

From: info@tauranga.govt.nz <info@tauranga.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 3:33:57 PM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington
To: Sarishka Gandhi <Sarishka.Gandhi@tauranga.govt.nz>
Subject: Origen Contact Centre # 1123112 [COPY]

Origen Contact Centre

Transaction: 1123112 [View Transaction >> [Click here to view your CC Transaction](#)]

Created: 29 Mar 2024 @ 03:33pm by Julie Saies [julie.saies@tauranga.govt.nz]

Type/Subtype: Transportation / Pedestrian Crossing (New)

Priority: ROUTINE

Action: COPY

Your Position: L22048

Message:

YOU HAVE BEEN COPIED THIS SERVICE REQUEST FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY:

Contact: GORDON GRAY-LOCKHART

Phone: cel [REDACTED]

Details: Email recieved via info line queue 29.3.2024 3.25pm
Kia ora TCC whanau,

Three times in recent years, I've asked TCC to install a Rainbow pedestrian crossing on The Strand, or another prominent location in Tauranga's CBD. Most recently, I suggested painting a Rainbow crossing, and all other pedestrian crossings on The Strand including the four at the foot of Wharf Street, in colours celebrating Tauranga's multicultural communities.

As an example, I suggested a

Rainbow Crossing red and black crossing with koru representing the Tino Rangatiratanga white and red crossing representing Korean peoples orange, green and white crossing representing Indian communities blue, red, green and black crossing representing South Africa red, white and blue crossing for our British populations Etc

On each occasion, I've been met with refusals citing Waka Kotahi regulations around legislated colours for pedestrian crossings. This always seems pedantic at best, particularly given other Rainbow crossings installed around the motu.

Following last week's dreadful news of more attacks on Rainbow crossings and the LGBTQAI community, it seems two things are clear

Auckland, Gisborne, Wellington, New Plymouth, and Queenstown have all installed Rainbow crossings.

This means some of Aotearoa's largest city councils have agreed that Waka Kotahi regulations take second place in preference for the celebration of diversity and acceptance.

Aotearoa is in desperate need of understanding the diverse nature of our people and a celebration of how we can be a better world through the appreciation of all that we are.

Surely with a new CBD in development, now is the time to acknowledge

diversity in Tauranga Moana.

Could I ask please that

while our civic precinct remains under construction, TCC install a Rainbow crossing on Devonport Road using the existing crossing outside the Library. In the long run, and when the civic precinct is completed, the crossing could be relocated to the new Strand. I might suggest this work should be done ASAP(look how quickly work was done in Gisborne and Auckland), but certainly before local council elections in July.that in considering the eventual look and feel of the new civic precinct, thought is given to representing all Tauranga Moana diversity. We have a gorgeous anchor culture in Te Ao Maori and this element must form a large part of the space. However, also important is what Tauranga Moana's people look like in 2024. It may be that the continued use of pedestrian crossings as suggested above is viewed as the best methodology. Or some other avenue may meet with greater attention.

I appreciate your thoughts and actions.

Referral: Will Hyde

Parcel Address:

Parcel Notes:

The Service Request shown above is for your information only.

NOTE: You DO NOT need to action this service request.

This message was automatically generated by the Origen Contact Centre

Megan Yardley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:16 PM
To: Gareth Wallis
Subject: RE: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana

CAUTION: External Email.

Bahaha, love your optimism. I'll be an excuse again I guarantee.

Talk soon.

Slainté,

Gordy Lockhart (He/Him)

Whanake tatau,
(*Onwards together*)

"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization."

Mahatma Gandhi - 1925

From: Gareth Wallis <Gareth.Wallis@tauranga.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 9:18 AM
To: Gordy Lockhart [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana

Fully agree...let's see what the organisation comes back with and I can assist from there, if needed 😊

From: Gordy Lockhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:05 am
To: Gareth Wallis <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: Re: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana

CAUTION: External Email.

Thanks man,

A challenge for sure, but I'd argue it critical all Tauranga Moana peoples are represented and celebrated in the new CBD.

Currently we ask minorities to celebrate themselves. My view is this only harbours division and separatism. Having all of us part of a new Tauranga will signal a new tomorrow for our city.

Hope you agree.

Talk soon.

Slainte,
Gordy Lockhart (he/him)

From: Gareth Wallis <Gareth.Wallis@tauranga.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:20:44 AM
To: Gordy Lockhart [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana

OK cool...thanks. I'll keep an eye on it but let me know if you haven't heard anything substantial back in a few days and I can follow up.

Look forward to catching up at some point.

Cheers,
G.

From: Gordy Lockhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 8:14 am
To: Gareth Wallis <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >
Subject: Re: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana

CAUTION: External Email.

Hey man,

Just to the main enquiry email. They sent and email back explaining they'd sent it on to the transport team.

I thought, given your civic precinct role you'd like to understand it had been sent.

Keep well man.

Slainte,
Gordy Lockhart (he/him)

From: Gareth Wallis <Gareth.Wallis@tauranga.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 6:37:32 AM
To: Gordy Lockhart [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana

Hey Gordy,

Good to hear from you and hope all is well.

Who did you send this email too, just so I can work out who will lead a conversation about this internally?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,
G.

From: Gordy Lockhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 29 March 2024 3:07 pm
To: Info <xxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxt.nz>
Subject: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana

CAUTION: External Email.

Kia ora TCC whanau,

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Most recently, I suggested painting a Rainbow crossing, and all other pedestrian crossings on The Strand including the four at the foot of Wharf Street, in colours celebrating Tauranga's multicultural communities.

As an example, I suggested a...

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Following last week's dreadful news of more attacks on Rainbow crossings and the LGBTQAI community, it seems two things are clear...

1. Auckland, Gisborne, Wellington, New Plymouth, and Queenstown have all installed Rainbow crossings. This means some of Aotearoa's largest city councils have agreed that Waka Kotahi regulations take second place in preference for the celebration of diversity and acceptance.
2. Aotearoa is in desperate need of understanding the diverse nature of our people and a celebration of how we can be a better world through the appreciation of all that we are.

Surely with a new CBD in development, now is the time to acknowledge diversity in Tauranga Moana.

Could I ask please that...

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Mahatma Gandhi - 1925

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Megan Yardley

From: Gordy Lockhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 9:09 PM
To: Gareth Wallis
Subject: Fwd: Rainbow Crossing
Attachments: 71019 Pride Parade 1200x1200mm Footpath Stickers - PROOF (002).pdf

CAUTION: External Email.

Hey man,

Per text.

See below a very lovely, if complete nonsense response to [REDACTED] from Jane Massey.

A consultation! WT and we'll F! 🙌

Talk soon.

Slainte,
Gordy Lockhart (he/him)
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 8:59:33 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Rainbow Crossing

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jane Massey <Jxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>
Date: 4 April 2024 at 9:11:09 AM NZDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Rainbow Crossing

Kia ora [REDACTED]
Thanks for your message. I agree it has been very upsetting to see the damage caused to the Rainbow crossings in Auckland and Gisborne. The idea of a Rainbow crossing here is a great and one I have already considered. For this to happen there needs to be various consultations completed and there is also the issue of if it is situated in a public or private place so it's not straight forward or quick to happen. I can assure you I am keen for this to happen and will continue to push for this!
You may have seen that I had TCC support Moana Pride week decals put down outside the library and the airport last month. In the main, we had great feedback from the public however sadly I still had some negative phone calls and comments about them which, again is very disappointing. Moving forward this

only makes us more determined to ensure Tauranga is, and continues to be a City where everyone is able to be themselves, feels safe and fully included in our diverse community.

nga mihi

Jane Massey (she/her) | Diversity Advisor
Tauranga City Council
027 456 8949 mobile
jane.massey@tauranga.govt.nz | www.tauranga.govt.nz

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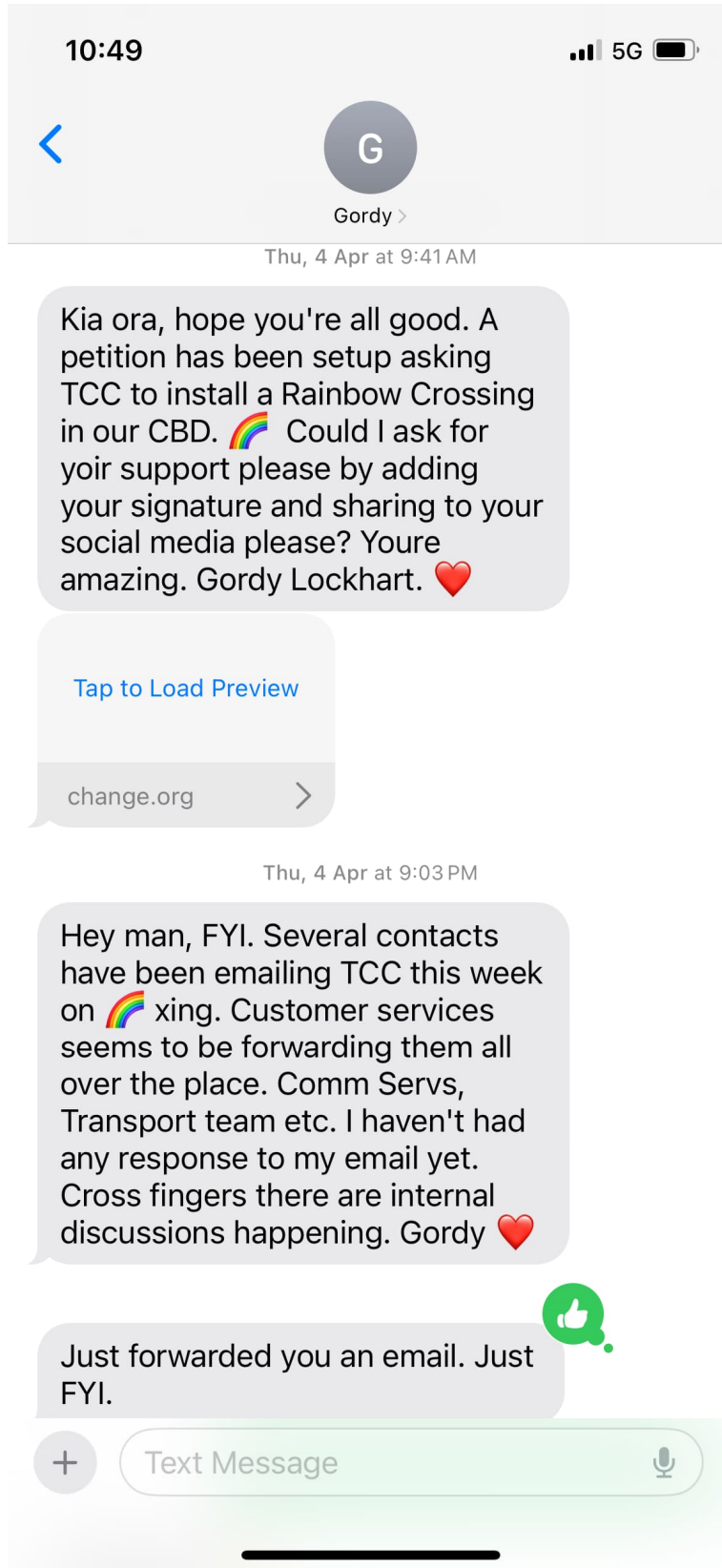
TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL

SUPPORT
PRIDE



Tauranga City

Screenshot of text referred to in email of 4 April 2024



Megan Yardley

From: Gordy Lockhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 11:06 AM
To: TaurangaCityCouncil
Subject: Re: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana [#A5459A]

CAUTION: External Email.

Ka pai whanau. Thank you.

Slainte,
Gordy Lockhart (he/him)
[REDACTED]

From: TaurangaCityCouncil <INFO@TAURANGA.GOV.T.NZ>
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 10:05:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana [#A5459A]

Kia ora and hello Gordy

Thank you for your further email. I can confirm the below details have been added to the original service request. I have also sent a message through to the team to make contact with you asap.

If you have any further enquiries you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us on Ph: 07 577 7000 or email us at info@tauranga.govt.nz and an Advisor will be available to help you.

Ngā mihi and regards.

Julie Saies | Advisor: Contact Centre
21 Devonport Road, Private Bag 12022, Tauranga 3143, New Zealand

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 April 2024 8:49:19 am
To: "TaurangaCityCouncil" <INFO@TAURANGA.GOV.T.NZ>
Subject: Re: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana [#A5426E]

CAUTION: External Email.

Thanks Ross, can you confirm you forwarded the new information to add to the discussion please?

Slainte,
Gordy Lockhart (he/him)

From: TaurangaCityCouncil <INFO@TAURANGA.GOV.NZ>
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 1:12:04 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana [#A5426E]

Kia ora and hello Gordy

Thank you for your email.

Your original request is still under consideration by our Transportation Department. They will be in touch shortly.

If you have any further enquiries you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us on Ph: 07 577 7000 or email us at info@tauranga.govt.nz and an Advisor will be available to help you.

Ngā mihi and regards.

Ross Capill | Advisor: Contact Centre
21 Devonport Road, Private Bag 12022, Tauranga 3143, New Zealand

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2024 4:47:16 pm
To: "TaurangaCityCouncil" <INFO@TAURANGA.GOV.NZ>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana [#A4E11E]

CAUTION: External Email.

Kia ora team,

Re my inquiry below of 29th March subsequently passed to the transportation team. I haven't received a response yet, which isn't a problem, I realise folks are busy bees. I just wondered if I could add some additional information to the mix please?

In researching how New Plymouth and Gisbourne councils managed to install their Rainbow Crossings, I've found that in August 2020, Waka Kotahi released guidance around [Roadway Art in supporting safer streets.](#)

It would appear this guidance has been used in the installation of Rainbow street art. I'm told that...

1. One cannot use/amend an existing pedestrian crossing.
2. The location of the street art must be in a slow speed zone. (Where traffic flows no faster on average than 30kmph.)

In my email below, I suggested that while our new civic precinct was under construction, the unofficial crossing (photo attached) outside the Library could be used for a Rainbow Crossing. Interestingly, that location would also seem to align with the new NZTA guidelines.

Cross fingers for a positive response from you soon.

Have a great weekend.

Slainté,

Gordy Lockhart (He/Him)

Whanake tatau,
(Onwards together)

“Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization.”

Mahatma Gandhi - 1925

From: TaurangaCityCouncil <INFO@TAURANGA.GOV.T.NZ>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 3:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana [#A4E11E]

Kia ora and hello Gordy

Thank you for your email.

I have passed your request on to our Transportation Department, under reference no. 1123112.

If you have any further enquiries you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us on Ph: 07 577 7000 or email us at info@tauranga.govt.nz and an Advisor will be available to help you.

Ngā mihi and regards

Julie Saies | Advisor: Contact Centre
Tauranga City Council | Phone 07 577 7000 | www.tauranga.govt.nz
21 Devonport Road, Private Bag 12022, Tauranga 3143, New Zealand

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 29 March 2024 3:07:03 pm
To: info@tauranga.govt.nz
Subject: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana

Kia ora TCC whanau,

Three times in recent years, I've asked TCC to install a Rainbow pedestrian crossing on The Strand, or another prominent location in Tauranga's CBD.

Most recently, I suggested painting a Rainbow crossing, and all other pedestrian crossings on The Strand including the four at the foot of Wharf Street, in colours celebrating Tauranga's multicultural communities.

As an example, I suggested a...

- Rainbow Crossing
- red and black crossing with koru representing the Tino Rangatiratanga
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- red, white and blue crossing for our British populations
- Etc...

On each occasion, I've been met with refusals citing Waka Kotahi regulations around legislated colours for pedestrian crossings. This always seems pedantic at best, particularly given other Rainbow crossings installed around the motu.

Following last week's dreadful news of more attacks on Rainbow crossings and the LGBTQAI community, it seems two things are clear...

1. Auckland, Gisborne, Wellington, New Plymouth, and Queenstown have all installed Rainbow crossings.
This means some of Aotearoa's largest city councils have agreed that Waka Kotahi regulations take second place in preference for the celebration of diversity and acceptance.
2. Aotearoa is in desperate need of understanding the diverse nature of our people and a celebration of how we can be a better world through the appreciation of all that we are.

Surely with a new CBD in development, now is the time to acknowledge diversity in Tauranga Moana.

Could I ask please that...

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2. that in considering the eventual look and feel of the new civic precinct, thought is given to representing all Tauranga Moana diversity. We have a gorgeous anchor culture in Te Ao

Māori and this element must form a large part of the space. However, also important is what Tauranga Moana's people look like in 2024. It may be that the continued use of pedestrian crossings as suggested above is viewed as the best methodology. Or some other avenue may meet with greater attention.

I appreciate your thoughts and actions.

Slainté,

Gordy Lockhart (He/Him)



Whanake tatau,
(Onwards together)

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Megan Yardley

From: Gordy Lockhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 12:39 PM
To: TaurangaCityCouncil
Subject: RE: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana [#A5459A]

CAUTION: External Email.

Kia ora TCC whanau,

FAO Transport

Re my enquiry of 29th March and additional information supplied on 5th April.

You may be aware of a campaign launched to support the request to TCC for the installation of Rainbow street art. The campaign is in two parts.

1. [A petition that you can view here...](#)
2. Commerce and NGO to supporting the concept through letters to council.

The petition has surpassed 800 signatories and we're aware several larger Tauranga organisations have either crafted or sent letters of support or are in discussions with TCC in support of Rainbow street art.

I have provided the legislative framework allowing TCC to install Rainbow street art and have suggested a location fitting Waka Kotahi guidelines.

I wonder if now, following clear and growing community support, I could ask for a meeting to discuss how we may move forward with this initiative.

Slainte,
Gordy Lockhart
[REDACTED]

From: TaurangaCityCouncil <INFO@TAURANGA.GOV.NZ>
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 10:05 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana [#A5459A]

Kia ora and hello Gordy

Thank you for your further email. I can confirm the below details have been added to the original service request. I have also sent a message through to the team to make contact with you asap.

If you have any further enquiries you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us on Ph: 07 577 7000 or email us at info@tauranga.govt.nz and an Advisor will be available to help you.

Ngā mihi and regards.

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Subject: RE: Rainbow Crossing for a new Tauranga Moana [#A4E11E]

See attachment 1 on page 28 of this document

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Slainté,

Gordy Lockhart (He/Him)

[REDACTED]

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Surely with a new CBD in development, now is the time to acknowledge diversity in Tauranga Moana.

Could I ask please that...

1. while our civic precinct remains under construction, TCC install a Rainbow crossing on Devonport Road using the existing crossing outside the Library. In the long run, and when the civic precinct is completed, the crossing could be relocated to the new Strand. I might suggest this work should be done ASAP (*look how quickly work was done in Gisborne and Auckland*), but certainly before local council elections in July.
2. that in considering the eventual look and feel of the new civic precinct, thought is given to representing all Tauranga Moana diversity. We have a gorgeous anchor culture in Te Ao Māori and this element must form a large part of the space. However, also important is what Tauranga Moana's people look like in 2024. It may be that the continued use of pedestrian crossings as suggested above is viewed as the best methodology. Or some other avenue may meet with greater attention.

I appreciate your thoughts and actions.

Slainté,

Gordy Lockhart (He/Him)



Whanake tatau,
(*Onwards together*)

“Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization.”

Mahatma Gandhi - 1925

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See attachment 1 on page 28 of this document

Megan Yardley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 1:05 PM
To: Nic Johansson
Subject: RE: Intro and Rainbow Crossing
Attachments: 20240403_120939.jpg

CAUTION: External Email.

Thanks Nic,

Appreciate the advice. I'll do that.

Can I confirm my understanding is correct in that there is no impediment in current Waka Kotahi regulations preventing TCC from installing street art in the location suggested. (unofficial crossing outside library on Devonport Road as attached).

Slainte and ka kite
Gordy Lockhart



SPECIAL PROJECTS PORTFOLIO LEAD

*"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty
and the test of our civilization."*

Mahatma Gandhi - 1925

From: Nic Johansson <Nic.Johansson@tauranga.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 10:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Intro and Rainbow Crossing

Kia ora and greetings Gordy

Thank you for the background information. It is much appreciated. I do hope that we can make improvements in celebrating diversity in our community. The Traffic Control Device manual has seen some big improvements, and the addition of guidance around street art is helpful for decision makers.

Our advice is to complete the petition and present it to Council as planned, and that's where I will be looking for direction in terms next steps.

Kind regards
Nic Johansson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 April 2024 7:46 PM
To: Nic Johansson <Nic.Johanssxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: Intro and Rainbow Crossing

CAUTION: External Email.

Kia ora Nic,

I'm Gordy Lockhart, founder and trustee of YoubeYou – Aotearoa and likely the guy causing you some headaches as regards a Rainbow 'Crossing'.

I'd love to arrange a meeting with you to discuss how we might look to use Waka Kotahi regulations to finally have Tauranga Moana celebrate diversity and connected communities through Rainbow street art.

[At this link you'll find a report from global accounting firm Deloitte articulating the business and economic benefits of effective DEI.](#)

[At this link, you'll find information on the origin, history, and meaning of the Rainbow Flag and Crossing concept.](#)

My initial request to TCC was sent on 29th March with further information supplied on Friday 5th April. These emails have I believe been passed to your team.

The current public support campaign has two elements.

1. [A petition with to date in excess of 850 signatures to date.](#)
2. Letters of support from local organisations. We're aware Holland Beckett submitted a letter via email on Friday to Marty Grenfell and Zespri intend making their support for a Rainbow Crossing clear this coming week.

I have researched at length New Plymouth District Council's installation of their Rainbow Street Art project. [REDACTED], an NPDC roading engineer advises that following a deputation from a member of the public, the NPDC SLT decided to install the artwork. It was felt that balancing the relatively low costs with the concept of celebrating diversity was a no-brainer.

NPDC did not consult or vote on the subject (*I understand neither is necessary with road marking*). They viewed that legislative rule changes and a wish to celebrate diversity, balanced with the low cost and a desire to avoid a potentially divisive, negative public process.

I'm told that to date public feedback for NDPC actions has been overwhelmingly positive.

Location

In line with the Waka Kotahi guidelines and conscious of CBD works in the coming years, my suggestion for a location of the Rainbow Street Art project was the unofficial crossing outside the library on Devonport Road. (Photo attached) The work could be relocated in later years to the new civic precinct site were that felt appropriate.

It'd be advantageous to have this project completed prior to the upcoming local elections.

When might you be free for a chat?

Slainte and ka kite
Gordy Lockhart
[REDACTED]



SPECIAL PROJECTS PORTFOLIO LEAD

*"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty
and the test of our civilization."*

Mahatma Gandhi - 1925

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See attachment 1 at the end of this email.
Attachment 2 is an Excel spreadsheet of the petition as at 15 April 2024. A link to this document is included in our response letter.

Mega

Subject: FW: Acknowledgement to Gordy Lockhart regarding Official Petition to TCC - Rainbow Crossing/roadway art request
Attachments: Rainbow Crossing Petition as at 15th April.xlsx; 20240403_120939.jpg

From: Maree King <Maree.King@tauranga.govt.nz> On Behalf Of Anne Tolley
Sent: Tuesday, 16 April 2024 4:00 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Marty Grenfell <marty.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>
Subject: Acknowledgement to Gordy Lockhart regarding Official Petition to TCC - Rainbow Crossing/roadway art request

Dear Gordy

On behalf of Commissioners, I acknowledge receipt of your email.

We are in the process of reviewing your correspondence and you can expect to receive a reply in due course.

Regards
Maree

Maree King | Executive Assistant: Commissioners Office
Tauranga City Council | [REDACTED] | maree.king@tauranga.govt.nz | www.tauranga.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:02 PM
To: Anne Tolley <Anne.Tolley@tauranga.govt.nz>; Stephen Selwood <Stephen.Selwood@tauranga.govt.nz>; Shadrach Rolleston <Shadrach.Rolleston@tauranga.govt.nz>; Bill Wasley <Bill.Wasley@tauranga.govt.nz>
Cc: Marty Grenfell <marty.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>
Subject: Official Petition to TCC - Rainbow Crossing/roadway art request

CAUTION: External Email.

Dear Commissioners,

I'm Gordy Lockhart, founder, and trustee of YoubeYou – Aotearoa, a charity formed in 2022 as an affirming response to anti-LGBTQIA violence in Aotearoa, particularly in Tauranga Moana. Rather than adopt an intrinsically dissenting thesis, YoubeYou-Aotearoa argues the celebratory appreciation of **all** ethnicities, cultures, and social identities as key to progressive societal development.

With my Pride activist hat, in 2018, then again in 2019, I asked Tauranga City Council (TCC) to investigate the installation of a Rainbow Crossing. On both occasions the response received was that Waka Kotahi regulations around pedestrian crossings did not allow anything other than black and white stripes.

In August 2022, Waka Kotahi released document titled '[Rule change allows roadway art to support safer streets projects](#)'. This new guideline allowed the concept of roadway street art on the basis that they were installed in areas

where traffic was already slowed to less than 30km/h. They could not be official pedestrian crossings but would be akin to other shared space concepts used in safer street projects.

In late December of 2022, following the hate inspired arson attack on Tauranga's Rainbow Youth building and several other acts of violence directed toward the LGBTQAI in Tauranga and across the motu, I asked TCC to again investigate a Rainbow Crossing. On this occasion I contacted Chief Executive Marty Grenfell directly.

As an addition to previous requests, I suggested the council could consider how it might represent other minorities in roadway art alongside any Rainbow Crossing. Mr Grenfell's response in February of 2023 was a refusal to consider the idea in any sense.

Most recently, with the blessing of the trustees of YoubeYou – Aotearoa and following yet more violence directed toward the LGBTQAI sector in Gisborne and Auckland, I launched a campaign to garner support for a new request to TCC for the installation of a Rainbow Crossing. This campaign included seven elements.

1. Research. Contact was made with [REDACTED], a roading engineer employed by New Plymouth District Council and who was responsible for the installation of New Plymouth's Rainbow Crossing.
2. An email to TCC via the main info@ address asking for the installation of a Rainbow Crossing sent on 29th March. A further email was sent on 5th April with additional information. Response received from customer service on both occasions explaining emails had been passed to TCC's transportation department.
3. An [online petition through Change.org](#) detailing the case for a Rainbow Crossing in Tauranga Moana.
4. A [linktree page](#) with links to social media and articles around economic impact and the [history, origin and meaning in the Rainbow Crossing](#).
5. A social media campaign with pages on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
6. The identification of a potential location for the street art in line with Waka Kotahi regulation.
7. A request for organisations/commerce throughout Tauranga Moana to support the case for a Rainbow Crossing.

The results of the above are as follows...

1. NPDC advise that following a deputation from a member of the public, NPDC SLT decided to install their Rainbow artwork. I'm told discussion centred around balancing relatively low costs with legacy and the concept of celebrating diversity.
NPDC did not consult or vote on the subject (*I understand neither is necessary with road marking*), basing decisions on legislative rule changes and a desire to avoid any negative public backlash.
I'm told that public feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
2. An email received this morning 15th April from Nic Johansson, TCC GM Infrastructure, advises that TCC's transport department will act on the basis on instruction from council.
3. Please see attached the current petition. At 5.44pm on April 15th the petition lists **871** supporters and in my view, represents strong community support. The petition remains live and is gaining traction by the day.
4. Our articles on the history, origin and [meaning of Rainbow flags and Crossings](#) have proved invaluable in asking allies and dissenters alike to consider the argument fully.
5. Social media metrics show enormous reach with more than **75%** support for the proposition. Social media comments show wildly disparate views, with those not in favour of Rainbow Crossings posting some appalling commentary as to the Rainbow community.
6. We have identified the unofficial crossing outside the current library on Devonport Road as a location for the Rainbow Crossing (*photo attached*). This location appears to match Waka Kotahi regulations and intent. Our proposal would be that street art for Tauranga's civic precinct should consider Te ao Maori and reflecting all Tauranga diversity in particular the concept of whole society diversity and the Rainbow.
7. We have contacted 10 organisations asking them to support the campaign. At this stage Holland Beckett, Cooney Lees Morgan and Zespri have all indicated they have sent or intend to send letters of support. In addition, we're aware of other organisations including Port of Tauranga and Socialink having discussions with TCC staff in support of the proposal.

My belief is that Tauranga Moana's is in critical need of celebrating itself as a heterogenous society that values the culture, ethnicity, social identity, and beliefs of everyone who calls this city home. Our people are siloed, separated into cultural, ethnic or belief-based groupings. Worse have no sense of belonging at all and see little of themselves in our built environment. This is creating division, disparity, and opportunities for hatred to grow.

As a member of the LGBTQAI community I can attest to being afraid to hold my husbands' hand in public for fear of abuse or attack. And I'm aware of concerns amongst the wider LGBTQAI community of Christchurch style attacks on LGBTQAI gatherings, Pride for example.

That in 2024 a section of our society holds a genuine fear for life living in Tauranga Moana is a damning indictment I hope you'll agree. And, while I applaud TCC heartily for fantastic critical infrastructure works of recent years, it seems we may have forgotten about the heart of our city, it's people?

But we can fix this.

While Rainbow Crossings have their roots in the fight for LGBTQAI human rights, the concept of celebrating difference and that ***You should be proud to be You*** can resonate with **all** our communities. Let's use this opportunity to show Tauranga Moana as a city where all are welcome, valued, and able to feel part of everything that we are. This is a legacy for our kids. It can be a pivot point where, as a city, we say we value a future that celebrates everyone.

Of course, it's possible that some vocal minorities will look to protest the installation of a Rainbow Crossing, even to the extent of what happened in Gisborne and Auckland. However, a fear of fascistic behaviour can never be an excuse for inaction. The famous quote *"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing"* argues that we must achieve in the interests of our wider society over fears of how evil men may react as that is what responsible society does.

Urgent action

While I'm aware TCC will be looking to complete several projects prior to the close of the current administration, can I ask please this project be ***given priority***. Convincing a new council of the merits of diversity may be a challenge should it be the case councillors reflecting previous personalities be elected.

I look forward to your thoughts and would be delighted to meet to discuss matters further.

Slainte and ka kite
Gordy Lockhart



**SPECIAL PROJECTS
PORTFOLIO LEAD**

"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization."

Mahatma Gandhi - 1925

