

11 August 2021

Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: 2122-23

I refer to your information request we received on 27 July 2021 for the following:

1. *The number of cases of illegal vegetation clearance dealt with by council between January 1, 2016 and July 27, 2021.*

- ***I would like information broken down by date, area of land cleared, rule broken, and action taken by council (warning, court action etc).***
- ***Illegal vegetation clearance means any clearance that breaches District Plan and/or RMA rules.***

Council response regarding your request

In order to locate and analyse the information you have requested the following Information sites and Applications were accessed – Council MagiQ Database (Service Requests), Abatement Notices and Infringement action spreadsheets (Excel).

The information you have requested is attached.

There are a total of 48 Service Requests located which fall into the specified date range and related to the Request Type of “Native Vegetation” (26) and/or “Trees – Notable/ Heritage” (22).

Of these, the majority did not involve any Breach or Non-Compliance activity (18). Several related to providing advice only about tree related matters (14), many involved non-native or non-protected trees (5), some requests related to overhanging vegetation (3), and others were unrelated to the “type of request” (3).

There were five (5) complaints and investigations which resulted in further action by Council:

1. Service Request #1807121 – January 2018, Arawhata Road, Paraparaumu. Felling of three Indigenous trees. Breach of District Plan Rule 3.2. Formal Warning letter issued to property owner by KCDC.
2. Service Request #1927050 – September 2019, Valley Road, Paraparaumu. Felling of two Indigenous trees within Eco-site. Breach of District Plan Rule 3.2. Formal Warning letters (2) issued to property owner and contractor conducting works.

3. Service Request #2007123 – March 2020, Winara Avenue, Waikanae. Modification of several Indigenous trees within Eco-site. Breach of District Plan Rule 3.2. Formal Warning letters sent to both current and previous property owners.
4. Service Request #2010339 – April 2020, Ringawhaiti Road, Otaki. Non-permitted activity relating to Shelter Belt. Breach of District Plan Rule 7A.1. Remedied with property owner and trees removed.
5. Service Request #2025801 – September 2020, Ngaio Road, Waikanae. Modification of several Indigenous trees within Eco-site reserve. Breach of District Plan Rule 3.2. Formal Warning letter sent to property owners.

In addition, there were also two (2) complaints and investigations which resulted in the issuing of an Abatement Notice by Council:

1. Abatement Notice #335 & 336 – May 2018, Te Hapua Road, Waikanae. Modification of several Indigenous trees within Eco-site K057. Breach of District Plan Rule 3A.3(1)(a).
2. Abatement Notice #337 – May 2018, State Highway 1, Paraparaumu. Felling/ destruction of Indigenous vegetation. Breach of District Plan Rule 3A.1.4.

In relation to the request wanting information regarding “area of land cleared” I was unable to locate specific information on land area or size. In all cases the felling or modification related to a specified number of trees. I have included the geographic location in general terms i.e., Street name and District only.

Yours sincerely



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Te Kaihautū Ratonga Whakaritenga