

Notice of Motion

Submitted on Friday 7 February 2020 (7 clear working days before meeting)

Attention: Eric Perry, Relationship Manager, Local Board Services

In accordance with Standing Order 2.5 , I hereby give notice that I wish to move the following motion at the *18 February 2020* meeting of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

Background:

As local board members our key role is representing residents of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area. It is important for us to gain as clear an understanding as is possible of the views of our community and their wants and needs.

Over recent years I have become increasingly concerned by a simple failing in Auckland Council consultation processes which hinders our ability to gain that clear understand and insight.

This simple failing is that – at a time when an ever increasing number of submissions are received online – online submitters are often *actively prevented from supplying their address*. This lack of reliable geographical information means we cannot place the level of confidence we should be able to on the analysis of the feedback received.

Over the years, as a resident, I have made submissions to a number of consultation processes and have spoken to literally thousands of other Auckland residents who have done the same.

Printed copies of consultation documents offer the option of giving your home address **and** your email address **and** identifying your local board area.

However, all Auckland Council online consultations that I have seen or taken part in over recent years do *not* do that.

Submitters are first asked whether their preferred method of contact is by post or by email.

Submitters who choose the email option are then *only* able to provide an email address. Not only are they not *encouraged* to provide their home address, but are *actively prevented* from doing so.

Those who choose the postal option must then complete their address details, but are prevented from also providing an optional email address.

The examples below are from the current DTLB consultation on the Montgomery Reserve Playground Renewal in Belmont. <https://bit.ly/2RW5AFO>



Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

5 Feb at 9:07 AM • 🌐



We are upgrading the playground in Belmont's Montgomery Reserve and before we come up with a design, we want your ideas. Take this survey <https://bit.ly/2RW5AFO> and tell us how you use the park and what new play equipment we should consider. Feedback closes Wednesday 19 February.



FIGURE 1:

Submitters who choose email as their preferred method of contact you can ONLY provide email contacts and are PREVENTED from giving your address.

What is your preferred method of contact?

Email

Post

Email address:

FIGURE 2:

Submitters who select post as their preferred method of contact can give their postal address but are prevented from also supplying an email address if they wish.

The image shows a screenshot of a web form. At the top, it asks "What is your preferred method of contact?". There are two radio button options: "Email" (which is unselected) and "Post" (which is selected). Below this, there is a section titled "Postal address:" followed by four input fields labeled "Street", "Suburb", "City", and "Postcode".

Preventing many online submitters from providing an address is inconsistent and therefore skews and devalues the data collected and any analysis of that data.

Hard copy and online forms do ask your local board area – but an absolutely astonishing number of people have told me they do not know what local board area they are in so had simply guessed. I’ve met a number of DTLB residents who have mistakenly chosen Kaipatiki, Upper Harbour, and Hibiscus Bay – and I’m certain residents of those areas are no less prone to making the same mistakes.

Given the large number of people who have told me this, I do not have confidence that we can place reliance on the data collected on submitters’ local board areas. Were therefore cannot be assured that the results accurately reflect the feedback of the residents we represent.

What all submitters **do** know with absolute certainty is their own home address – and I believe that great reliance could be placed on the accuracy of that data.

Hard copy submissions cannot compel submitters to answer ‘compulsory’ questions – but online submission forms *can* make fields compulsory – and I believe an address should be compulsory.

Why an address is important.

Having submitter addresses enables far greater insights when analysing and reporting submissions received. It is just as valuable as to understand the geographical spread of submissions as it is to understand other demographics supplied by submitters – such as ethnicity, gender, or age – as it

gives a good understanding of whether certain issues are viewed differently by communities in different geographical areas.

It is essential to have the ability to analyse submissions by geography – and, where appropriate, give greater or lesser weight to submissions on that basis.

It would seem appropriate that submissions on purely local matters should give a greater voice to residents of that area. For example: The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board is currently calling for feedback on the planned Montgomery Reserve playground upgrade. It seems entirely appropriate for local views to be given greater weight than is given to submissions from, say, Papakura.

In the same way, I would expect that a consultation on a playground in Manurewa would give greater weight to submissions from Manurewa than to those from, say, Sunnynook.

In this digital age, an address is also a valuable checks-and-balances tool.

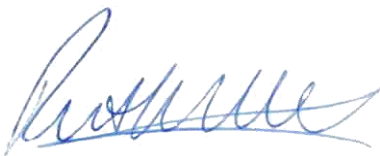
Auckland Council's online submissions are not currently geo-fenced, so there is nothing to prevent large numbers of people not resident in Auckland from skewing consultation results.

Having to choose a local board area *and* supply an address would be a useful tool in identifying inconsistencies. For example, a home address in Forrest Hill paired with a local board area of Albert-Eden would clearly not match up. This would not necessarily mean that the submission would be disregarded, but a large number of similarly inconsistent submissions might trigger a closer inspection and evaluation.

Recommendations:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

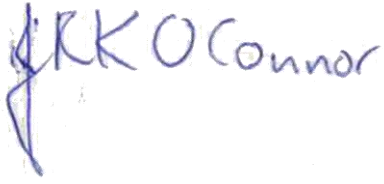
- a) **Request that all online surveys and consultations carried out by or on behalf of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board or any part of Auckland Council and its CCOs must require the submitter's address as mandatory**
- b) **Request that all hard copy surveys and consultations carried out by or on behalf of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board or any part of Auckland Council and its CCOs must require the submitter's address as mandatory**



RUTH JACKSON

MOVER

Elected Member
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JKK O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "JKK" followed by "O'Connor".

JAN O'CONNOR

SECONDER

Elected Member
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board