30 July 2026

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-53230

[redacted]
By email: [redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted],

Request for information 2026-269

I refer to your request for information dated 19 June 2026, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 22 June 2026. You have requested the following:

Part A — Funds Collected from Territorial Authorities

I request a complete record of all monies levied and collected by the Council from the four metropolitan territorial authorities in respect of the bulk water supply function, from the earliest date for which records are held through to the current financial year.

Please provide this information broken down by:

1. *Financial year: The total levy collected in each financial year.*
2. *Council: The amount levied to and collected from each of the four territorial authorities separately (W llington City Council, Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, and Upper Hutt City Council).*
3. *Levy purpose: Where records permit, the allocation of each levy between the following sub-ca ego ies:*
   - *i. Capital/infrastructure development contributions*
   - *ii Operations and maintenance contributions*
   - *iii. Debt servicing contributions*
   - *iv. Any other category component (please describe)*
4. *Apportionment methodology: The basis or formula used to apportion the levy between the four territorial authorities in each period, including any changes to that methodology over time and the dates those changes took effect.*

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Historic Construction Cost of the Macaskill Lakes (Te Mārua)

I further request, as part of Part A, the following specific information relating to the construction of the Stuart Macaskill Lakes (Te Mārua water storage lakes), built between approximately 1980 and 1987:

a. *Total construction cost: The original tendered or contracted cost of the project, and the final out-turn cost on completion, expressed in New Zealand dollars.*

b. *Cost apportionment: How the total construction cost was apportioned between the four territorial authorities, including the dollar amount and percentage share attributed to each council.*

c. *Cost increases and litigation: Records relating to any cost increases arising from weather, on-site conditions, or contractor disputes during construction, and the resolution of any resulting litigation, including the final amounts paid.*

d. *Funding mechanism: How the construction was funded — whether through borrowing, rates levies, government contribution, or a combination — and how debt was subsequently serviced and allocated across the four territorial authorities.*

Part B — New Infrastructure Projects Undertaken

I request a complete register of all new bulk water supply infrastructure projects undertaken by the Council (or on its behalf) from 1 January 1980 to the date of this request.

For the purposes of this request, a new infrastructure project means any capital works creating a new or additional asset, including storage lakes, treatment plants, pump stations, trunk mains, tunnels, weirs, intake structures, and reservoirs.

For each project, please provide:

1. *Project name and description: Sufficient detail to identify the nature, scope, and location of the works.*

2. *Date undertaken: The commencement date and date of practical completion (or forecast completion date if still underway).*

3. *Tendered price: The contract price at which the project was tendered and awarded, expressed in New Zealand dollars.*

4. *Cost on completion: The final out-turn cost on completion, including all variations, contingency drawdowns, and additional approved expenditure, expressed in New*

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Zealand dollars. Where a project is incomplete, provide the most recent forecast final cost.

5. *Funding source: How each project was funded, including the proportion funded through territorial authority levies, borrowing, government grants, or other sources, and how costs were apportioned between the four territorial authorities.*

Part C — Maintenance Funding Allocated and Expended

I request a complete record of all funding allocated and expended on the maintenance, repair, renewal, rehabilitation, and operation of bulk water supply infrastructure assets, from the earliest date for which records are held through to the current financial year.

Please provide this information broken down by:

1. *Financial year: The total maintenance budget allocated and the total amount actually expended in each financial year.*

2. *Asset or infrastructure type: Where records permit, the maintenance expenditure broken down by asset category (e.g., storage lakes, treatment plant, trunk mains, pump stations, intake structures).*

3. *Planned vs reactive maintenance: Where records permit, the split between planned/preventive maintenance and reactive or emergency repairs.*

4. *Apportionment to territorial authorities: How maintenance costs were allocated between the four territorial authorities in each period."*

Greater Wellington's response follows:

Your request has been assessed under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act).

Part A — Funds Collected from Territorial Authorities

For Part A 1&2, we have been able to include the Water Levy charged to the four Territorial Authorities who utilised our bulk water supply, known as the Metropolitan City Councils (Wellington City, Hitt City, Upper Hutt City and Porirua City) going back as far as 2000/01. Please see **attachment 1 – Tab 1**.

For Part A 3, the funding impact statements for 'Water Supply' contain the application of funding. These are already publicly available on our website as they are a key part of our Annual

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Reports. You can find them here: https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans-and-reports/annual-reports/

For Part A 4. Volumetric charging is the basis used to apportion the 'Bulk Water Levy' between the Metropolitan City Councils. Each are charged based on the previous year's proportionate consumption of bulk water supplied by Greater Wellington with a balancing up for actual consumption calculated after the 31st of March each year. This has remained consistent over the period provided and is set and collected in accordance with the Wellington Region Water Board Act 1972.

Historic Construction Cost of the Macaskill Lakes (Te Mārua)

Wellington Regional Council was first established in 1980 with responsibility for regional planning, civil defence, regional parks and reserves, urban water supply, forestry, and urban public passenger transport planning.

Prior to this, the Wellington Regional Water Board was established in 1973 to manage bulk water supply, forestry, water resources management, soil conservation, rivers control, and recreation.

The Macaskill Lakes were planned before Greater Wellington was established and the construction completed shortly after. The first costs being announced in 1974 and construction began in 1980 and completed approximately five years later.

Due to the time period and change the in the management organisations of time, we do not hold digital records to provide you. However, we have been able to locate some physical copies of the historic construction cost of the Macaskill Lakes as you have requested. We welcome you to come into our office to view them.

There are some useful online resources, such as the Mahara Upper Hutt Community Archive (https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/26650) which you may find more useful for answering your questions.

To arrange a viewing, please respond to the email you receive this response from and we will organise it.

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Part B — New Infrastructure Projects Undertaken

We don't hold records of the new infrastructure projects during this time. Generally, we capture the capital spend at a level far lower than an infrastructure project. I.e. in most cases the spend is captured right down at an asset level.

Following reasonable enquiries, the Council has determined that the information requested for Part B does not exist. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 17(e) of the Act on the grounds that the document alleged to contain the informati n requ sted does not exist.

However, we have been able to put together the Capital spend (per major category and per year), as set out in the annual reports between financial years 1999/00 to 2024/25.

Refer to **attachment 1, tab 2**.

Part C — Maintenance Funding Allocated and Expended

For Part C 1, **attachment 1, tab 3,** includes the budget d and actual spend on direct operating expenditure per year from 2000 – 2026.

Regarding Part C 2 and 3, we do not hold the operating expenditure per asset/infrastructure type or planned vs reactive maintenance so this cannot be provided. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 17(e) f the Act on the grounds that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

For Part C 4, the maintenance cost, as part of the net funding required, was funded through water levies that were allocated to the Metropolitan City Councils based on volumetric charging as specified in Part A 4 (above)

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investig tion and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Please note hat 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

[redacted]

Julie Knauf
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Ratonga Rangapu | Group Manager Corporate Services

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