

From: Shay-Lee Wylie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 8:26 AM
To: haveyoursay
Subject: Sister City - Tatsuno

Good Morning

I'd just like to have my say on the above mentioned subject.

I have followed Mr Robertson's mayoral campaign during the local government elections and his ensuing start in his position as newly elected mayor.

Throughout his campaign and now mayoral seat, it has been made very clear by him that he does not support this Sister City initiative.

I firmly believe that he is unfairly and discriminatory dismissive of a very valuable asset to the Waitomo and in particular, it's young students.

The opportunity for selected students from all the primary schools in the area to partake in the student exchange programme with children from Tatsuno is a once in a lifetime experience for many. The value in this experience far outweighs the cost of this initiative for the Waitomo district. Some of these students may never experience the joy of traveling overseas and experiencing another city and its culture again. It also encourages these school families to fundraise and contribute to the costs. What an invaluable lesson to teach these children about what hard work and dedication can achieve!

Personally, I am appalled at Mr Robertson's discriminate lack of vision. While it is commendable for any town to observe and celebrate our national cultural identity, other cultures should never be dismissed as being "a waste of taxpayer/ratepayer money". After all, many towns and cities in New Zealand have a large representation of hard working immigrant communities.

I am no longer a Waitomo Ratepayer as of two years ago but my ties to this community are strong.

While I absolutely support leadership measures to "trim the fat" I fear that this current Mayoral leadership has been caustic and divisive. I would love to see the community of Waitomo work together once again.

Kind Regards
Shay-Lee Wylie

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