

Mayor Martin Connelly
Mayor of South Wairarapa District Council
By Email: themayor@swdc.govt.nz

14/08/2025

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to you to raise my serious concern over the Council's proposed bylaw to close an unformed road to Cape Palliser.

This route is a vital access point to public land for hunters, hikers, fishers, surfers and ratepayers alike. The overwhelming public backlash should not be a surprise to the council. It is a clear reflection of how strongly the local community values this access and how unacceptable it is for the Council to move forward with this plan.

At a recent Ngawi public meeting on this matter, when questioned by a member of the public, it was confirmed that the Council had not sought any legal advice before initiating this bylaw process. This is deeply troubling. Proceeding with this decision without proper legal consultation undermines the transparency and integrity of local government.

I urge you to withdraw the current bylaw proposal and ensure that the ratepayers of South Wairarapa have access to public land.

I believe the passionate public engagement we've seen shows that, by starting the process with a solution-through-engagement mindset, the community will find a sustainable outcome that benefits everyone.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Luxton', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Cameron Luxton MP
ACT New Zealand
Parliament Buildings
Cameron.Luxton@parliament.govt.nz