

## Being mischievous

Your editorial of October 11 states "What we don't need is endless pandering to the disconcerted minority who want referendums every five minutes that council wants to make a decision about the use of public funds".

In my experience, the only people who have proposed referenda were Respect Northland and they have long left the scene. In any case, they were promoting referenda only for major projects, such as the so-called "Events Centre".

The small group of those you have referred to in the past as "council watchers" have never advanced or supported the position that you describe. For my part, I would be supportive of a referendum process to prioritise major projects, as has been practised in Wanganui, but would not be, and have not been, an advocate for this. I strongly support the right of councillors to make decisions provided that these are based on a process of genuine consultation where people are encouraged to contribute and their views are heard.

I have never heard your proposition being advanced by anyone, including Respect Northland, and would submit that you are simply being mischievous. Unless, of course, you are prepared to name those who are and provide evidence of their doing so.

You would better serve your readers by advocating ways in which the people of Whangarei can participate in their democracy, for the betterment of their district, than in speculating on a position that defies reality for a purpose which is unfathomable.

**WAYNE DEEMING**  
*Whangarei*

October 2010  
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