

Tabled 01/08/18,  
Full Council

## **Representation Review Submission from Peter Foster**

### **As submitted:**

I wish to be heard at a Hearing.

I strongly disagree with the Newsline, 8 June, statement, under 'Generally Council Agrees', that "the current representation arrangements appear to be generally well understood". A major omission is the absence of any definition of representation, including indeed, in LGA and LEA.

This is strongly shown by letters to local papers where the authors disagree with Golden Bay councillors. They are clearly not aware that councillors have to vote in the best interests of the District, not their Wards which elected them. The authors are unsurprisingly unaware of councillors' oath of office, which is to the whole District, and is buried in Schedule 7 of LGA as subclause 14 (3), on page 398, out of a total of 554 pages.

I am not saying the oath needs correcting. Who would want the Council table to become a battleground for competing wards?

What is required is a clear statement of TDC policy on councillors' voting, where wards' views conflict with District preferences.

### **As supplemented for tabling:**

I have further support for the above, and another key issue, for tabling at meeting, 1 August. On the matter of lack of public awareness of the statutory role of councillors, and TDC's responsibility to ensure ratepayers understand the situation, the latest GB Weekly, 27 July, includes a letter from John Jardine on GB councillors and the Waimea dam project. He includes: "They (the GB Ward Councilors) have acted either in ignorance or have been hoodwinked by pro-dam propaganda. Either way, they are not worthy of representing Golden Bay." How could there be a stronger indicator of the need for TDC to make all ratepayers aware of councillors duty to the District, rather than to their wards?

The other issue I raise here is the lack of Council policy on responsibility for population growth. This was raised in my submissions of the Waimea dam. It arises from water being vital to human life, and from rain water being of natural supply. There are surely records for the seventeen established settlements water sources and settlements/ consumptions given current populations.

I have raised this in my dam submissions and it appears to be completely ignored, although of paramount importance to limits of population growth.

### **Conclusions**

There is urgent need for publicised policy statements by TDC on:

- Councillors' responsibilities under LGA with regards to their wards.
- The maximum population which is supportable by District rainfall.

***Remember that election year starts soon!***

Peter Foster