

Are you submitting as an individual, or on behalf of an organisation?:

Individual

First Name: Andrew

Last Name: Dempster

Organisation (if applicable): Home / land owner / resident

Trade Competition (please choose whichever applies): I/we could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission

Postal address: 39 Old School Road
RD2
Arahura
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Variation being submitted on: Variation 2 – Coastal Natural Hazards Mapping

My submission: As an ordinary citizen, with no legal knowledge my focus was on the challenges I faced working with teenagers, then on my way home I was confronted with the immediate, grim, reality of driving past the prone body of a motorcyclist, recently collided with a car. The horror of those around was clear to see. These are the concerns that occupy the minds of ordinary people. When I got home there was a letter about the TTP plan. This was a depressing and confusing letter to receive on that sad day. This letter seemed strange as it did not have The Westland District Council in and I was unaware of seeing any rising sea levels here. However, some of the powers the plan potentially afforded itself ranged from minimal to draconian. On reading the various links to the evidence I became more confused as to what is really going on here.

I oppose the intent of the planned variation 2 as a resident landowner as it focuses on rising sea levels as its basis of evidence. In my attempt to read, or even be able to follow the logic of the percentages and mythologies provided in the online evidence.

I would like the following decision(s) to be made with respect to this Variation:

I was left perplexed by why it the plan focused on more resource consent red tape, rather than focusing on improving infrastructure to allow water from the mountains to better escape to sea. I have been here a long time and have seen that blocked inland creeks, waterways and especially if combined with a closed in sand bar at the Mouth of the Arahura River Mouth have presented avoidable excess water retention. The Creek beside our section could have been made to reduce localised flood risk by a scaled down mini

version of the Greymouth Flood Wall or better water flow. On a positive note there has been consistent hard work to keep the Creeks behind the Railway embankment clear since Fehi in 2019 surface flooded here.

Our house has never had water anywhere near coming in our house but it is on piles, that gives it that extra bit of height.

When I asked the council about this house before we bought it, no mention of rising sea levels or flood zones were present? Nor was our freehold section defined as of cultural significance to Maori. No matter how well intentioned these new moves may be, it has the intended or unintended impact of reducing the value of our home but does not address where the main danger of flooding comes from. The main danger of flooding comes from the clouds, down the mountains and must be able to run through unblocked waterways to the sea. Sea levels are not causing this.

Please indicate if you wish to speak to your submission: I do not wish to speak to my submission*

If any others making similar submissions wish to be heard: Yes, I would consider presenting a joint case with them