

Camera keeps a check on councillors

Newstalk ZB
July 15, 2010, 8:34 am

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Taupo District Council will broadcast future meetings on the internet.

Mayor Rick Cooper says recording meetings will not only ensure that minutes are accurate, but will settle disputes and curb bad behaviour by councillors. Mr Cooper says he is sick of councillors using empty public galleries as an excuse to act up. He says the initiative is no different from Parliament being broadcast on TV except that it will be seen on a computer screen.

Initially the broadcast will be live but if the trial is successful an on-demand service will be added.

Councillors from other districts have expressed interest in the technology.

6 Comments

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Lrd 08:46am Thursday 15th July 2010 NZST [Report Abuse](#)

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This is great stuff. Any move like this is great for democracy and keeping our elected representatives honest.

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Chippee 09:13am Thursday 15th July 2010 NZST [Report Abuse](#)

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Has anyone watched parliament of late government members still manage to sneer and strut so why would councils be any different with this example set?

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Rita 09:33am Thursday 15th July 2010 NZST [Report Abuse](#)

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About time. Many of our representatives are are not what we are taught about democracy. Go Mayor Rick

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Perhaps other City Councils would adopt the idea as well. I certainly would be watching the Wellington City Council in session on the internet so that when the elections are here again I know which of them deserve my vote as councillors and as mayor. It is certainly a step towards accountability. Come on Wellington City Council take up technology to another level and I will get to know more about the people who are deciding what to do with my Rates

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Alexander 2 hours, 27 minutes ago [Report Abuse](#)

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All council bussiness should be 'live' and a program published before hand.....no 'out of public eye ' deals should be lawful.....as we know that all council and MP's are 'born to lie' so keep it all 'open to the public'. Blenheim Council is nortorious for 'quiet dealing' behind closed doors..... "we have saved the rate payers hundreds of thousands of dollars".....who beleives councillors if one cannot see the dealing being done.....seems like...

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This is fantastic. As a regular attendee to council meetings this is a step in a positive direction for transparency for the community. Maybe some elected officials would not be in agreeance. Some tend to sit on their hands and say nothing. Meetings in our area, Whangarei, are regularly short (under 15 minutes) and only now (July), being election year, have been stretched out. There should be nothing to hide. Remember these people are paid by the ratepayer and the ratepayers can then see if...

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WARREN 10 minutes ago [Report Abuse](#)

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Remember these people are paid by the ratepayer and the ratepayers can then see if they are getting value for money. Congratulations Mayor Rick Cooper for bringing the decision making into the homes of the people the decisions normally effect.