

16 November 2022

File Ref: OIAP-7-26426

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2022-203

I refer to your request for information dated 2 November 2022, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 2 November 2022. You have requested the following:

- “1.- internal correspondence relating to the outcome or likely outcome of the enforcement action in GWRC v Adams and ors and what that would mean for the peatland.*
- 2.- papers and presentations prepared for workshops with regional councillors and / or territorial authorities considering the peat and as part of a climate change strategy.*
- 3.- papers documenting the decision making process to include the peatland in the proposed RPS Plan Change 1.”*

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

- 1.- internal correspondence relating to the outcome or likely outcome of the enforcement action in GWRC v Adams and ors and what that would mean for the peatland.*

We are withholding all internal correspondence relating to the enforcement action in GWRC v Adams and the implications this has for the peatland under section 6 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the basis that the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law.

Information relating to this hearing may become publicly available post proceedings (8 December 2022).

2.- papers and presentations prepared for workshops with regional councillors and / or territorial authorities considering the peatland as part of a climate change strategy and

There are no papers and presentations prepared for workshops with regional councillors and / or territorial authorities considering the peatland as part of a climate change strategy. Peatland has no mention in the climate change strategy or climate action plans. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act on the basis that the document alleged to contain the information does not exist.

3.- papers documenting the decision-making process to include the peatland in the proposed RPS Plan Change 1.

Reference to 'peatland' is only included twice in the Proposed RPS Change 1; both times used as an example of a natural resource that stores carbon (i.e. a 'nature-based solution'). There was no specific discussion or decision-making associated with the inclusion of these two words given that peatlands are well known as carbon 'sinks' (see, for example <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/peatlands-store-twice-much-carbon-all-worlds-forests>).

We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act on the basis that the document alleged to contain the information does not exist.

Where we have refused parts of your request under section 17(e) of the Act, we are required to consider consulting you before refusing. We considered that consulting you on parts 2 and 3 of your request would not change the outcome of our decision.

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 possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku ki noa, nā



Al Cross
Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao | General Manager, Environment Management