

25 Lake Ferry Road  
Onoke 5772

04.06.2020

South Wairarapa District Council  
19 Kitchener Street, Martinborough 5711

Tēnā koutou

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from the South Wairarapa District Council Māori Standing Committee - to be tabled at our meeting today - Thursday 6.30pm the 4th of June 2020.

My time on the MSC has been a valuable experience. I have learned a lot about local body politics and it has given me the opportunity to compare Pākehā power structures with those of Māori.

The 2002 Local Government Act states that local government bodies must include Māori in their decision making processes, however, time and time again we have been excluded. When it has suited Council they have brought us in, listened to us, and benefited from our contributions. A good example of this is the creation of Council's new logo which states "kia rere tahi tātau" (let's fly together). Unfortunately, Council decides when they want to fly with us and when you'd rather leave us behind.

I believe our current system may never truly understand the value indigenous peoples bring to decision making tables due to the fact the very existence of such tables is predicated on the belief that colonial systems and structures are superior to those of traditional indigenous communities.

One's energy is bound to wane working within a system that fails to acknowledge its own fraudulent foundations. I feel worn from continually attempting to illustrate the importance of not only the Māori perspective but also our values, philosophies, and passion.

While I am obviously disillusioned with Council's structure as a whole, my decision is not based on the actions of individuals working within Council and I would like to thank the many kind people, past and present, who have supported me within the organisation.

Nāku i roto i ngā manaakitanga i o mātau whenua

Raihānia Tipoki  
0273045422

109 Bentley Street  
Masterton

4 June 2020

South Wairarapa District Council  
19 Kitchener Street  
Martinborough

Tēnā koutou,

This is to inform you that I wish to resign, effective immediately, from the Māori Standing Committee of South Wairarapa District Council as one of the Pāpāwai Marae representatives.

Level 4 lockdown gave me the time to review all aspects of my life which included the different Trusts and Committees that I am on. Therefore, I decided that representing my Marae on the Māori Standing Committee isn't the best way for me to contribute my time and energy to Pāpāwai. I have informed Tia Tuuta the current Chair of the Pāpāwai Marae Committee of my decision which she supports.

“E kore au e ngaro, he kākano i ruia mai i Rangiātea”

Nāku iti noa, Nā

Deborah Davidson