
“What do our decision makers need to help them make those ‘tough calls’?”

A review of feedback from the
NZ Community Board Conference

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Today's session...

A) Review NZ CBC workshop

- This was an opportunity for decision makers to experience an interactive workshop

B) Discuss feedback from decision makers

- what do they need to help them make 'tough calls'? (group work)

C) Discuss how we could improve P2 practice to enhance decision making

- IAP2 Core Value No.3: *"P2 promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing & communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers"*

A) The NZ Community Board conference

- Local government elected reps from around NZ
- Why was I there?
 - Recent work that I had done with controversial projects (angry communities) captured decision makers' attention
 - They found that increased public/decision maker participation > enhanced decision making
 - So I was asked to share this approach with other elected representatives
- What was I trying to achieve (at the conference)?
 - Let decision makers experience collaborative/interactive approach (whilst discussing consultation & decision making)
 - Use this opportunity to gain some insight into the decision maker's perspective (to improve P2 practice)

So we got to work with...

- World Café technique
 - Working in (changing) small groups
 - Discussing: *what makes consultation successful?*
- Full Circle technique
 - Working in (same) small groups (visit 4 stations)
 - Discussing: ***what would enhance my ability to make a well-informed decision?***
- Dot Voting technique
 - Working as individuals
 - Identifying: ***the key factors that would assist me to make 'tough calls'***

...this was a new way of working

- How did they find these techniques?
 - Very useful – let them hear the range of community views, first hand
 - Loved World Café and Dot voting – as they highlighted the ‘quiet voices’

While looking at these techniques...

- ...I used this opportunity to get some feedback from decision makers (about what they need)
 - Feedback was provided in separate topics (FullCircle):
 - a) Environment e.g. organisational context
 - b) Relationships e.g. with staff, media, elected reps
 - c) Project Information – technical (i.e. non-consultation)
 - d) Project Information - community feedback
 - So Project Information is what goes into the Board/Council report (for approval)
 - this is the information that we will be working with today

From the workshop sessions we got

- a **list** of the kind of information that is needed to enhance decision making
 - a brainstorm list created by all participants
- with **stars** indicating (some) key factors
 - factors identified by individuals – limited to 1 star each
- YOU WILL EACH GET A LIST OF FEEDBACK TO REVIEW
 - There are four different lists

B) Discuss feedback from decision makers

- Break into 4 groups
- As individuals, review feedback
- Then, in your group, **map the feedback...**
 - Look for: patterns, groups, priorities
 - Identify areas of **caution/gaps in existing practice...**
(RED DOT)
 - Identify **insights, ideas, discussion points...**
(GREEN DOT)
- When completed, each poster will be discussed with the bigger group

C) Discussing what we can learn from this perspective

- Were there key themes, overall impressions, insights?
- Can we improve our P2 practice to enhance decision making?
- Any other questions about this work?