

10 July 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-28133

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2024-118**

I refer to your request for information dated 11 June 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 11 June 2024. You have requested the following:

*“I’ve seen a bit of press lately on the Riverlink project, which I think you said Wellington ratepayers were contributing equally with Lower Hutt ratepayers.*

*Can you please tell me:*

*- how much Wellington city ratepayers have contributed (in dollar and percent terms) to the design and planning stages this far and*

*- on current or projected estimates, how much Wellington city ratepayers will be contributing in dollar and percent (of total spend) terms please?*

*Separately, can you please also tell me what reporting do you get from the recipients of the circa \$5-6 million p.a. that the GWRC gives to local iwi.”*

Following clarification on 14 June via a phone call, the following questions were added:

- How much is allocated to mana whenua partners each year either as a payment for their activities or as payments to be involved in GW activities?*
- What is the money used for that is paid to mana whenua partners?*
- What reporting or accountability is there to ensure the funds are used right and producing the outcomes required?*
- Why was the funding committed in the first place?*
- Why was the funding committed in the first place? Are there reports that demonstrate the decision to commit the funding?*

**Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

**Part one: RiverLink**

The RiverLink programme of works aims to improve connectivity, flood resilience and urban liveability in Lower Hutt and Melling on the banks of the Hutt River. The programme has several sources of funding from central government and various councils.

Greater Wellington contributes to the programme using both targeted and general rates. Ratepayers in Lower Hutt City area pay for 58.55 percent of the Greater Wellington funded portion.

The following table shows the expenditure to date (31 May 2024):

	Total Expenditure to date	Hutt City Council Rates Funded to date	Wellington City Council Rates Funded to date
Design, Planning & Construction	42,067,891	24,632,842	9,566,743
Property Purchase	109,233,068	63,961,391	24,840,910
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$151,300,959</b>	<b>\$88,594,233</b>	<b>\$34,407,653</b>
Percentage	100	58.55	22.74

The following table shows the forecasted expenditure budgeted in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP):

	LTP Expenditure	LTP Rates	LTP - Hutt City Ratepayers	LTP - Wellington City Ratepayers
Design, Planning & Construction	128,854,597	96,853,007	56,947,947	21,971,105
Property Purchase	37,663,460	36,383,609	21,392,896	8,253,622
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$166,518,057</b>	<b>\$133,236,616</b>	<b>\$78,340,690</b>	<b>\$30,224,726</b>
Percentage	-	-	58.80	22.69

Greater Wellington’s involvement in RiverLink is due to it being a flood management project, therefore a portion of the costs are recovered using the general rate. The remaining percentage is applied to the general rates charged to Kāpiti Coast District, Upper Hutt City, South Wairarapa District, Carterton District, Masterton District and a very small amount to Tararua District.

## **Part two: Mana Whenua Partners**

Greater Wellington is committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, commitments and responsibilities to ensure equitable outcomes for Māori. We recognise and support our six mana whenua partners in maintaining their role as kaitiaki (guardians) of their ancestral lands:

- Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki
- Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust
- Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc
- Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust
- Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust
- Rangitāne o Wairarapa.

‘Improving outcomes for mana whenua and Māori’ is one of Greater Wellington’s four strategic priorities within the 2021-31 Long Term plan. Te Whāriki - Māori Outcomes Framework assists and guides Greater Wellington in its relationships and engagement with mana whenua. This framework formalises Greater Wellington’s commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the organisation’s broader legal obligations to Māori.

Greater Wellington’s vision to effectively partner with mana whenua as kaitiaki in the co-governance and co-management models concerning shared interests is evolving. We have implemented tūāpapa and kaupapa funding initiatives that enable mana whenua representative organisations to uplift capability and resource themselves to better support and deliver on their kaitiaki duties as well as shared Māori interests.

We acknowledge that significant input is required from mana whenua to actively perform their kaitiaki role and meet the increasing demands of Council, while also assisting other Crown agencies. In taking this direction, tūāpapa and kaupapa funding agreements help us address the resourcing inequity between Greater Wellington and our partners.

There are two key funding initiatives: Tūāpapa and Kaupapa Funding

### ***Tūāpapa Funding***

Greater Wellington has established agreements with each mana whenua partner that cement our commitment to mana whenua and provide a framework to guide the way we work together. This funding was agreed as part of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and is to support capacity for our partners and ensure their participation in a wide range of projects at a management and operational level to deliver consents, regional policy statement changes, and the implementation of various plans.

Amount paid: \$1,200,000 (\$200,000 for each mana whenua) per annum.

### ***Kaupapa Funding***

This is a joint programme for operational funding, aggregated across our business to support mana whenua involvement in a specific range of projects, including some that are iwi-led.

Greater Wellington has committed to building a capable workforce through the implementation of Te Whāriki – Māori Outcomes Framework.

The details of the projects and initiatives that mana whenua contribute to are:

Projects	Project Overview	Payments to mana whenua	Percentage of total spend
Queen Elizabeth Park Wetland Restoration	Partnered with Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Iwi Charitable Trust (AKW) for a cultural values assessment as part of the Queen Elizabeth Park Peatlands restoration project. This project is part of the wider Recloaking Papatūānuku Programme of work aiming to retire grazing land across 5 regional parks and undertake environmental restoration as well as a Cultural Values Assessment for restoration of small wetland areas in central Queen Elizabeth Park.	\$8,451	0.44%
Fresh Water Fish programme	<p>The Improving Fish Passage project is a collaborative partnership, working with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira (TROTR) to locate, assess and remediate barriers to fish migration across the Wellington region. The partnership gained funding from Ministry for the Environment (MfE) for a 4.5-year project starting in 2023.</p> <p>Whilst Greater Wellington funds elements of the overall project, all funding for work completed by TROTR comes from MfE. Greater Wellington acts as the fundholder and passes the relevant amounts onto TROTR, under a general services contract.</p>	\$229,804	21%
Mauri Tuhono Co-Chair	Tasked with developing a framework to transform how we relate to te taiao across the Wellington Region, originally known as Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui. The co-chairs are now leading the transition of the project into implementation.	\$17,651	7%

Mana Whenua Assessment: Waimeha Stream	Partnered with mana whenua (Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongatai) to receive their input into a resource consent application for clearing of highly modified watercourses across the region. They provided an assessment that was incorporated into the application.	\$3,133	1%
Hill Country Erosion Catchment Partnerships	This partnership aims to engage in a mutual knowledge exchange training programme between Kahungunu ki Wairarapa (KKW), Rangitāne o Wairarapa (RoW) and Greater Wellington. Greater Wellington is responsible for developing a training programme involving KKW and RoW staff in the technical opportunities and challenges of the 1 Billion Trees work programme. This project includes the development and implementation of a combined KKW and RoW Mātauranga Māori training package as well as the development and implementation of a succession plan for RoW that builds on key marae-based work programmes.	\$125,000	3.2%
Kanoa Climate Resilience Co-design	The Greater Wellington Climate Resilience Programme Team entered into a contractual agreement with iwi. Greater Wellington required cultural oversight and support in the construction of the Flood Defences for Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River and the Ruamahunga River.	\$22,000	0.2%
Water Monitoring	The purpose of this project is to assist in the development of kaitiaki monitoring capability and capacity for Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Catchment, including: the development of kaitiaki monitoring frameworks, undertaking kaitiaki monitoring, Kaitiaki o te Taiao programme and student research scholarships.	\$67,500	98%

Kaitiaki monitoring Waikanae River	Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongatai did kaitiaki monitoring of instream works on the Waikanae River. This involved discussions with Delivery staff and Greater Wellington's ecologist on how to approach the work, plus onsite monitoring of the works, including fish recovery, which included drafting protocols for future instream works.	\$2,664	0.21%
Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment and Adaptation	The purpose of this engagement was to review the draft Letter for Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment and Adaptation. This was fully reimbursed by the Wellington City Council.	\$78	-
ART confederation participation in Whaitua Kāpiti	2023 Funding Co-ordinator role to support the ART confederation <sup>1</sup> participation in Whaitua Kapiti.	\$75,000	13.4%
Co-management of Parangarahu lakes	Work on pest management (including plants, fish and other animals), and environmental restoration.	\$20,000	7%
Transmission Gully resource consent	Reviewing cultural impacts associated with consent applications.	\$895	0.6%
Regional Policy Statement and Natural Resources Plan	Work and advice on the changes in the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region, the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme, and Natural Resources Plan to give effect to the National Policy Statements on Urban Development 2020 and Freshwater Management 2020.	\$175,000	4%

<sup>1</sup> The three coastal iwi, Ātia Awa, Raukawa and Toa - Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Raukawa ki te tonga and Ngāti Toa Rangatira

Koha for event attendance	Multiple (cultural) events	\$4,300	-
Mihi whakatau for new staff Induction	Mana whenua representative traditional welcoming ceremony for new staff	\$1,650	-
Cultural Competency Training	Workshop and training for staff and councillors	\$28,000	-

The total of Kaupapa funding over the past three years:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>Mana Whenua Partners</b>	\$2,779,472	\$5,049,533	\$2,699,154

**What reporting or accountability is there to ensure the funds are used right and producing the outcomes required?**

Greater Wellington reports on the outcomes for Māori in our [Annual Reports](#) (Page 20 of the 2022/23 report).

**Why was the funding committed in the first place? Are there reports that demonstrate the decision to commit the funding?**

Funding is agreed as part of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and subsequent Annual Plans. It is to support capacity for our partners and ensure their participation in a wide range of projects at a management and operational level to deliver consents, regional policy statement changes, and the implementation of various plans.

Please refer to our 2021-31 Long Term Plan - [2021-31 Long Term Plan](#)

Our partnership is guided by local government legislation that requires Greater Wellington to take account of the perspectives of Māori on various matters, including:

- Under the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991, Greater Wellington must consult and engage with iwi authorities on resource planning and consenting matters that enhance opportunities for iwi participation in the RMA plan-making processes
- The Local Government Act 2002 requires Greater Wellington to take appropriate account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, as well as maintaining and improving opportunities for Māori to contribute to local decision-making processes
- The Conservation Act 1987 requires that the Reserves Act 1977 should be interpreted and administered so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

Greater Wellington is required to act in accordance with a range of other statutory responsibilities to Māori.

On 14 June 2024 you agreed to clarify/refine your request. 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.

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



**Samantha Gain**

Acting Chief Executive | Tumu Whakarae