

13 May 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-26426



Tēnā koe 

### **Request for information 2024-079**

I refer to your request for information dated 18 April 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 18 April 2024. On 24 April 2024 Wellington City Council transferred your request to Greater Wellington. You have requested the following:

- *What has been the cost of consultation with iwi and hapu in relation to defining, upholding and implementing te mana o te wai as it relates to freshwater management and policy.*
- *Please provide a breakdown of the cost of all other work in relation to implementing and upholding te mana o te wai as it relates to management and policy.*

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

We have refused your request under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the basis 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 department of Minister of the Crown or organisation;  
or
- (ii) Connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department of Minister of the Crown or organisation.

Our reasoning for refusing your request is described below.

*What has been the cost of consultation with iwi and hapu in relation to defining, upholding and implementing te mana o te wai as it relates to freshwater management and policy.*

Consultation with iwi and hapu relating to Te Mana o te Wai is undertaken across the whitua implementation programmes, Regional Policy Statement (RPS) Change 1, and Natural Resource Plan (NRP) Plan Change 1 work programmes.

Greater Wellington's engagement on Te Mana o te Wai through the development of the Whitua Implementation Programme involves community members, regional and territorial authority councillors, as well as iwi and hapū members. For example, there were 17 members on the Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whitua Committee, four of whom were iwi or hapū members. All 17 were involved in developing methods for protecting the health of freshwater through Te Mana o te Wai. The programme costs are not able to be separately defined for the involvement of specific members or groups.

With respect to RPS Change 1 and NRP Plan Change 1, which are the broader projects that incorporate Te Mana o te Wai, funding is provided to our mana whenua partners for engagement and consultation throughout the entire change process. We are unable to quantify how much of this funding specifically relates to the Te Mana o te Wai elements of these projects as funding is not specifically allocated at this detailed level.

*Please provide a breakdown of the cost of all other work in relation to implementing and upholding te mana o te wai as it relates to management and policy.*

Regulatory Officers engage with mana whenua representatives during the processing of resource consents. However, this engagement is not specifically focused on Te Mana o te Wai only. The time of our Regulatory officers spent on this work is recorded in timesheets but is not restricted to implementing and upholding Te Mana o te Wai in relation to consenting.

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 Act.

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



Lian Butcher  
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rōpū Taiao | Group Manager Environment Group