

9 December 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-33958

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Request for information 2024-299

I refer to your request for information dated 18 November, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 18 November. You have requested the following:

“Could you please provide the following information in relation to the Whaitua Kapiti Committee and its work:

- 1. All costs borne by GWRC for this Committee and its work, including actual and associated administrative costs.*
- 2. A full breakdown of these costs and the cost implications to ratepayers of the Kapiti Coast District.*
- 3. All information relating to any further costs that may be attributed to the work of this Committee and their recommendations.*
- 4. Under which mandate of the GWRC the work undertaken by this Committee sits”.*

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

Please find the responses to your requests for information below. Please note that, as per email correspondence provided on 27 November 2024, this response excludes request 2., “A full breakdown of these costs and the cost implications to ratepayers of the Kāpiti Coast District”. This component has been transferred to the Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) pursuant to section 12 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 on the basis that this information is not held by Greater Wellington Regional Council but is more likely to be held by the Kāpiti Coast District Council.

1. All costs borne by GWRC for this Committee and its work, including actual and associated administrative costs

The costs borne by Greater Wellington for Whaitua Kāpiti Committee (the Committee) and its work, including actual and associated administrative costs, total \$1,334,560. Please refer to Table One below for a breakdown of these costs.

Table 1: Costs associated with the Kapiti Whaitua Committee

Committee members remuneration cost	251,632
Council staff time	576,738
Contractors (this includes specialist services relating to RMA planning, technical and scientific advice and modelling, and Geographical Information Systems).	443,492
Meeting venue hire and catering	35,493
WIP document design and print	27,205
TOTAL	\$1,334,560

Table 1 includes figures associated with the Committee between its commencement on 2 March 2023 and its disestablishment on 1 November 2024

Please note that a range of staff contributed hours to support the Committee, directly or indirectly, over this timeframe. Some staff do not code their time to a project-specific code, so it is not possible to provide a comprehensive picture of all costs; however, we have included staff costs where they are available.

Therefore, while some staff costs are accounted for, and provided in the table above, for the reasons outlined, the full cost of Greater Wellington officers is not available. It is therefore necessary to refuse this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) that the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either –

- (i) Held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation; or

- (ii) Connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department, or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

3. All information relating to any further costs that may be attributed to the work of this Committee and their recommendations

The Kāpiti Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) was received by Greater Wellington councillors on 10 September 2024 at Raukawa Marae in Ōtaki. This concluded the Committee's work, and the progression of this programme is now within the Greater Wellington Environment Group's responsibilities. An implementation programme is under development and funds will be allocated through internal business planning processes.

4. Under which mandate of the GWRC the work undertaken by this Committee sits

The Committee gets its mandate from its Terms of Reference, available here: <https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2023/07/Whaitua-Kapiti-Committee-Terms-of-Reference.pdf>. It is an advisory body established by Greater Wellington.

Under Section 67(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), regional councils must give effect to national policy statements, national planning standards and regional policy statements.

Regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans are required to give effect to national policy statements (sections 62(3), 67(3) and 75(3) of the RMA). The content of national policy statements generally is set out in section 45 of the RMA.

Greater Wellington established the Whaitua Programme to help give effect to the National Policy Statement-Freshwater Management, and specifically, Subpart 3.2 which states:

- (1) Every regional council must engage with communities and tangata whenua to determine how Te Mana o te Wai applies to water bodies and freshwater ecosystems in the region.
- (2) Every regional council must give effect to Te Mana o te Wai, and in doing so must: (a) actively involve tangata whenua in freshwater management (including decision making processes), as required by clause 3.4; and (b) engage with communities and tangata whenua to identify long-term visions, environmental outcomes, and other elements of the National Objectives Framework.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Lian Butcher
Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Taiao | Group Manager, Environment

PROACTIVE RELEASE