

Thank-you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Michelle Bisset and, ^{apologise as} I am coming late to the table to speak to my written submission 107. From the soft sciences and not the hard sciences, I will try to be brief. I want to address just one aspect of my submission, and that is consultation.

Although I now longer work in the field, I have a background ~~as~~ a Policy Adviser/Analyst with around 20 years experience in consultation processes in local and central government and community

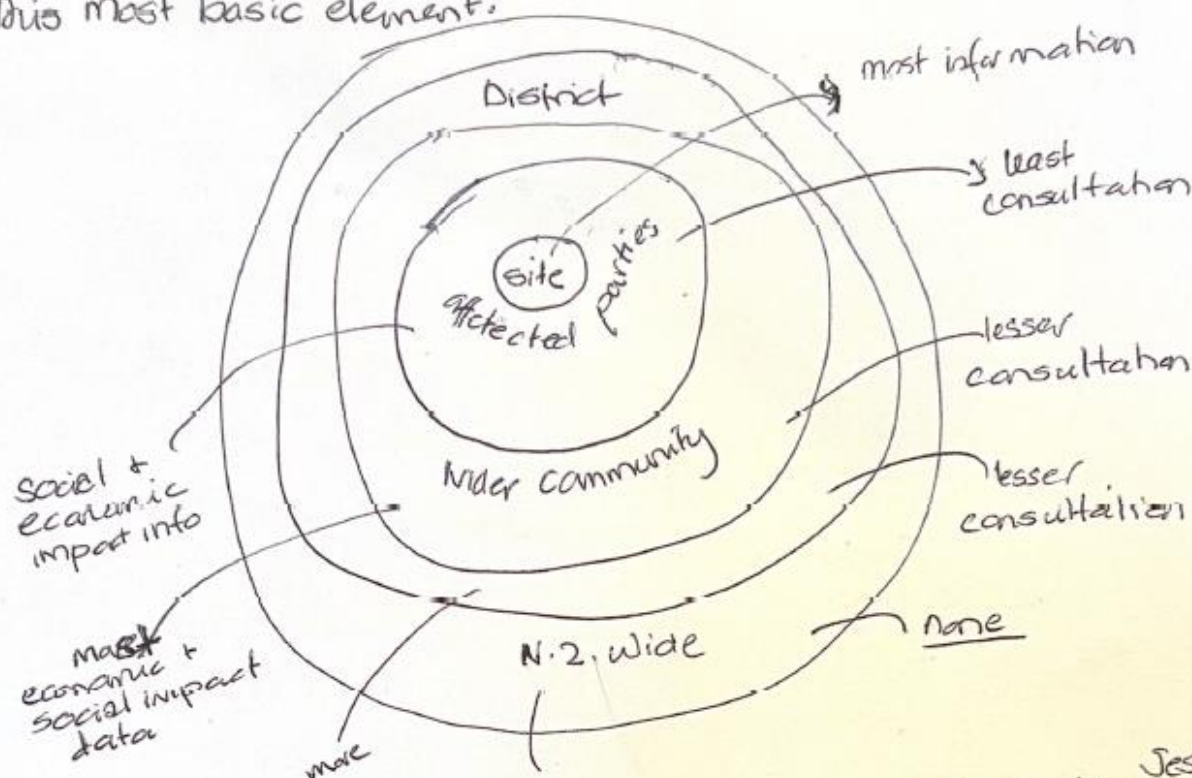
There is no requirement to undertake consultation under the RMA, however Helios has chosen to do this; referenced its process in its application; and reminded us of this several times in their evidence, yesterday. I gave my opinion in my original submission about the standard/quality of of their consultation process.

In talking to you today, I want to address the scope of the consultation undertaken, an issue which has been touched on today by other submitters.

Because I have written this 'on the fly' I would like the Commissioners to imagine if they could a series of circles increasing from the site at the centre.

In even the most basic consultation practice, the first mentioned to be consulted are the "affected"

parties In this case, the families living closest to the site.
(ie: LGA)
From the evidence, it would seem that Helios have not met this most basic element.



Going out to the wider community via an information session according to Helios attracted around 10 people of which many were Helios staff, the landowners & the affected parties. Although the applicant stated, that most were in favour of the project, No evidence of this was provided. No feed back provided to the community.

It was only when the community organized a community meeting was the true scale and impact of the project realized.

Ms Pant and Mrs Voices submissions speak to this.

The subsequent submissions (driven or facilitated in large) by a social media push from the community, were largely not in support of the project.

Refer to IAP2 Spectrum.

where my concern around scope arises as we continue to go outwards particularly in light of the dearth of concrete information around labour force supply.

Helios evidence now talks to transporting workers in from Alex. Labour will not be sourced by Helios but a contracted company.

So imagine now if you will another circle out... to the District.

It is at this broader level, that aspects of the RMA which have not been addressed, ~~should~~ could have been shown and that is the depth of economic and social aspects of ~~the~~ sustainable development (S.S. RMA).

→ Many submitters including Mr. Brady have spoken to this. If workers are to be sourced from Alex or Granwell, did Helios consult these communities and determine how their need for labour will impact them at the height of their growing / tourism seasons.

Mr Brady also referred to impact on accommodation in Ranfurly (its scarcity & the competition with tourism needs) Mr. Healy spoke to the use of RSE workers in the Australian ~~and~~ solar construction industry.

Mr. Swinburn, their impact on air sewage systems.

At this point, both social and economic impact assessments should have been triggered. We are moving into a space in which the unknown's outweigh the knowns. Mr. Carr spoke, to the last circle, I would like you to imagine, N.2. as a whole.

At this point, there were many voices that might have been heard. ~~Ms. Grimmer commented~~

Is this practical or desirable?
For the applicant, perhaps not, but to the
people who have appeared here today, quite likely.

~~Mr. Swinburn~~
Consultation processes in New Zealand are
becoming the "greenwashing" of the policy space.

Cynical timing of the public notification of
consultation processes is becoming predictable -
just before Christmas.

Mr. Brady made comment on how members of the
public who have no particular everyday lived or
professional experience of a given issue,
often "miss" opportunities to take part. While
he was not inclined to lay blame for this in any
quarter, I am prepared to say that Council
bears some responsibility to get the message out.

Ms. Crossan spoke to avenues through which
Council governance and staff both have a part
to play in ensuring their communities are informed
and know how they can participate.

It has been my experience, that rather than
improving practice over time, it is ~~now~~ fast becoming
a tick box exercise, cynically used and ineffective
at getting to the heart of the wider effects of issues
on citizens.

Mr. Carr asserted that such issues are "legislative and policy challenges for another time".

What time might that be and how many voices will be lost if we do not take and exercise the opportunities available to us now?

If applicants choose to consult, please do it well.

→ I for one, appreciate the richness of information given by submitters and the oral part of this process.

These breathed life and reality into wider implications of this project.