

Mapua District Community Association (MDCA) Meeting

Monday 9 October

Motion: The Council go back and look at their consultation process with regard the public.

Moved by: Karin **Seconded:** Cally.

Vote carried: 14 for / 10 against / 3 abstain

Background

Many interactions with Tasman District Council (TDC) officers, Councillors and Community Board members across the Tasman region, are raising an increasing number of red-flags in relation to poor or absent public consultation processes by Council.

During an All Council meeting at TDC on 21 September 2023, it became apparent that Council's 'consultation' process with the public and Councillors is very much in question. Discussions held on the majority of agenda items made reference to poor consultation by Council with the public and in some instances, Councillors themselves.

As one example, when asked by a Councillor what the Council response was to a petition of 200+ Mapua residents and ratepayers relating to the Council's Cycle and Walking Strategy, the CEO herself stated the petition was ignored and there is no obligation for Council to respond to petitions. (Refer timestamp 1:57.27 of the Council meeting recording here:

<https://youtu.be/2La7aLtF5q0?si=OF1uaBaxTuQiTsI1>

Discussions during the 9 October and previous MDCA meetings have echoed the above concerns.

Therefore, we request TDC confirm in writing:

What public* consultation process does TDC follow in relation to expenditure of public funds within the Nelson-Tasman District?**

In particular -

1. What is TDC's definition of public consultation?
2. What specific terms of reference do TDC include within their public consultation processes? eg. Feedback, Petition, Survey, Submission, Complaint, etc.
3. What is TDC's definition for each specific term of reference included within their public consultation processes?
4. What are TDC's requirements and obligations in relation to each specific term of reference included within their public consultation processes,
 - a) under central and local government legislation; and
 - b) under TDC's own internal policies and guidelines?

* public means tax payers, rate payers, residents and visitors to the region

** public funds meaning funds received from both internal and external sources, eg. TDC income from rates, income and assets and funds secured through government funded projects and initiatives.