



OTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING/CAP UPDATE

9TH APRIL 2024

Dear Chair, Councillor, and Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of CALM, a local grassroots group made up of Kapiti residents and business owners. We have concerns about the Coastal Adaptation Area process led by the Coastal Advisory Panel which are yet to be addressed.

Well, here we are again. Another Community Board meeting, another CAP Update, another Statement from CALM asking the same questions. And another day we'll never get back. We're instructed to sit here, be respectful and say nothing while CAP and whichever Board members decide to be proactive and ask questions, discuss the biggest issue we have probably ever faced on the future of the Coast. As if none of the residents, with vested property interests, are in the room.

This is supposed to be a 'community-led' process but CALM really doesn't see much evidence of this at all. The residents of Kapiti are told to 'wait and see what happens when the Recommendations are presented to Council' but that's absurd. It's like going to a restaurant and being told to sit there and wait to be served a dish then once it arrives being handed a menu.

The scheduled April 10th meeting was supposed to be the opportunity (at long last) for CAP to be available for a face-to-face question and answer session, and to receive feedback from the entire community. And then it was cancelled due to an internal CAP meeting being rescheduled to the same day. No formal notification to the community and with no alternative date or venue. The Raumati Community Board managed a meeting like this successfully over two nights. And CALM was able to pull together a meeting to inform residents of the CAP process and we don't even receive funding.

The other recurring issue which needs addressing is that if we question the extreme science that the CAP scientist would have us believe then we're labelled as climate deniers, conspiracy theorists, tinfoil hatters, and peddlers of misinformation. These are all disparaging terms which are divisive and offer no constructive benefit.

CALM has only ever advocated for honest, respectful discussion where viewpoints from other leading experts, such as local Sean Rush, are taken into consideration, as scientific consensus is nowhere near settled.

We have continuously asked for likely sea rise scenarios of SSP/RCP4.5 to be applied, as recommended internationally by the IPCC. CAP continues to insist on the 8.5 modelling with a 1% probability of occurring which has absolutely no rationale. Where is the justification, as CALM hasn't received a formal explanation despite months of questioning this? Is this due to the fact that the gravy train needs the more powerful 8.5 engine in order for the Land Grab Express to reach its desired destination?

Kapiti is a tectonically active area with five known faults across the district - Ohariu, Northern Ohariu, Gibbs, Otaki Forks and the Southeast Reikorangi Fault. That information was taken from the Council's own website. So we ask 'why is searise suddenly perceived as more of a threat than earthquakes'?

CAP has also admitted they haven't been looking at historical climate data for the area. CALM believes future actions are indicative of what has taken place in the past.

It's extremely worrying that CAP and certain misinformed councillors continue to say that the Coastal Adaptation process will not, in any way, affect insurance including notable policy increases as well as the potential for cancellation. This trend is already taking place in the wider community, and there are numerous examples. The CAA process, combined with the referenced Jacob's hazard notices involuntarily placed on our LIM reports, have a direct correlation with the insurance industry.

While we applaud Kelvin Nixon, Don Day, and Martin Manning for fronting up to do these updates, we can't help but ponder on the whereabouts of the remaining panelists: John Barrett, Olivia Bird, Moira Poutama, Susie Mills, and, of course, the flagship members, Jim Bolger and Jerry Mateparae. And who and where is the iwi representation and what are their views? Are absent CAP and iwi members paid regardless or is remuneration based on fronting up to meetings?

And can it be guaranteed that members of CAP and the iwi do not have any conflicts of interest? Especially any that could result in financial gain for themselves, their family members, businesses, trusts or investments when they vote on the CAP Recommendations before Council.

For example, is the CAP scientist receiving any funding, backing or incentives from any educational, scientific or political institutions and such, which would mean he would be working to a predetermined narrative?

The costs continue to rise for a process undertaken by a debt-ridden Council which was not even a statutory requirement in the first place.

Both CALM and the community at large continue to question the CAP process. When will we have a forum in which these valid questions can be answered?

Therefore, as you represent the Otaki district, we ask that you take the community's very real concerns to the Council as a matter of urgency.

Thank you.

On behalf of
Kapiti C.A.L.M.

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