
REPORT 8
(1215/12/IM)

**RATIFICATION OF BOARD SUBMISSION TO THE
POLICE ACT REVIEW “POLICING DIRECTIONS IN NEW
ZEALAND FOR THE 21ST CENTURY”**

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Ratify the Board Submission to the Police Act Review “Policing Directions in New Zealand for the 21st Century”*

Attached is the Boards submission to the:

- Police Act Review “Policing Directions in New Zealand for the 21st Century”

Points to consider re the revision of the Police Act.

The Tawa Community Board appreciates the opportunity to provide input to a New Policing Act.

- A major consideration for the review of the Police Act must be to ensure that the law is clear and free of ambiguity. It is essential that both members of the Public and the Police have a clear understanding of their respective rights, responsibilities and the consequences of breaking the law. We believe that Policing the laws that are enacted by Parliament must be definitive and not subjective. For example if a speed limit is 50 km per hour, then exceeding that speed limit is an infringement of the law, and should be punishable. If it states unless overtaking then a 10 km excess is permitted, then that is defined and understandable. However at the moment, most would believe that there is a leeway of 10 kph so driving at 60 kph is OK and not breaking the Law!! Sadly this applies in many areas of the legislation.
- Policing should be independent of Politics. The structure should be free from the whims of politicians, and their perceived manipulation of the Police.
- This would mean that members of the Police Force, both Warranted and unwarranted should not hold political positions whilst members of the Force as this would be a conflict of interest.
- The parliamentary funding of the Police, creates a political dilemma, where politics interfere with the management of policing, this needs to be resolved, to reduce the level of real or perceived political manipulation.
- The Tawa Community and the Tawa Community Board have a good relationship with the Police. The Community Cons and the Area Inspector regularly attend our meetings, and keep us apprised of local and area policing, whilst providing an opportunity for the community to actively engage in addressing local community issues.
- Tawa is fortunate; it is seen as a low crime area. We believe that whilst some of this is due to the number of churches and the "Christian values", it is our observation that much of the success in maintaining Tawa as a low crime area is due to active community policing. We observe that when we have local (Community) police operating and resident in Tawa, we in turn have reduced incidence of graffiti and non violent crime.
- Whilst technology can support this role we do not believe that it is the answer to all evils, the local community based constable who is seen on the streets, talks to both young and old, and understands the local community and its issues provides is a major deterrent to Crime and provides a community with a strong sense of safety. The TCB believes that in situ Community Police should be a focus of the new Act.
- Administration and bureaucracy continues to absorb greater amounts of Police time. This is an area where the process should be simplified and better time reducing technology implemented. The ability to use approved non-warranted personnel for administration should be considered.

APPENDIX ONE

- In order to provide support for police greater opportunities should be considered for Special Constables, with limited warranted responsibilities as used in the UK, and also for Community Wardens.
- We believe that authorisations should be given to 'volunteers' being authorised and used to support wider use of surveillance cameras and eyes and ears on the street.

The Tawa Community Board would like to be kept apprised of changes to the Act, and may wish to be part of the ongoing process of this revision.

Tawa Community Board

Ngaire Best (Chair)
Robert Tredger
Tony Parker
Vicki Beachen
Graeme Sutton