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Graeme O'Brien

[tppa.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:tppa.nelson@gmail.com)

0221942516

**Subject: TPP and Local Government.**

**Good People.**

This outline lays out a story about our efforts to uphold the Sovereignty of New Zealand and our rights as free people. We are part of a democracy and so act together to advance our interests..

This introduction aims to provide background to how we came to be promoting this Resolution as a tool to strengthen our hold on our Country's direction. We took our lead from the people of Auckland on this one. Auckland was where TPP became an issue in New Zealand.

Auckland Council was the first to engage with the TPP process involving our nation. Council's Administration promoted the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) in a recommendation to Council offering the first paragraph alone as the position to adopt. See attached copy of the full People's Resolution. You must remember that Auckland at the time was the centre of the TPP Universe; hosting the December 2012 TPP negotiations amongst the then 11 nations.

The original brief recommendation from Council Administration was ambushed by clever Councillors who managed to attach the 12 amendments to the recommended motion changing the motion to one which defines a good agreement that advances the public interest.. The scene was very intense as Auckland was host to much TPP related activity. The best activist minds were there at that point and this resolution is the result. We must work with this. It was seeded to us. Consider it a gift to share.

We take the stance that we would agree with a Free Trade agreement which was in New Zealand's interest as measured from a public interest standard. The 12 amendments create a bottom line. This is the standard to measure our attitude to TPP negotiations. This is our demand of those negotiating on our behalf, or else it is not in our name.

Nelson featured strongly in the Nationwide protest of that December in 2012. Nelson got 300 people onto the streets protesting TPP. On another balmy evening Nelson hosted a public meeting at Lambretta's Cafe soon after Auckland Council's TPP decision. Professor Jane Kelsey from Auckland University was guest speaker. Professor Kelsey shared for 20 minutes her insight into the

TPP process with a crowd of 120 people and informing us of this newly passed Resolution. She brought it to Nelson for us to engage with.

The people of Nelson supported the Resolution with 75 submissions to the Annual Plan & 120 submissions to another document called Framing Our Future 2060. Council's Administration ruled that the submissions could not be accepted on either of these two agendas and put it to a planning & policy meeting

We attended that meeting which was a Full Council Meeting at 9am with over 70 supporters who packed the Council Chamber requiring many additional chairs to be obtained to seat the interested public. Selected people spoke to Council at the Public Forum regarding the concerns the people have with the secret negotiations on the TPP.

After much debate and strong support from long term Cr Mike Ward, the Nelson City Council agreed to adopt the full 12 point Resolution without change and on behalf of the community send those concerns to the Prime Minister.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK1307/S00665/nelson-is-second-city-to-pass-critical-resolution-on-tpa.htm>

Following the successful action in Nelson we started informing the people of Tasman District and gathering signatures seeking that Tasman Council do as her neighbour and support this position.

A group called the “Renewables” put their energy into this action and gathered over 350 signatures to this petition. This was tabled at the Tasman Council's public forum in December 2013 . After persuasive public presentations, Council agreed to place the TPP resolution on the agenda of the next Full council meeting which occurred on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Once again over 60 people attended the council debate and after much discussion the Tasman Council voted to adopt the Resolution with a slight change to Amendment #12 and added Amendment #13

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/9802308/TDC-seeks-positive-benefits-from-TPA>

These changes are unfortunate as we do not consider it Councils place to change the Resolution without the agreement of the people. Unfortunately once council has the Resolution and are debating it the people have no further say at that time, however the people attending in the public gallery have a presence and this reminds councillors that they are our elected representatives and they must make decisions that are in the best interest of the people.

This direct and positive action taken by the people to their council is the same action that made New Zealand Nuclear Free, the people demanded that their council advocate on their behalf to central government. All councils agreed with the people and central government had to listen.

We will now replicate this same action with the Peoples Resolution concerning the TPP agreement and tell central government that we do not agree and never will with an agreement that attacks the foundations of our democracy, the right to know what is being done in our name and our freedom to choose.

The Renewables have sent information briefs to all councils and councillors in New Zealand for debate to adopt the Resolution or not.

We now leave it to each community in New Zealand to organize, collect signatures, lobby council and speak to the submission at the public forum to make their council understand that we the people are concerned for the future of New Zealand and the welfare of future generations and the council must make a decision to support the people or the government.

We take this stand with no thought of personal gain or profit but for the good of all, now and in to the future.

Wishing you the best in this endeavour, Graeme O'Brien