

From: [mayor](#)
To: [Andy Foster](#); [mayor](#); [Sharon Mason](#); [Tim Harris](#)
Cc: [Jamie Arbuckle](#); [Steve Gibling](#)
Subject: RE: Upper Selwyn Huts
Date: Friday, 7 March 2025 12:06:19 PM

Tenā Koe,

Thank you for your email, I appreciate your continued engagement and interest in the Upper Selwyn Huts community.

I acknowledge your recognition of the previous decision to remove the huts and the community as a significant one under the Local Government Act. Your appreciation for our engagement with the huts community late last year is noted.

However, I understand that there are several further concerns that you have raised:

1. **Consultant's Report:** The consultant's report summarising recent engagement has not yet been made public, and our intention is to ensure that this report is made available to the community today and I have attached a copy to this email. Please note we have not undertaken formal consultation. This document is a summary of engagement activity, and all content has previously been made public to the community and can be accessed through this link - [Selwyn District Council - Upper Selwyn Huts](#)
2. **Public Excluded (PX) Workshop:** A PX workshop was held yesterday to enable free and frank expression of opinions and to protect members and staff from improper pressure and harassment. There have been recent instances of harassment, including aggressive hand gestures within public meetings, and abusive communications towards members. This workshop was to discuss potential options and provide more information on how to move through the next steps given the complexity. No decisions were made and no options discounted. We will be engaging with the community around what topics were discussed, and what we expect the next steps to be.
3. **Expectation for Public Workshops:** We expect all meetings and workshops of our council to be public unless there is good reason for a private conversation as outlined in legislation.
4. **Follow-up with Government Agencies:** I understand your intention to follow up with relevant Government agencies on some aspects of this situation.
5. **Community Conversation:** We are working through an engagement process with the community on the Council's concerns. These have evolved from wastewater issues to concerns about the health and safety of residents related to both the settlement lay out (related to its initial intention) and flood risk. We do not want to predetermine the outcome of this process and will continue to follow legislative guidelines around how we proceed.
6. **Personal Comment:** Your personal observations about the special and welcoming nature of the Upper Selwyn Huts community are appreciated. We recognise the unique character and strong sense of community in this area.
7. **Duty of Care:** The Council is committed to its duty of care under the Local Government Act. I believe this extends to both the challenges you have mentioned below but also to ensuring the health and safety of the community.

I appreciate your thoughts on achieving a result that benefits the community and works for the Council. It would indeed be valuable to have a conversation about these matters and given your

interest I would be happy to meet with you should you be traveling to Selwyn
Ngā mihi,



Sam Broughton
Mayor of Selwyn | Koromatua o Waikirikiri

President LGNZ



From: Andy Foster <Andy.Foster@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 March 2025 12:52 pm
To: mayor <mayor@selwyn.govt.nz>; Sharon Mason <Sharon.Mason@selwyn.govt.nz>; Tim Harris <tim.harris@selwyn.govt.nz>
Cc: Jamie Arbuckle <Jamie.Arbuckle@parliament.govt.nz>; Andy Foster <Andy.Foster@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Upper Selwyn Huts
Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from andy.foster@parliament.govt.nz. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sam, Sharon and Tim,

As you know I have taken a close interest in the community of Upper Selwyn Huts and have met with and written to you before on this matter.

Thank you for recognising that the previous decision to remove the huts and the community over a period of time was in fact a 'significant' decision in terms of the Local Government Act. Thank you then, with that realisation, for undertaking an engagement with the huts community late last year.

However, subsequent developments have given rise to several further concerns.

1. I understand that the consultant's report and recommendations following consultation have not been made public and have not been shared with the affected community. I request you make that report public, and specifically send it to the community, and to me. Please treat this as a request under LGOIMA – but as usual unless there is good reason –

early provision would be better than waiting to the statutory deadline.

2. I understand that you have a public excluded workshop this afternoon to consider the report, and potentially to make preliminary decisions on options to take forward or to discard.
3. If that is the case, can I remind you of the expectation <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/news/chief-ombudsman-calls-council-workshops-be-open-default> that in general workshops are held in public, and they are also not decision making meetings. Can you please forward me any papers for the workshop, again under LGOIMA.
I will forward this email to the Ombudsman.
4. I also intend to follow up some aspects of this situation with relevant Government agencies.
5. I would also be keen to understand the reasons for Selwyn District Council's apparent desire to remove this community. I know originally it related to wastewater – which is being resolved. Then there was the issue of sea level rise and flooding. That seemed to be largely or wholly debunked by Council's own expert consultant's report last year.
So my question is – why does the Council want this settlement and community gone?
Again please treat these as questions under LGOIMA.
6. If I might add a personal comment here, having visited the community on a couple of occasions, I see it as a very special and welcoming place, both its built character and its strong sense of community. I would have hoped that Selwyn District Council could see Upper Selwyn Huts as being a special asset for as long as is possible.
7. As I also noted in previous correspondence, this community is not wealthy, and some of its members are vulnerable in their circumstances. Councils have a duty of care under the Local Government Act. Again, under LGOIMA can you advise the options Council is considering to deliver on that duty of care. Can you also advise as part of this what engagement you have had with the Upper Selwyn Huts community about that duty of care? ('Nothing about us without us')
8. I also note that we have a housing shortage generally, so removing almost 100 homes is challenging. Rehousing residents, and not causing significant mental stress through breaking up a community, is also a critical consideration. Furthermore I understand that Selwyn District Council has no social housing portfolio.

I have some thoughts also on how you might best achieve a result that is good for this community, and should work for Council.

It may well be valuable to have a conversation about these matters.

I await your responses to my LGOIMA requests.

Kind regards

Andy

Andy Foster

New Zealand First List MP based in Wellington

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T. 021 803 215;

Chair - Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee

NZF Spokesperson – Local Government; Housing; Conservation; Education; Science and Innovation; Sport and Recreation; Civil Defence; Democracy, Governance and Electoral Affairs