

Thursday, 28 May 2009

The Chief Executive Officer

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Council Watch is a movement created for citizens and ratepayers of New Zealand, to help them better understand and interact with local government.

We are writing to formally introduce ourselves at the start of what we hope will be a long and fruitful relationship.

The Council Watch website has been developed with the goal of increasing citizen participation in the democratic process. It has been our experience that local government can be a mysterious and difficult phenomenon to deal with for the average New Zealander. To this end, we intend to pursue the following goals:

- 1) Dispel some of the mysteries of the workings Councils and municipalities
- 2) Explain how local government is structured, and where it gets its authority to impose rates on citizens
- 3) Provide an insight into how local bodies go about their daily business
- 4) Cast an independent eye over the processes and procedures of Councils

From time-to-time we will be contacting your organisation to request information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Let us assure you that these requests are not intended to be vexatious, rather to gather information for ongoing research that will be made public on our website.

Initially, however, we would like to request from you a copy – emailed in electronic form – of your current Local Governance Statement and a copy of your Council’s standing orders. Please do not send us a ‘link’ to your website. We require this in electronic format.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Jarrold Coburn

Jim Candiliotis