

Opinion

Whangarei Report 13/8/09

Please listen, Mr Mayor

LETTERS

The mayor is getting excited about the cost of the Long Term Plan [WDC web site].

Apparently groups in the community are "organising numbers of people to make submissions and then crying foul when council did not accord priority to these". Many believe that "having your say means getting your way", bleats the mayor.

Well it does for some! The mayor and councillors "have their say" and "get their way" long before the document is released to the public for comment. Who could forget the rugby stadium, Hundertwasser, bridge and so on? Once the draft is printed its contents are, effectively, cast in stone and you may as well forget about submitting. "The process is flawed". Hello! Try suggesting positive changes to the process and prepare yourself for the mayoral abuse — "innate arrant whingers" etc.

Everyone knows the process that Mr Semenoff has chosen is flawed and unfair to everyone. He and his merry band of councillors are in a perfect position to do something positive to change this and ensure that people's ideas are incorporated in the plan before it is printed. However, he just whinges and whines to all in sundry about how hard done by he is. Instead of rushing off to Mr Hide to "introduce common sense" into the process, he could do so himself.

Instead he chooses to blame everyone else — the

government, LGNZ and, in particular, members of the public who are taking the only opportunity accorded by their council to address them.

If Mr Semenoff wishes to get value for money then he and his council could start to listen to what people want for their district instead of abusing those who offer positive ideas for an improved process.

I won't be holding my breath, however.

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