughey of Action Hobson were alleged by the Herald on Sunday to be involved in **potential conflicts of interest** with your rates money. (1)

They argued for \$30,000 of your rates money to be given to the Digital Earth Society, which they were active members of (along with their family members, their campaign manager, and other close political friends). **Simpson was warned about this** by the council, but participated in this discussion anyway! (2)

They also promoted and voted for \$600,000 of your rates money to Beacon Pathway Ltd, a company that will **never pay a dividend** back to Auckland City. Beacon Pathway is run by a close colleague of theirs involved on the Digital Earth's steering committee. Beacon Pathway subsequently sponsored Digital Earth for an undisclosed sum.

At no stage were potential conflicts of interest raised by these councillors, despite clear rules from the Auditor-General about avoiding the perception of bias. Despite official criticism over these guidelines breaches, **nothing is being done about this.**

Action Hobson also **broke their promises to you on rates**, pushing your rates up twice and then borrowing heavily.

They also broke their promises to you to vote conservatively, and are in coalition with the City Vision and Labour left-wing council majority.

This election, you can fix the fiscal mismanagement, the broken promises, the ethics issues and the poor direction of Auckland City by **getting rid of Action Hobson** and voting for Citizens and Ratepayers Now. You will then get careful spenders with integrity.

1. The Herald on Sunday newspaper made these allegations on 10 and 17 December 2006.
2. Auckland City's Chief Executive confirmed this in a letter dated 22 December 2006.

Visit **[www.hobson.org.nz](http://www.hobson.org.nz)** to see the original stories about these conflict of interest scandals.  
This message is authorised by William Cairns, Chairman of Hobson Citizens and Ratepayers Now  
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