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**REPORT 7**  
*(1215/12/IM)*

**DRAFT ENGAGEMENT POLICY SUBMISSION RATIFICATION**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

To enable Community Board members to approve the Boards submission on Draft Engagement Policy Submission.

**2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the submission of the Tawa Community Board on the Draft Engagement Policy Submission attached as appendix 1.*

## **DRAFT ENGAGEMENT POLICY SUBMISSION**

In terms of the WCC's Draft Engagement Policy, we agree with most of that outlined in the draft document. However it cannot be stressed too strongly that Council needs to engage in comprehensive and meaningful consultation with groups in each local community. There are times when residents have given up providing their views as Council's engagement process has been perceived to be of a token nature with preconceived outcomes.

It goes without saying that in the likes of Tawa, groups to consult with are the Tawa Community Board and the Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association. Others are Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves and the Porirua Stream Walkway Committee, sports clubs, local schools and various community organisations.

Council could make better use of publicising information in local community newsletters and community websites. Many Wellington suburbs liaise well with local people and publicise items of community interest. Most would be prepared to convey Council information at no cost, especially on matters directly affecting local residents. In the case of Tawa a community newsletter is emailed to 1200 local residents at least once a month.

Last but not least, it is important for Council to provide and maintain feedback to those with whom it engages.

Tawa Community Board:  
Malcolm Sparrow (Chair)  
Graeme Hansen  
Margaret Lucas  
Chris Reading  
Alistair Sutton  
Robert Tredger

4 September 2013