

8 July 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-28175

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2024-120

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:

“Does the council fund external bodies, such as iwi, to provide policy expertise, cultural expertise, engagement, or similar? If so, how much does it pay per hour for these services? What was the total cost of these services in each of the last three financial years?”

What was the policy or issue that this work occurred in relation to?

How much has been spent responding to the latest National Policy Statement Freshwater Management?

How much has the council budgeted to spend on responding to the latest National Policy Statement Freshwater Management? If there is no budgeted amount, please provide any information relating to estimated or forecast costs of this.”

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

Councils are required to ensure that genuine dialogue with our diverse communities are created and maintained in order to help us make better decisions. Public input is important in ensuring our decisions reflect the aspirations of mana whenua, residents, ratepayers, community groups and businesses. Greater Wellington has identified four external bodies that are funded and provide policy expertise, cultural expertise, engagement, or similar. They are:

- Wellington NZ
- Mana whenua partners
- Te Matarau a Māui
- the Mauri Tūhono project

Wellington NZ

Greater Wellington is committed to leading and enabling regional economic development, prioritising COVID-19 recovery and supporting Māori economic development. We are well positioned to lead and facilitate growth and development opportunities and challenges facing our region to ensure the Wellington Region is equipped to adapt and thrive into the future, working closely with our regional development agency WellingtonNZ.

WellingtonNZ is the Wellington Region’s Economic Development Agency tasked with enhancing prosperity, vibrancy, and liveability across the region. The agency significantly contributes to policy, cultural, and engagement activity for the region.¹

Greater Wellington contributes to this activity using a targeted rate, with businesses paying based on their capital value, and residential and rural rateable properties paying \$15 each. Funding for Wellington NZ is part of the ‘Regional Economic Development’ budget set in the LTP and Annual Plans. You can find this on Page 87 of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.²

Regional Economic Development (incl. GST)	
Wellington NZ - 2021/22 Actual	\$4,447,168
Wellington NZ - 2022/23 Actual	\$4,102,702
Wellington NZ - 2023/24 Actual	\$4,590,659

We do not have information regarding ‘pay per hour’ for these services.

¹ <https://www.wellingtonnz.com/>

² <https://ltp.gw.govt.nz/assets/LTP-21-31/document/LTP-full-document-Web.pdf>

Mana whenua Partners

We are committed to meeting our broad legal obligations to Māori including responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Treaty of Waitangi. The Council recognises these responsibilities are distinct from the Crown's and fall within a local government context. We also recognise the enduring presence, aspirations, and cultural obligations of mana whenua as kaitiaki (stewards) in our region. We recognise and see to 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

Because our legislative obligations mean that we must enable the involvement of mana whenua, Council provides two key funding sources to mana whenua partners, they are Tūāpapa and Kaupapa Funding Initiatives.

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.

Mana whenua partners continuously support Greater Wellington to collaborate, challenge and guide us to shape how we partner effectively and determine areas for improvement.

Tūāpapa Funding

Greater Wellington has established agreements with each mana whenua partner that cements their commitment to mana whenua and provides a framework to guide the way they work together. This funding agreed as part of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and is to support build capacity for our partners and ensure their participation on 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: Total \$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.

Due to the changes in on-going activities or activity requirements, the level of contribution from mana whenua partners varies, therefore the total payments made varies from year to year.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total (incl. GST) Kaupapa Funding for mana whenua partners	\$2,779,472	\$5,049,533	\$2,699,154

The 2022/23 rating year had a higher level of funding due to the significant plan change and work required across the region, both regionally and at catchment level.

We do not have information regarding ‘pay per hour’ for these services.

Te Matarau a Māui - Māori Economic Development Strategy - Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui

The purpose of this strategy is to bring together an economic vision for Māori in Te Ūpoko o Te Ika- the Wellington Region. Council is committed to supporting the aspirations of this strategy through the work that we do for the region.³

This strategy is inspired by the kōrero that was captured from the many Māori individuals, whānau, businesses, iwi, hapū, marae and community engagement across the region. It’s intended to have embodied the aspirations and intentions, to create a platform for Te Upoko o Te Ika to move forward, together.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total (incl. GST) Te Matarau a Māui	\$100,000	\$450,000	\$450,000

We do not have information regarding ‘pay per hour’ for these services.

³ <https://www.tematarau.co.nz/>

The Mauri Tūhono project

The Mauri Tūhono ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui Working Group and Framework – is a diverse group of thinkers and doers, who answered a challenge from Greater Wellington, alongside mana whenua and the Department of Conservation, to develop a regional biodiversity framework to transform how we relate to te taiao across the Wellington region, originally known as Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui.⁴ Agencies and mana whenua are required to build regional framework as part of central government direction.

Total (incl. GST) The Mauri Tūhono project	GW Staff Time	Working Group	Other	Total
2021/22	\$123,890.00	\$62,159.18	\$5,976.94	\$192,026.12
2022/23	\$30,883.00	\$24,318.50	\$57,371.63	\$112,573.13
2023/24	\$21,459.00	\$84,941.00	\$101,817.00	\$208,217.00

We do not have information regarding ‘pay per hour’ for these services.

⁴ <https://www.maurituhono.org.nz/>

National Policy Statement Freshwater

Greater Wellington does not have a specific financial coding to budget for or report against for the latest National Policy Statement Freshwater Management. What we can show you is the budgeted activities we conduct which contribute to the National Policy Statement Freshwater Management.

The following table shows the 2021-24 expenditure and the 2024/34 forecasted amount in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, for the Ecosystems & Community (Land Management) programme budgets that support the freshwater objective:

Direct Expenditure Budgets (excl. GST)

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
Hill Country Erosion	3,863,852	3,894,079	4,002,172	2,427,000	2,427,000	2,427,000	3,825,404	3,905,879	3,983,735	4,063,462	4,144,686	4,223,665	4,303,766
Sustainable Land Use Fund	1,354,490	2,068,304	2,641,426	2,535,975	2,586,694	2,643,500	2,701,827	2,758,380	2,813,664	2,869,963	2,927,276	2,983,067	3,039,619
Riparian Programme	581,015	586,976	1,022,936	724,976	739,475	755,715	772,389	788,556	804,361	820,455	836,840	852,789	868,956
Wetland Programme	502,174	522,278	583,923	611,215	623,435	637,126	651,184	664,814	678,139	691,707	705,521	718,967	732,597
Total	6,301,530	7,071,636	8,250,456	6,299,166	6,376,605	6,463,341	7,950,804	8,117,629	8,279,898	8,445,587	8,614,322	8,778,488	8,944,939

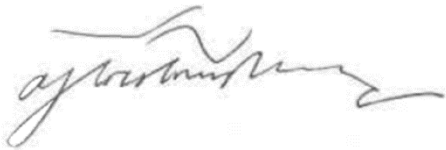
The following table shows the 2021-24 expenditure and the 2024/34 forecasted amount in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan for the policy costs associated to the freshwater objective:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
NRP	\$2,553,696	\$2,399,883	\$2,489,761	\$3,411,026	\$3,479,247	\$3,555,654	\$3,634,173	\$3,710,173	\$3,784,534	\$3,860,259	\$3,937,348	\$4,012,390	\$4,089,456
EP RPS Review	\$0	\$1,985,658	\$2,200,315	\$1,425,343	\$1,198,849	\$1,225,177	\$1,252,210	\$1,278,420	\$1,304,043	\$1,330,135	\$1,356,698	\$1,382,555	\$1,408,766
Total	\$2,553,696	\$4,385,541	\$4,690,076	\$4,836,369	\$4,678,096	\$4,780,831	\$4,886,317	\$4,988,593	\$5,088,576	\$5,190,394	\$5,294,046	\$5,394,946	\$5,497,222

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



Alison Trustrum-Rainey

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Pūtea me ngā Tūraru | Group Manager Finance and Risk

PROACTIVE RELEASE