

Takaka Grandstand

*Tabled at
extraordinary
Full Council meeting
19 March
2020*

Since being elected to the community board in November 2016 the Takaka grandstand has been one of the issues that has dominated the business of public forum and community board discussions. By far the majority of people in the public forum speak mostly in favor of retaining it

The grand stand issue has even made national news on radio and television and all of this over something that most people in Golden Bay wanted to have easily fixed three years ago however what it has done is create more damage to our community by polarizing people and adding to the mistrust between the community of Golden Bay and Richmond with most of the anger directed at TDC staff in Richmond which I have found very disappointing.

There have been expenses that could have been avoided and which could have gone instead to the restoration of this community asset. I listened to the way communication over this issue has been getting personal and nasty and inappropriate and still we have no grandstand to use.

Organizations like the A&P show which is over 100 years established have been affected deeply even after their generous gifts of land to create netball courts, feel un heard and disrespected which has lead to more damage. All over a community asset which many people here claim as their heritage.

As community board it is our role to advocate for the people of the bay. when I talk to people in the street who are concerned about this issue and hear those who come to community board public forum, expressing their desire to retain the grandstand and restore it to its heritage value and ensure it stands for another 100 years

At the meeting on the 12 June 2018 in Collingwood where 50 people came to speak and protest at public forum, we passed a resolution as a board asking for the grandstand to remain in situ strengthening the resolve of the meeting in 8 May 2018 where we passed this recommendation to full council.

We are expressing the desire of the people of Golden bay to have this matter resolved and to ask council to not spend any more money on lawyers and court and to move forward by voting on recommendation number three in the tabled report for this meeting.

Please keep in mind that the only way this will work is if both sides are willing to come to the table as it will take more than your vote here today.

Thank you

Grant Knowles

Dep chair Golden Bay community board