

23 May 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-27853

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

## **Request for information 2024-100**

I refer to your request for information dated 13 May 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 13 May 2024. You have requested the following:

*“The question I invite you to consider is whether it is appropriate to use a third party base map if you are aware that the material contains inaccuracies. Was the use of the Google map really necessary?”*

*Failure to correctly name Pariwhero/Red Rocks could be seen as an affront to the Treaty Settlement process, it also challenges the principle of having official names.”*

### **Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

Thank you for making us aware of the issues observed in the Environmental Data Dashboard (<https://graphs.gw.govt.nz/envmon?view=map>). We understand your concerns about the naming conventions found in the Google Maps basemap that is displayed in this product, specifically Pariwhero-Red Rocks, and the geographic accuracy of certain points of interest. We also acknowledge and appreciate your question about the appropriateness of using third-party basemaps in our mapping products and services.

We would like to clarify that the Environmental Data Dashboard is an external vendor-hosted web application designed to display the indicative locations of our environmental monitoring points. The decision to use a Google Maps basemap has been made by an external vendor. Greater Wellington does not have direct control over the data that is displayed in Google Maps, or other third-party basemap products.

In this case, the intention of a Google Maps basemap is to provide general geographic context for Greater Wellington’s environmental monitoring locations. The Google Maps basemap in this context is not intended to serve other purposes that a basemap may be used for. However, we are considering a review

of all our mapping products across Greater Wellington to assess the current use and appropriateness of third-party mapping services. We thank you for raising this matter with us.

We would also like to share that a feedback request was submitted to Google Maps, and the label for Red Rocks-Pariwhero has recently been updated to Pariwhero/Red Rocks by Google, as can be seen here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8LQ2pFSsey64zdLP6>. While this is a positive development, there are still other inaccuracies that have not been addressed by Google Maps, or other third-party basemap products, in relation to the issues raised. We encourage you to raise these issues with Google Maps and other basemap vendors using their product feedback services so that these issues may be addressed for all consumers of these mapping services.

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 iti noa, nā



Julie Knauf  
Kaiwhakahaere Matua | Group Manager Corporate Services