Raising Your Head Above the Parapet

An Engineer’s Dilemma

Presented by Katie Dugan
21 March, 2018
Civic projects can be contentious and emotive

Hundreds march in protest against 'common sense' solution to Island Bay cycleway

GEO CANN
Last updated 17:18, December 3 2017

Cycleway protest in Island Bay

The fiasco in West Lynn: how Auckland Transport get a shop village makeover so wrong?

The Island Bay Residents’ Association have organised a protest to get the well existing cycleway back to the original layout.

The Parade in Island Bay rang with chants of “paint it back” as hundreds of people spent an additional $4.1m revamping a Wellington cycleway.

Protest organiser Vicki Groce, of the Island Bay Residents’ Association, told the council they were working to bring legal action against Wellington City Council, which opted for the “solution” from Mayor Justin Lester despite the majority of residents support.

Anger at 'An Accessible City' central Christchurch traffic plan

LIZ MCDONALD
Last updated 21:11, March 14 2017

Cars queuing on Hereford St in central Christchurch.

Central Christchurch business leaders and property owners are threatening legal action if an inner city traffic redesign is not stopped.

At a private meeting at city council headquarters on Tuesday, described by attendees as “heated” and “explosive”, a who’s who of central Christchurch discussed claims the An Accessible City road redesign scheme was putting the rebuild at risk.
“Engineering New Zealand wants to be the respected voice of engineering in New Zealand – visible, bold, strong and influential – shaping the agenda of government and industry from an engineering perspective. Our members want this from us too.”
“It takes an industry voice to change these situations – individuals have too much to lose by rocking the boat.”
St Asaph Street, Christchurch – Accessible City Project

- $3.5 Million, completed 2016
- Incorporates separated cycleway (Major Cycle Route), shared paths, kerbed parking islands and landscaping features
- Schools and sports facilities nearby
- 350 cyclists per day already
- Safety Audit March 2017 recommended minor physical changes plus lowering the speed limit to 30 km/h
- Very vocal (and well-funded) Business Group demanded significant changes in favor of more carpark spaces while ignoring safety audit advice
Option 1 – Minor Enhancements, $210,000

Option 2 – Business Group’s Option, $1.2 Million
Branch Submission Process

Draft written, circulated within sub-committee and polished

Branch committee meeting discussion, sub-committee of non-conflicted members formed

Draft submission sent to membership in confidence requesting:
- a) Yes/no to submitting at all
- b) Feedback on submission
- c) Should we present to ITE

Feedback compiled, submission revised

“cease and desist” letter received from Business Group lawyers

Submission submitted anyway

Request from media for copy of submission

Presentation to ITE Committee

Raising Your Head Above the Parapet
Engineering New Zealand Code of Ethical Conduct

1. Protect people’s health and safety
2. Consider the environment
3. Report adverse consequences
4. Act competently
5. Behave appropriately
6. Warn about ignoring advice
7. Maintain confidentiality
8. Report breaches by other engineers
“If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu”
Drafting Effective Submissions
A well-crafted submission influences decision makers and helps drive policy

WHY ARE YOU MAKING THIS SUBMISSION?

What policy change are you advocating for? What response are you looking for?

TYPES OF SUBMISSION

What is the process? When are the deadlines?

WHAT DOES YOUR AUDIENCE WANT?

Who are they and what are their concerns?
Drafting Effective Submissions (cont.)
A well-crafted submission influences decision makers and helps drive policy

BUILD A LOGICAL, CONCISE CASE
Why is this important? Who will it affect? What are the benefits?

FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS & ORAL SUBMISSIONS
Never repeat your written submission face-to-face. Only repeat the key message.

ASK FOR SUPPORT
Always get another person not close to the subject to read your submission.
Talking to the Media

• You can always buy time by agreeing to call back
• Ask what kind of opportunity is this for me and my organization
• Ask whether you are the right person to comment
• Keep your words simple and explanations brief
• Never agree to an off-the-cuff interview if you are unprepared
They’re keen to help!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
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Thank you!

Your turn...

Please come see us at the “IDEAS” booth in the exhibition area and tell us:

- What we should STOP doing
- What we should KEEP doing
- What we should START doing