

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission?: No

Do you support the draft Community Engagement Policy as presented? : Yes

What aspects of the proposed policy do you agree with and why?: All seems reasonable. He pai te reo Māori (te reo Kai Tahu!) i te whārangi tuaiwa. :-) Explanations on p 12- 14 useful and easy to follow.

What aspects of the proposed policy do you disagree with and why?:

This document is clear that BEFORE making decisions you seek engagement (in various ways depending on the significance level etc.) but I think there is a gap regarding community engagement AFTER a decision has been made. Does council engage AFTER decisions have been made, with the affected communities/ people so council can evaluate the success or otherwise of decisions/ projects etc? How does evaluation take place? If community members want to engage with council about decisions made or impacts of decisions- how do they do so? Right now it seems engagement only takes place on Council's terms: when Council decides it is necessary/ prior to decisions/ on topics of Council's choosing. For the Council to fulfil its Community outcome for 'Residents are included and have a voice' it would be good to create an avenue for community engagement that enables residents to provide feedback or raise concerns or ask questions. So they feel they can 'have a voice' on matters that concern them - right now it is hard to know where to take those concerns. For example; I think I contributed/ submitted regarding the cycleway / CBD development but what has happened on Cass st. appears to be different than original proposals. For a couple of months I have wanted to find out how the proposals got changed and why and who made those decisions. I have wondered where to take my feedback to, who to ask questions of. I read in last week's paper that Council has engaged an agency to evaluate that project/ safety on Cass st. It would be really good if residents (especially people who work on Cass st/ use it regularly/ cyclists/ pedestrians/ car users) had the opportunity to engage/ be part of that consultation/ evaluation but I have not seen any invitation/ way to be involved in that. For a long time I have wanted (but don't know where/ how) to share my experience and observations: The cycleway joint with the walkway is completely impractical for a cyclist as I discovered the first time I rode on it. So completely useless (having to stop at every intersection, look out for turning cars e.g. Community House, pedestrians etc.) that no cyclist will use it. They will ride on the road as I do where there are several intersections you can just ride straight through, making the trip much faster than using

Additional Comments:

the cycle way. To avoid being hit by people opening car doors on the narrow road, cyclists will naturally ride close to the middle of the lane - meaning cars behind them cannot get past. Those who don't bike may wonder why cyclists don't use the cycle lane and get upset that cyclists are slowing them down as they can't get past... but anyone who tries the cycle lane will quickly figure out why the cyclists are on the road! It is so sad and disappointing that what has been invested in/ developed is so impractical... it has made the street less safe for cyclists than what we had before and probably more frustrating for drivers. This is just an example of one decision made where it would be good to have consultation AFTER the decisions - to learn from mistakes and hopefully not repeat them.

I understand that all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included:

Yes

Additional Supporting documents:

No file uploaded

**Personal Details**

Full Name:

Kate E White