

To:
Dawn Baxendale
CEO Christchurch City Council
53 Hereford St,
Christchurch City

July 13, 2021

From:
Andrea Davis on behalf of Coastal Community Residents United
99 Nayland St.
Sumner, Christchurch

Subject: Our OIA request for minutes of The Coastal Hazards Working Group

Dear Dawn Baxendale,

We applaud the leadership and responsibility taken on by The Coastal Hazards Working Group. These Councillors are appreciated for their time spent moving forward on a very difficult policy problem.

As a community group with a focus on Sea Level Rise we would like to start engaging with your Coastal Hazard Working Group and hear more about the Coast Hazards Adaption Planning Programme; CHAPP. We have recently made a request through the Official Information Act for the Coastal Hazards Working Group minutes. Ideally, we would prefer a member of the Coastal Hazards Working Group, to engage with us and explain the minutes currently on record.

As it turns out, the Status of CHWG, in their Terms of Reference, may mean withholding minutes is not appropriate for this type of group.

Status:

The Coastal Hazards Working Group does not have the status of a Committee, and the Council's Standing Orders accordingly do not apply to its meetings.


Regardless of the Status of CHWG, and our past request for information, we propose that you and other leaders at the CCC, adopt the approach to engage early with residents and stakeholders on coastal hazard issues.

Early public engagement when it comes to Sea Level Rise is showing to be successful for greater resilience in these uncertain times. (Case Study; OECD report, 2019, Responding to Rising Seas; OECD Country Approaches to Tackling Risks, p.7) see attached.

Coastal Hazards, in the form of rising sea levels, extreme rain events and storm water management, is a shared problem for every person on the planet not just Christchurch. We have to convince the public of our shared responsibility for a rapidly warming planet. People like certainty, however, our future depends citizens to accept uncertainty as a new normal.

As a group we can help the CCC disseminate accurate information, watchdog what the media reports as true and accurate, and basically we can back the CCC once we find the common ground we are all seeking.

On behalf of the Coastal Community Residents United CCRU
Sincerely,



Andrea Davis

Sea level rise is our shared future, and our shared responsibility.