

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

I, Duncan Campbell, give notice that I intend to move the following motion at the Taupō District Council meeting to be held on 29 September 2026:

That Taupō District Council:

1. Agree in principle that Council-funded communications may provide appropriate opportunities for individual elected members to communicate their own views on matters of public and Council interest, including views that differ from an adopted Council position or those of other elected members.
2. Agree that where such opportunities are provided:
 - Access should be fair and substantially equitable between elected members;
 - Individual commentary should be clearly attributed as the views of the elected member and not necessarily those of Taupō District Council;
 - Contributions remain subject to applicable law, confidentiality and privacy obligations, reasonable publication requirements, the Code of Conduct for Elected Members, and appropriate pre-election restrictions; and
 - Contributions should not be edited or declined solely because they express a political viewpoint or a view differing from the majority or an adopted Council position.
3. Reinstate the **“Councillor Kōrero”** item in Council's *Kōrero* insert in the *Taupō & Tūrangi News* as one means of giving effect to these principles, with elected members provided substantially equal opportunity to contribute.
4. Request that appropriate guidelines for elected-member contributions to Council-funded communications be developed consistent with these principles and reported to Council for approval.
5. Note the briefing paper *Individual elected-member commentary in Council communications: New Zealand local-government practice and a proposed fair-access protocol*, which identifies examples of elected-member commentary in New Zealand Council communications and proposes a framework for balancing representative voice, Council neutrality, fair access and appropriate safeguards.

Context and Discussion

Prior to the 2025 election period, elected members had the opportunity to express their views through the weekly Council-funded *Kōrero* page in the *Taupō & Tūrangi News*, under the heading **“Councillor Kōrero”**. Contributions were generally limited to a maximum of 300 words and were published on a rotational basis, providing each councillor with several opportunities each year to communicate directly with the community.

This provided an additional means for residents and ratepayers, including those who do not regularly use digital or social media, to hear directly from their elected representatives. That opportunity is no longer available and this Notice of Motion proposes that it be reinstated.

The previous guidance for contributions also discouraged elected members from discussing political matters. Given the representative and governance roles undertaken by elected members, matters of public policy, Council decision-making and differing views on those matters will inevitably form part of their communication with the community.

Taupō District Council's Freedom of Expression Policy affirms the importance of freedom of expression and a presumption in favour of free expression, while recognising that reasonable and demonstrably justified limitations may apply. Elected members are also subject to the adopted Code of Conduct, including its requirements concerning interactions with the media and the public.

The proposed approach therefore seeks to provide elected members with reasonable freedom to communicate their individual views, while making clear to readers that those views belong to the individual elected member and do not necessarily represent an adopted position of Taupō District Council.

Signed by mover:



Councillor Duncan Campbell

Signed by seconder:



Councillor Hope Woodward

Date: 21 September 2026

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GUIDANCE NOTES FOR MEMBERS COMPLETING THE NOTICE OF MOTION FORM

Standing Orders

Please refer to Taupō District Council's [Standing Orders | Ngā Tikanga Whakahaere Hui 2022-2025](#), Standing Order 27 – Notices of Motion | Te pānui i ngā mōtini, page 62, for full details.

Signing your Notice of Motion

Your Notice of Motion must be signed. You can either print it, sign it and hand deliver it to the Chief Executive; or you can paste your e-signature into your Notice of Motion and email it to the Chief Executive.

Timeframe for submitting your Notice of Motion

You must submit your completed, signed, Notice of Motion to the Chief Executive **at least five (5) clear working days before** the meeting at which you intend to move your motion. "Working day" is defined in the Local Government Act 2002 as follows:

"Working day means a day of the week other than –

- (a) a Saturday, a Sunday, Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, the Sovereign's birthday, Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki/Matariki Observance Day, and Labour Day; and
- (b) if Waitangi Day or Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday; and
- (c) the day observed in the appropriate area as the anniversary of the province of which the area forms a part; and
- (d) a day in the period commencing with 20 December in any year and ending with 10 January in the following year."

Note in relation to (c) above, the relevant anniversary day for Taupō District is Auckland Anniversary Day, which falls on the Monday closest to 29 January.

Requirement for a seconder

From October 2024, Standing Orders of TDC require a seconder for your Notice of Motion before it will be added to an agenda.

Drafting your motion

Your Notice of Motion needs to be capable of forming an effective resolution. It should therefore be in the format "That Council (*takes specific action*)" and it should include all relevant details, for example names (in full), timeframes, dates etc.

Reasons for refusal of your Notice of Motion

Refer to Standing Order 27.2 to ensure your Notice of Motion does not contain any elements which may result in the Mayor/Chairperson refusing to accept it.

Notices of Motion to revoke or alter all or part of a previous resolution

There are additional requirements for Notices of Motion seeking revocation or alteration of all or part of a previous resolution. Refer to Standing Order 24, page 57.