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**Sent:** Friday, 9 February 2018 10:12 AM

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**Cc:** Liz Thomas--Gmail <lizthomaspost@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Tasman District Voting System -- Petition -- Message to all Community Associations

kia ora tatou katoa

I am writing on behalf of petition organiser Liz Thomas, to whom this is copied. It is being sent to the contact email addresses for all 12 Community Associations listed on the TDC website.

We want to make sure that you know about the petition which is currently open for signatures around the Tasman District--and to ask for your help in increasing awareness of it. Our initial focus is on trying to achieve the target of 1839 valid signatures by 21 February if possible. You may have read the article in the *Nelson Mail* on 27 January (included in the attached information). A more recent press release summarising the purpose of the petition is also attached.

The petition is within the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001, and is in response to Council's September 2017 decision to continue with the status quo (First Past the Post) voting system for council elections.

The petition seeks a poll to find out which voting system electors themselves prefer. The last time electors were asked was 15 years ago. Since then Council (which is required by law to regularly review the system) has always voted for the status quo, although public polls are among the decisions they could have made. The alternative voting system is Single Transferable Vote (STV) which is used by all Health Boards. The different systems causes confusion among voters and results in a large number of invalid votes.

Attached is a copy of the petition form and information which is available (with TDC's agreement) in TDC libraries in Takaka, Motueka, Richmond and Murchison. I will be taking the petition to Dovedale Fair (11 February) and the Murchison A&P Show (17 February).

The timing is tight as the initial deadline is 21 February for influencing how the 2019 elections would be conducted. (If the petition is presented after 21 February, a poll decision would apply from the 2022 election.)

Because this petition has been approved by TDC and is within the provisions of the legislation, we would be grateful for your help in increasing awareness of what it is about--and where the petition can be signed. Maybe someone in your area would be willing to initiate local petition signatures?

Please get back to Liz Thomas ([lizthomaspost@gmail.com](mailto:lizthomaspost@gmail.com); (012) 106-4201) or me with any queries or suggestions.

Regards  
nga mihi nui  
Penny Griffith

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