

A critical evaluation of the effectiveness of the social action(s) by comparing it with possible alternative actions to influence the policy change.

I think the social action I did was highly effective as I actually got the District Council to change their policy and invest in at the Huntly pool.

1

A strength of my social action is that the policy is actually going to be changed. This was the whole point of the social action.

An alternative potential method that I could have used was a protest. In the past some protests have been effective actions. The protests are likely to lead to media attention. If a protest is big enough it will create more publicity around Huntly and wider areas. An example of a successful social action involving protests was in 2012. Some Chinese protestors stopped an industrial waste line project. There were 1000 environmental protestors. In order to do a good protest, I would need a lot of people's support. This could be difficult to do but I think this would have been a beneficial way to get a hoist and water wheelchair introduced to GEHAC especially if the protest had been at the pool with disabled people trying to get into the pool and showing the difficulties of this. I think more support from protesters may have made the social actions even more effective and the council may have changed their minds more quickly and introduced the policy for a disability access system at the pools. Also it is election year this year, so if I had used a protest, it is publicized and the Waikato District Council may have had more of an incentive to fund the operation, as the Mayor and Councillors would want to remain working at WDC.

2

Election year also gives me an opportunity to lobby individual councillors or potential candidates by writing to them or attending the community meetings. This may help influence the balance in the council so that the policy could be addressed and eventually changed. If I questioned potential candidates at a public meeting it would also increase awareness and may get more people involved in trying to implement this policy change.

2

2