

Fwd: Clarification with regard the submission process

4 messages

Christeen Mackenzie <Christeen.Mackenzie@tasman.govt.nz>
To: Susan Edwards <Susan.Edwards@tasman.govt.nz>
Cc: Marion Satherley <marionawayfromhome@gmail.com>

Wed, May 26, 2021 at 12:49 PM

Good afternoon Susan

Are you able to provide a response to Marion on this?

Many thanks
Christeen

Christeen Mackenzie
Waimea-Moutere Ward Councillor
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Begin forwarded message:

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From: MDCA <info@ourmapua.org>
Date: 26 May 2021 at 11:29:23 AM NZST
To: Christeen Mackenzie <Christeen.Mackenzie@tasman.govt.nz>, Anne Turley <Anne.Turley@tasman.govt.nz>, Dean McNamara <Dean@tdcme.nz>
Subject: Clarification with regard the submission process

Good morning Christeen, Anne & Dean,

At last nights MDCA Executive meeting I was asked to write to you to see if one of you would be prepared to help clarify the submission process with regard group submissions.

We have become aware over recent months that a submission from the MDCA at large is considered as an individual submission rather than a group submission representing X number of members.

What we would like to know is:

1. If the MDCA submission had the names of all our individual members who supported the MDCA's submission (lets say 100 members agreed in person or via email) are listed at the base of MDCA's submission whether this would then be counted as 100 individual submissions.

or

2. Would it be counted differently if each member simply used MDCA's submissions and filed it separately so as to show their individual support of what MDCA are recommending.

We would really appreciate clear clarification with regard this.

Kind Regards

Marion Satherley

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Dean McNamara <Dean@tdcme.nz>
To: MDCA <info@ourmapua.org>

Wed, May 26, 2021 at 2:46 PM

Hi Marion,

When the submissions are collated and they present all the graphs and charts the MCDA submission makes up one of the dots just as any other submission would.

If the MCDA were to create a pro forma submission that individual members were to submit each in their own name then each submission would be counted.

However, that said, we had a lawyer presenting to us about deliberating on submissions who essentially said that the reasons behind a person's choice carried more weight than the box that they ticked - although he backtracked somewhat when I questioned him on the point. Essentially, it is up to individual Councillors to weight the submissions as they see fit, but the statistics are always based on one vote per submission.

Hope that helps,
Dean.

Dean McNamara

<http://TDCME.nz>

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Susan Edwards <Susan.Edwards@tasman.govt.nz>
To: Marion Satherley <marionawayfromhome@gmail.com>
Cc: Christeen Mackenzie <Christeen.Mackenzie@tasman.govt.nz>, Anne Turley <Anne.Turley@tasman.govt.nz>, Dean McNamara <Dean.McNamara@tasman.govt.nz>

Wed, May 26, 2021 at 5:51 PM

Hello Marion

Both Crs Mackenzie and Turley have asked me to respond to your email on their behalf regarding the process Councillors use to consider submissions.

Thanks for your questions about the submissions process, it's important that groups and individuals within the community understand this decision making process Councillors follow.

In considering the results of consultation Councillors are required to have an open mind. This doesn't mean they have a blank mind, but must be open to hearing, considering and being persuaded by what submitters have to say. In arriving at the decisions on Tasman's 10-Year Plan, Councillors have considered all the submissions made – both those made in writing and those presented verbally at the hearing.

The submissions Council receives are an input to decision making. They do not determine the decisions. Rather they are one of the ways by which the Council considers the views and preferences of interested and affected people. A range of other factors influence decisions for example legal obligations.

Consultation is not a poll or a numbers game. Your questions suggest that there is a clear distinction in the weight given by Councillors to an individual submission and one made by an organisation representing multiple people. In reality that isn't really the case. The quality of a submission is a really important factor.

Councillors are more likely to be persuaded by the strength of an argument or points well made, than by numbers of submitters expressing a preference for an option but providing no rationale for their view or by receiving multiple identical submissions without a good rationale.

Council knows that the MDCA is an important part of the community in Mapua, regularly attracts high numbers of attendees to its meetings and does its utmost to represent the views of the majority of the local community (recognising that for most issues not everyone in the community will have the same view). Council respects the role your organisation plays.

Please be assured that Councillors have carefully considered your submission.

I hope this helps clarify the submission deliberation process for you.

Kind regards

Susan

Susan Edwards

Community Development Manager

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Marion Satherley <marionawayfromhome@gmail.com>
To: Susan Edwards <Susan.Edwards@tasman.govt.nz>

Fri, May 28, 2021 at 4:41 PM

Thank you for this explanation Susan.
Cheers Marion

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