

6 June 2023

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-2533

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2023-115**

I refer to your request for information dated 8 May 2023, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 8 May 2023. You have requested the following:

*"I'd like to see the full financial plan - p&l, cashflow and balance sheet."*

On 11 May 2023 you had a follow up clarification requesting the following:

*"Please send me the 23/24 financial budgets and your long term financial forecasts asap"*

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

The 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP) information you have requested is publicly available information and can be found on the following web page, <https://ltp.gw.govt.nz> and in particular pages 172 to 241.

Within this document on page 19 you will see the LTP average rates increases over the 10 years of the LTP. For the year 2023/24 the LTP forecast increase to rates was approximately 14%.

Since the LTP was approved back in June 2021 there has been significant inflationary pressures and increased debt servicing costs driving the forecasted rate number higher.

Two other material items that were not in the 2021-31 LTP but in the proposed 2023/24 Annual Plan which have contributed to the proposed 17.8% rates increase are an additional \$50 million of capital expenditure due revised budgets and additional operational cost from a bus drivers hourly rate uplift from \$27 to \$30.

You have asked for copies of the 2023/24 Annual Plan financial statements. We are refusing this part of your request under section 17(d) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the basis that the information requested will soon be publicly available. Our current budget process is in the draft stage and will be adopted by Council on 29 June 2023. We will email the links for the full financial information to you as soon as it is published. This is expected in July.

The proposed 17.8% rates increase that was published in the engagement documentation was an average across the region including the Wairarapa, Kāpiti and Hutt costs. For a Wellington residential ratepayer, the average impact of the proposed 17.8% will be approximately \$2.43 per week.

Proposed Wellington City average rates*		Change in amount per annum	Change in amount per week
Residential (incl. GST)	Wellington City	\$126	\$2.43
Business (excl. GST)	Wellington City	\$472	\$9.08
	Wellington City - CBD	\$3,232	\$62.15
Rural (excl. GST)	Wellington City	\$59	\$1.13

Greater Wellington are now working on the Long Term Plan for financial years from 2024/25 to 2033/34. This will be out for public consultation around March/April 2024.

In regard to your request to meet with a Councillor, we have been in touch with you to organise a meeting with Council Chair, Daran Ponter.

We apologise for any impact the delay of our response has caused. Let us know if there is anything further we can help with.

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



Sue McLean  
Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Ratonga Rangapū | Group Manager, Corporate Services

PROACTIVE RELEASE