



Kāpiti Coast District Council

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19 April 2012

Alex Harris
requests@fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Harris

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your email of 3 April 2012 in which you ask whether or not the Kāpiti Coast District Council opens its meetings with a prayer and if it does whether or not the Council has considered abolishing it in the wake of the Wanganui District Council's decision to abolish their opening prayer. This response is issued in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

In February 2012 the Council decided to preface its Council and Committee meetings with the following words:

“As we deliberate on the issues before us, we trust that we will reflect positively on the communities we serve. Let us all seek to be effective and just, so that with courage, vision and energy, we provide positive leadership in a spirit of harmony and compassion.”

As these words do not make reference to a God or higher being the Council does not believe this is a ‘prayer’ in the sense considered and actioned by the Wanganui District Council, nor does this Council consider the words incompatible with legislation.

Yours sincerely

Tamsin Evans
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE