

Allie Dunn

From: Allie Dunn
Sent: Friday, 4 July 2025 2:51 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: Response to request for information re Public Forum Requirements

Kia ora

I refer to your official information request dated 24 June 2025 seeking information related to public forum and the requirements that relate to public forum time.

Our response is outlined below.

“Public Forum” refers to a period of time, usually at the start of a Council, Committee or Community Board meeting, which, at the discretion of a meeting, is put aside for the purpose of public input. This period of time is designed to enable members of the public to bring matters, not necessarily on the meeting’s agenda, to the attention of the local authority. In the case of a committee or community board, any issue, idea or matter raised in a public forum must fall within the terms of reference of that body.

The rules and processes pertaining to public forum are outlined in Council’s Standing Orders, which are a set of rules for the conduct of the proceedings of local authorities, their committees and community boards. Their purpose is to enable local authorities to exercise their decision-making responsibilities in a transparent, inclusive and lawful manner.

We publish the processes for members of the public to participate in public forum on Council’s website, at the following link: <https://www.tararua.govt.nz/your-council/governance/systems-for-public-access>

This page also has a link to download a copy of Council’s Standing Orders.

With regard to the period of time set aside for public forum at Council’s meetings, standing orders allows for a period of up to 30 minutes, with participants being allowed to speak for up to five minutes each on items that fall within the delegations of the meeting, provided matters raised are not subject to legal proceedings or related to the hearing of submissions. Refer to standing orders for the full list of exclusions. Speakers may be questioned by members through the chair, but questions must be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters the speaker raised. No decisions can be made relating to matters brought up during public forum, except to refer the matter to officers for reporting to a future meeting for consideration.

Requests to speak during public forum need to be made to the Chief Executive in advance, however this requirement may be waived by the Chairperson. Requests for public forum time need to outline the matters that will be addressed by the speaker.

The Chairperson of the meeting has the discretion to decline to hear a speaker, and the general reasons for making such a decision are outlined in Standing Orders.

When there is a matter arising relating to the conduct of a meeting, which includes public forum, the Chairperson has the right to decide all questions where standing orders make no provision or insufficient provision. The Chairperson's ruling is final and not open to debate.

There is no legal requirement for the Council or its Committees or Community Boards to set time aside for public participation. As explained above, it is held at the discretion of the Council, Committee or Community Board.

Your request also mentioned public forum being held in a public place.

By definition, any meeting held by Council, its committees or community boards, is deemed to be a "public place" due to the meeting being required to be open to the public unless the publicly has been lawfully excluded from part of the meeting.

There is a bylaw in place that places controls around the use of Public Places in the Tararua District, the "Public Places Bylaw 2024". You can read a copy of this bylaw on our website, or at one of our service centres. Here is a link to the page where the Council's bylaws are published:

<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/bylaws-and-policies>

You'll see in this bylaw the rules around use of or access to public places, which includes that the Council may prescribe conditions for access to or use of any public place, and a person in a public place may not do anything to cause or allow a nuisance to occur, or to obstruct, disturb, or interfere with any other person in their access, use or enjoyment of that public place.

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



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CANDIDATE INFORMATION SESSIONS
for the 2025 Local Elections

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 June 2025 1:40 pm
To: Governance <Governance@Taranuadc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: 1:30pm Tues 24 Jun 2025 - LGOIMA Request

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 1:36:23 PM
To: Info - Taranua District Council
Cc: [REDACTED] ; ContactUs ; commission@publicservice.govt.nz ; information.centre@lgnc.co.nz ; Info ; LGC@lgc.govt.nz
Subject: 1:30pm Tues 24 Jun 2025 - LGOIMA Request

Tēnā koutou Taranua District Council,

Since matters pertaining to journalists, media and the Public at your Public Forums have not been addressed adequately through lack of transparency we now have the following requirements:

1:30pm Tues 24 Jun 2025 - LGOIMA Request:

1. We require all information pertaining to the legal requirements of your Public Forums that are open to all the Public such as the legal necessity of them to be held in Public Place for the duration of that Public Forum.
2. We require all information pertaining to the legal requirements of your Public Forums when held in a Public Place such as upholding the Public legislation enabling people to record the information they and/or others are seeking.

Acknowledgement required.

Ngā mihi nui,

Kia ora.



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