

BRIEFLY

Speaker time tweaker

Mayor Morris Cutforth's new public forum nearly got out of hand timewise at its very first airing earlier this week, when the first speaker went over the stipulated three minutes, was granted two more minutes, and then needed more. Cr Warwick Syers objected saying the time had been clearly stipulated and that to grant an extension of time would be setting a precedent. The new mayor has set aside 15 minutes before each monthly meeting for citizens to speak for three minutes on previously-approved subject of their choice. The speaker was well-known environmentalist Margaret Hicks who said an integrated catchment plan was urgently needed to protect the Ruakaka from increasing pollution.