

Consultation or Brainwashing?

The model is unveiled after months of secrecy at the Town Basin.



Large displays fill both sides of the entrance in to Forum North.



The model is finally on display in the Whangarei Library for the general public to view.



And now the flag flying above the entrance, to the right of our national flag, is.....you guessed it none other than the Hundertwasser Koru flag.



Koru Flag

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia



The Koru Flag

The **Koru Flag** has been [proposed as a secondary](#) flag for [New Zealand](#). It was designed by [Friedensreich Hundertwasser](#) in 1983. It is claimed by some New Zealanders that the current [flag of New Zealand](#) is a reminder of British [colonialism](#) and does not truly represent their culture; however, those who support the current flag say that it represents the history of the country as a part of the [British Empire](#) and location in the [southern hemisphere](#).

As black is a traditional colour of the [Māori](#), the flag has a black flagstaff on the left. There is a fern green spiral which starts by taking up the entire width of the flag but decreases gradually, splitting it diagonally and finally curling up into a [spiral](#) on the right side. This curling [fern](#) is based on a Māori pattern known as the *koru*, and the corresponding white spiral alludes to [Aotearoa](#), a Māori name for New Zealand meaning *Land of the Long White Cloud*.

[Hundertwasser](#) also saw the design as representing humanity in harmony with nature.

The flag can be seen on the counter of the convenience store in the [1996](#) film *subUrbia*.

Is this a consultation process?

I am told many feel it is already a done deal.

Consultation defined

Consultation

procedures for assessing public opinion about a plan or major development proposal, or in the case of a planning application, the means of obtaining the views of affected neighbours or others with an interest in the proposal.



Found on <http://www.lawsonfairbank.co.uk/planning>

Consultation

Consultation means being asked your opinion on different things. You could be consulted by your local council about the state of your youth club, or asked for your opinion about something.



Found on <http://www.encyclo.co.uk/local/20929>

In my opinion true consultation on any project should;

There should first of all be a list of priority projects for the District and these should also have input from the ratepayers in prioritising and should be done on an annual basis also considering projects the community puts forward E.g. roads, sewerage system upgrades, better parking facilities, clean harbour, lower rates, footpath upgrades, resealing rural roads, to name but a few. Prioritising is of the utmost importance in this decision making process.

Then;

- 1/ Firstly inform the affected parties (ratepayers) of the various other options available, or ask their opinion on any other options.
- 2/ Inform of the proposed costs of the investigation into the projects or options that are available.
- 3/ Inform of the proposed total costs of the project or costs of the other options that are available.
- 4/ Inform of the timeframe of the investigation, consultation process and building phases, plus the expected lifespan of the project.
- 5/ Inform of the costs of ongoing maintenance of the project and/or surrounding area; as per any contract requirement.
- 6/ What are the expectations of other interested parties (E.g. Hundertwasser Foundation) over the term of the whole project and beyond its completion.
- 7/ Are there any ongoing costs to interested parties (E.g. Hundertwasser Foundation) Royalties etc.
- 8/ Are there ongoing costs for exhibiting the 'foundations exhibits' E.g. transportation, Insurance, set up fees, hireage, security etc
- 9/ Who will paying the costs for the project if it does not self fund? Ratepayers, we know, will end up having to pay, but what is the maximum liability of cost to the Ratepayers and what is the term of the debt/loans?

COST explained

In regards to **cost** it needs to be as a plain explanation E.g. 'cost per year as an increase in their rates'; as a **dollar value per year and for the length of term** that those costs will be incurred in their rates to keep the project and/or projects up and running.

(Most have no idea what the 'rugby stadium', which was deemed to be Multi Events, is costing them and for how long they are indebted to it, but it runs out to the grandchildren and possibly the great grand children being responsible, having to pick up the tab.)

It sometimes appears that projects are initiated by those in council wishing to develop their personal resumes, before they move on to greener pastures. Should we be building monuments for those people, with public money?

It's the future of our children, grand children and great grand children etc. that these projects of grandeur are affecting; both positively by benefiting, or negatively as a cost burden for years to come. We must protect and provide for them now, but make wise decisions not burdening them with huge debt into their future. Many have difficulties affording to live now in a more financially demanding economy. Who knows what our future expectation will be.

What is the benefit of this project and how is the benefit to the community measured?

If the private and/or business sector is not prepared to voluntarily invest in some projects, because they may be unviable, why should ratepayers be compelled by those in power to make compulsory contributions?

There will obviously be other items in regards to consultation and I welcome any feedback.