

Accentuate the positive

People have commented to me that the few writers whose names appear most often in these columns seldom offer positive ideas. They find it easier to tear down, not build, and target people who have rolled up their sleeves and who are trying to make a difference in their community.

These writers claim I called people whingers, whiners and wafflers. Mr Slater, who seems only ever to come out of the woodwork to be negative, even claims I said it publicly. This is completely untrue.

What I said in a letter to a tiny group was that while the council would welcome people with positive contributions, it wouldn't want ratepayers' money wasted by whingers, whiners, etc. A lot of people congratulated me for standing firm.

Repeating a lie often enough won't turn it into the truth. The media and community should be aware that I have never used those words publicly, and used them only in the context above to dissuade people from wasting ratepayers' money.

The council is entering another round of annual plan submission hearings. Once again there are good and constructive contributions being made. Last year submitters on sewerage won \$13 million of extra spending to meet their concerns, and this year's submitters will get an equally open-minded hearing.

Please, letter writers, try to make a positive contribution to a district which is a good place to live and which many other people are

working to make even better.

STAN SEMENOFF
Mayor of Whangarei

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Northern Advocate 6th May 2010