

8 May 2015

Memo To: Her Worship the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive  
Memo From: Penny Langley  
Manager Administration  
**Subject: Long Term Plan Submission Amendments**

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LTP submission #447

Category 11: Multiple Submissions

Submitter: Ms Vicki Smith

Organisation: None

Ms Vicky Smith Spoke to her submission this morning at 10.45am but her documentation was omitted from submissions.

The document relating to Ms Smith's submission (#447) is now attached.



Handwritten scribble or mark at the bottom center of the page.

**Submission in response to the call for consultation to the Council Long Term Plan 2015-25**

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**Please find below the responses to the specific areas highlighted in Long Term Consultation document 2015-25**

**The Nelson Marina:**

I do not support the increase by 4% annually the Nelson marina fees. The cost of berths especially for visitors is already commensurate with facilities nationally. Given that many of a similar or slightly higher fee rate provide greater services for the fee (not charging showers for example and free wifi are available at SeaView – one of the Marina used in comparison with Nelson – Mana & Wellington Chaffers Marina do not charge for showers, Chaffers also has free wifi, Auckland's West Haven marina a similar inner city marina provides free wifi – I am not aware of the other 3 marina's used for comparison)

I suggest that 3 of the other Marina used in comparison are at the upper end of marina fee structures and that the fees retain an increase only in line with inflation.

The development of alternate hardstand I do not agree is necessary and brings the council into competition with privately operated facilities already available in two places around Port Nelson.

I am not convinced that the marina has a deficit budget based on the cost of berths and the services supplied and suggest much smarter use of the area could be proposed.

For example there are several artists who live at the marina (including myself) and we have asked about the use of the currently locked and empty facility that was the old Marina office to create a local art space.

Many people come down to the marina to eat lunch, sit and look at or wander the marina fingers to look at boats and the vibrancy of this area could be increased with a much more flexible approach to this space

An example is the vast area that is currently empty be made available to pop-up food venues such as coffee carts, and takeaway type businesses and the like.

As an artist I have personally approached Nelmac to seek permission for use of the empty marina office space while creating an art work for the 2014 Light Nelson. This involved significant (voluntary) personal time and involved many members of the community (local iwi, school students of Nelson Intermediate, long term residents, descendants of early pakeha and recent immigrants). I speak to the Light Nelson consultation later in this document

By email 26 March to [Nelmac@nelmac.co.nz](mailto:Nelmac@nelmac.co.nz) - no response was forth coming  
This was followed up by asking the marina office who said they thought the person in charge had left and didn't know where else to direct my enquiries:

*"Greetings*

*Please could you forward this request to whoever might be responsible for the old marina officie structure*

*Essentially the request is to use the building to hold a couple of small meetings to allow participants to construct some objects for use in one of the art works that will form part of the light nelson festival*

*The work is called Ships pass in the Night (hence why this location is so perfect!*

*The light festival is held in July 11-13 and is a free community event*

- more information can be found about the project here

<http://lightnelson.org.nz/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LightNelson>

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I agree it would be great to see further development of the water-sports facilities but think this could be financed out of alternate areas of the Nelson Council budget (sports for example rather than financed by the marina berth holders).

### **Community Assistance Fund**

I do not support the reduction of the Community Assistance Fund and suggest that reducing it is a retrograde move for a council seeking to provide a supportive and inclusive development plan. Nelson Council cannot promote inclusive community development by on the one hand underwriting Business Development but at the same time reducing support for the most vulnerable members of the community. It would be of greater benefit to the city to increase health and wellbeing at the lower socio-economic range such as the community assistance fund targets. It is well established that increasing the income of those at the lower end of the wage scale have a 'trickle-up' effect and would be a far better use of public rates.

By denying assistance to the community organisations that work to benefit the community is denying the beneficial impact that could be felt across the entire social infrastructure of the city.

Current research review from the States: <http://www.raisetheminimumwage.com/pages/job-loss>

### **Public and Community Arts Funding**

I do not support a decrease in Public Arts funding as I do not see how the decrease will in any way facilitate an increase in match funding from other sources.

Nelson council would benefit from looking at the vibrant multicultural community it serves and understand the derived benefits of supporting the development of the truly creative city it calls itself.

Richard Florida one of leading public intellectuals on economic competitiveness, demographic trends, and cultural and technological innovation discusses the importance of encouraging the creative classes for the benefit of the communities they inhabit. With the development of the long term plan Nelson Council now has the opportunity to really put its rates money behind developing the kind of city it seeks to be and this is not by reducing local arts funding.

### **\* The refinery**

I encourage the support of the Refinery Gallery as an eclectic and vibrant space for engaging in the breadth of arts produced in the Nelson community and beyond (events such as Changing Threads and Impressions arts awards attract entrants from around the country). The building, its location and the space it inhabits has an already great reputation and with greater support could become pivotal in an arts precinct that would truly meet the Nelson Council's vision of the creative city.

The following is an idea I proposed to the Arts Council Nelson as a space in great need for community health and for further underpinning the focus of the Heart of Nelson Strategy in which Nelson seeks an identity as "identity as a sunny, creative, outdoors, seaside city"

This was submitted by email to Arts Council Nelson in December 2014

**"The artists' local"**

*The idea I wish to propose is to develop a collaborative space where artists can gather and work together on projects, this might entail having some resources available but mostly it is about having the shared working environment a larger venue can provide. It is envisaged that artists are enabled to come in and run short workshops for a small fee or they might wish to run weekly sessions exploring a different medium or format (in the sense of a skillshare or MakerSpace ethos) but primarily the function would be as a gathering space for local artists to benefit from collective experience in a collaborative workshop environment. The space would also function as a gathering place for people to come in and try out making and creating through being exposed to local artists' practices.*

*An additional benefit of such a space is the potential for the temporary housing of items for use in creative practice such as a printing press, big tables, industrial sewing machines, wood working tools and other larger apparatus that artists might wish to bring in for use in collaborative projects or workshops. There will need to be someone or an entity charged with the oversight of the space, including the running the budget, rostering workshops in the space, sourcing and sorting some materials to have on hand for workshops and drop-in visitors and keeping on top of infrastructural details in aligning with the rest of the organisations currently using the refinery space. This could be a position shared by several people or a collective who enjoy collaborative practice and would be very beneficial in gathering local expertise around the community participatory projects that Nelson is becoming reknowned for.*

*Thanks for considering this, I have had some experience in similar spaces, have talked to several artists already who are enthusiastic about the possibilities and would be happy to talk further about how this might be realised*

*best regards  
Vicki Smith "*

I suggest a greater funding be allocated to the refinery art space and see it as an important building in what could become a vibrant Arts precinct between Anzac Park and the bridge across the Maitai river.

Nelson views itself as a creative city and research supports the benefit to the community and to the local economy of the creative sector. The Refinery Gallery is an important venue for an eclectic range of arts the likes of which does not exist elsewhere and I urge the Council to reconsider its support for this important arts focal point.

#### **\* Light Nelson**

I support your addition of funding for the Light Nelson event as a basis for sustaining an event that grew exponentially from its inception in 2013 to the hugely successful event last year (2014). Light Nelson has the opportunity to be part a calendar of the light events that are happening nationally, this will allow them to pick up works created for other events (in the same way that the Arts festival is part of the performance arts circuit). Most importantly it allows them to grow the local artists community and support the work of the hard working collective that produce the event, its scoping, funding and deployment much of which has been previously carried out voluntarily (this is unsustainable long-term). I am one of the artists who contributed work to the Light Nelson event 2014. I received support for materials for which I was grateful. I put in long hours and called on friends and family to help run the project, which engaged community in the development and called for public participation in execution.

I am aware there of a small amount of negative comments regarding crowds but myself and my volunteers, including some organised by the Light Nelson team, received nothing but compliments and thanks for the Light Nelson event. In terms of generating income locally it was a huge success. The funding set aside for this event will allow the planning that has already gone into future iterations to go ahead with the confidence of being able to produce events with some budget already allocated.

For the Light Nelson to continue to provide the kind of community event it was first envisaged as, it needs the kind of support that the Council is proposing and I encourage this to continue. This event brings community out in the dark of winter, dramatically increases retail opportunity to local business by the surge in visitors as well as locals into the CBD. It is an important opportunity for the public to engage in the arts, not only during the event, but in the creation of works within it.

**In Conclusion**

Overall Nelson has the opportunity to become a truly visionary centre by its response to the call to become a future focused city where people enjoy community, the arts, business and the environment without detrimental impact on any of these things.

Nelson consists of many discrete environments that could be seamlessly linked with a far greater use of cycle-ways and pedestrian access to make use of the generally clement weather the area enjoys. This would underpin the noted emphasis that the Council has put on partnering for greater support for the environment.

I am opposed to the idea of creating a road link that will remove the cycleway between Nelson and Stoke as counter to the Council's own proposed emphasis on a greater local environment focus.

I look forward to the opportunity to talk to these points if appropriate.

Thanks

Vicki Smith (rate payer).