

5 December 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-32831

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2024-388**

I refer to your request for information dated 8 November 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 8 November 2024. You have requested the following:

“This is a LGOIMA for any correspondence any councillors or staff have had with any MPs, Ministers or central government officials relating to the fast-track itself, or relating to any fast-track projects that fall in your area.”

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

On Monday 11 November, you agreed to clarify your request to specify that:

*“As discussed on phone happy to refine this request to only info about the current Fast Track Approvals Bill. Correspondence includes all correspondence, including emails, texts etc. For example, this OIA would cover texts relating to discussion around what WLG’s submission on the bill would look like, changes made to the draft submission, or considerations as to any other lobbying about the bill.*

*Relating to officials, I am happy to clarify the request to comms between council (staff or councillors) and:*

- *Ministers & local MPs*
- *MBIE*
- *MFE*
- *LGNZ*

*Relating to the fast-track bill and projects - I am requesting both. It seems to me to make the most sense to split this request into two - but up to you.*

*I'm happy to exclude all information about the airport seawall, and information about the rail extension."*

As the clarification of your request was done within the statutory seven working day timeframe provided for under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, Greater Wellington restarted the 20-working day timeframe to respond.

The response to your request is provided in **Attachment 1**, which compiles all correspondence between Greater Wellington Regional Councillors or staff to Members of Parliament, Ministers, or Central Government officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Ministry for the Environment, and Local Government NZ related to the Fast Track Approval Bill or relating to fast-track projects in the region (excluding information about the airport seawall and the rail extension).

Some of the information included in this response includes meeting invitations forwarded by Councillor Daran Ponter from his Ministry for the Environment email address to his Greater Wellington email address.

Councillor Ponter has previously advised Greater Wellington that he is an Engagement Lead for the Ministry for the Environment, working with iwi in the Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay regions to uphold Treaty Settlement obligations. This work, which is separate from Cr Ponter's responsibility as Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council, has been identified in interests' disclosures made to Greater Wellington. This disclosure occurred on 6 November 2023 as part of the councillors' biannual review of personal interests

(<https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2024/06/2023-November-Summary-Personal-Interests-Declarations-by-Councillors-v2.pdf> ).

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



**Nigel Corry**

Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive