

29 August 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-29974

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2024-201**

I refer to your request for information dated 16 August 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 16 August 2024. You have requested the following:

*“The draining dates from 2022 when Waikanae had very high rainfall resulting in an unusually high water table. It particularly affected property of a Kapiti District Councillor, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and other [REDACTED]. It seems Kawakahia wetland, east of the Drive, with a new urban development site, was partially drained by District Council or personal order. Kawakahia had Queen Elizabeth II Trust protection, so how did this occur?”*

*I would like to know along with the question in the above paragraph:*

*1. Did the District Council or other party apply for a consent under the District or GWRC, or Department of Conservation, to partially drain the Kawakahia wetland in 2022? Who? When was it consented? What was its identifier? Was there a remedial consent/ identifier once Pharazyn Reserve wetland dried out?*

*2. If it was not consented, who authorized this? Why has drainage continued as Pharazyn wetland became a dry habitat, so water birds had to leave?*

*3. Why did the district council/person authorizing work not then block the channel? What will GWRC and District Council do to restore the Kawakahia wetland and Pharazyn wetland to their original state? Residents of the area are greatly concerned about the lack of water and birds. Whose responsibility are the two joined wetlands? (separated by road). Drying out wetlands by stealth is worrying.”*

**Greater Wellington's response follows:**

- 1. Did the District Council or other party apply for a consent under the District or GWRC, or Department of Conservation, to partially drain the Kawakahia wetland in 2022? Who? When was it consented? What was its identifier? Was there a remedial consent/ identifier once Pharazyn Reserve wetland dried out?**

No consent application has been submitted to Greater Wellington.

Greater Wellington does not hold a record of an application being submitted to the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Greater Wellington now requires Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) to submit a consent application for the works associated with the draining of the wetland and managing the ongoing effects (see 2 below).

- 2. If it was not consented, who authorized this? Why has drainage continued as Pharazyn wetland became a dry habitat, so water birds had to leave?**

KCDC notified Greater Wellington on 30 August 2022 that it was undertaking the works under section 330 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

Section 330 effectively allows 'emergency' works to be undertaken, with a requirement that if there are ongoing effects that need managing, a subsequent resource consent must be obtained. Greater Wellington agreed that the works as laid out at the time fell under section 330 and has also informed KCDC of the fact that an ongoing consent is required for the works associated with the draining of the wetland and managing the ongoing effects.

We will be contacting KCDC again to understand the delay in lodging such an application and requesting a timeframe for its lodgement.

As KCDC is more likely to have information relating to the second part of this part of your request we are part transferring it to KCDC pursuant to section 12 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act).

- 3. Why did the district council/person authorizing work not then block the channel? What will GWRC and District Council do to restore the Kawakahia wetland and Pharazyn wetland to their original state? Residents of the area are greatly concerned about the lack of water and birds. Whose responsibility are the two joined wetlands? (separated by road). Drying out wetlands by stealth is worrying**

Greater Wellington does not have information relating to this part of your request; however, KCDC is more likely to hold this information. This part of your request is therefore transferred to KCDC pursuant to section 12 of the Act.

You will receive further correspondence from KCDC directly for the parts of your request that are transferred to KCDC. In this regard the 20-working daytime limit for providing you with a response to these parts of your request will begin from the day KCDC receives this transfer

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