

Allie Dunn

From: Allie Dunn
Sent: Wednesday, 2 July 2025 4:08 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to request for information re process to hold public meetings

Kia ora

I refer to your official information request dated 16 June 2025 seeking information on processes to hold public meetings and a list of council committees and community boards.

Our response to your request for information is outlined below.

1) You requested a list of Council's committees and community boards. We note that this information is publicly available through our website. Here are links to the pages where you can view this information:

Council Committees: <https://www.tararua.govt.nz/your-council/governance/council-committees>
Community Boards and Community Committee: <https://www.tararua.govt.nz/your-council/governance/community-boards-and-committees>

2) You requested us to provide the process for a community organisation to hold a public meeting within the Tararua District: the Tararua District Council does not have responsibility for controlling how a community organisation goes about holding a public meeting. Therefore there is no process to provide to you. As such, your request to be provided with such information is declined, under the grounds that the information being sought does not exist (refer Section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987).

3) You requested us to provide the process for a candidate to hold a public meeting within the Tararua District: the Tararua District Council does not have responsibility for controlling how candidates go about holding a public meeting. Therefore there is no process to provide to you. As such, your request to be provided with such information is declined, under the grounds that the information being sought does not exist (refer Section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987).

However, election candidates must ensure they are complying with rules set by the Local Electoral Act 2001, for example their advertising of their event must contain an authorisation statement as required under section 113-115 of the Local Electoral Act 2001. If the Electoral Officer receives any formal complaint about an offence, or becomes aware of an offence, the matter will be referred to the Police as required by the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Also, candidates cannot use Council resources for a public meeting, for example Council meeting rooms and venues (except those available for public hire).

Candidates can make themselves aware of these rules by reading the Candidate Handbook, available to pick up from Council's Service Centres throughout the district, or by downloading a copy from our website:
<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/your-council/governance/www.tararua.govt.nz/elections/candidate-information-2025-election>

The Council is publishing a list of "meet the candidate" events that are organised throughout the community via its website. This list will be updated whenever we are advised of an event being held. Anyone organising a "meet the candidates" event is encouraged to view the list of events that have been arranged before choosing a date for their event, to avoid clashes with other events. You can view this list on the following page on our website, and this will be updated each time we are notified of a "meet the candidates" event:

<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/your-council/governance/www.tararua.govt.nz/elections/information-for-voters-2025-election>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer

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www.facebook.com/tararuadc

This email and any attachments is intended for the above named recipient only and may be confidential.

If you have received it in error, please take no action based on it, copy it, or show it to anyone.

Please return to the sender and delete your copy. Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 16 June 2025 7:07 pm

To: Info - Tararua District Council <Info@TararuaDC.Govt.NZ>; Allie Dunn <Allie.Dunn@Tararuadc.govt.nz>; info@lgc.govt.nz; info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Cc: [REDACTED] Mike.Butterick@parliament.govt.nz; David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz;

Subject: Re: Public Notice Legislation Breach

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Caution advised. This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender's identity and use caution with attachments and links.

Tēnā koe Allie,

Thank you for your statement: "The Council follows the requirements set out in Part 7, section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 to provide public notice of meetings of Council, its committees and Community Boards."

Understood. 1. Please provide a list of all your committees and community boards.

Thank you for your statement: "When we are in the election period, after nominations have closed, should any community organisations wish to hold "meet the candidate" sessions in the community, they will be able to provide us with the details of their community meetings and we share that information through our website."

Understood. 2. I require you to provide the process for a community organisation to hold a public meeting within your district. 3. I also require you to provide the process for a candidate to hold a public meeting within your district.

But perhaps this is evidence that not all organisations/candidates have "equal opportunity" before the law?

Ngā mihi nui,

Kia ora.

[REDACTED]

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

On Monday, June 16th, 2025 at 3:30 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

> Tēnā koutou TDC (Allie), LGC and Government Ombudsman,

>

> Understood. Thank you for the confirmation Allie that community societies/committees etc are not able to list their public meeting through the councils means and also that candidates shall not be able to list their public meetings with council either, nor is it a requirement to inform council about a public meeting since you as local government have no complete process to conform to.

>

> I shall now require the Local Government Commission and the Ombudsman to please confirm if this is a breach of the local governance legislation as I found out about this through legislation.

>

> Ngā mihi nui,

>

> Kia ora.

[REDACTED]

>

> Sent from Proton Mail Android

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> On 6/16/25 2:52 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

>> Tēnā koe Allie,

>>

>> Ngā mihi nui. Understood. Thank you for letting me know some of the criteria. Please provide all criteria and the process in full for both public community meetings and public election meetings as per questions in previous email.

>>

>> Matihore,

>>

>> Kia ora.

>>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

>>

>> Sent from Proton Mail Android

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> On 6/12/25 2:31 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>>

>>> Tēnā koutou TDC, Horizons and Bush Telegraph,

>>>

>>> Please advise of the process for the following Public Notices to be added to your community events calendar / dedicated "Public Notices" / Official Facebook / Website / Community notice boards (Such as at Tararua Services Centres, Tararua Information Centres and Tararua Library's):

>>>

>>> 1. Election-Related, candidate (public meeting).

>>>

>>> 2. General Community Events (public meeting).

>>>

>>> Please advise of what needs to be provided to you for the above such as:

>>> * Date, time, and location of the meeting

>>> * Purpose/topic of the meeting

>>> * Who is organising the meeting

>>> * Contact information for inquiries

>>> * Any specific audience or prerequisites

>>> * Relevance requirements for the notice

>>> * Timing requirements for the notice

>>> * The correct format for the notice

>>>

>>> Please also advise of where the Public Notice shall be displayed on all needed information being provided to you.

>>>

>>> Ngā mihi nui,

>>>

>>> Kia ora.

>>>

[REDACTED]

>>>

>>> Sent from Proton Mail Android