

OIR: 2324/740

12 December 2023

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Tēnā koe ██████

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of **23 November 2023** requesting the following information:

I refer to paragraph 6 in the article headlined “12% rates rise on the cards for Kāpiti Coast” published in the Kāpiti Observer (November 23 2023) and request the following information pursuant to S10 LGOIM Act. Please advise:

- ***Which councillor or community board member sought funding for “building glamping huts to support local eco tourism”.***
- ***The proposed locations of these huts.***
- ***Whether the huts would be built on public or private land.***
- ***The proposed design of the huts.***
- ***The budget amount sought for the construction of these huts.***
- ***The ongoing budget and work programme identified for future maintenance of these huts over a number of years.***
- ***The schedule for commencing and completing the building process.***
- ***The information provided to support the claim that the huts would support local eco-tourism.***

I can confirm that the reported 12% rates rise referred to in your letter does not include costs related to introducing ‘building glamping huts’. Further, no ideas were tabled by Councillors to introduce ‘glamping huts’ or for Council to provide such services.

The 12% rates rise is predominantly comprised of increases in interest, depreciation (due to revaluation of assets), and inflation related to maintaining existing services.

As part of the development of the Long-term Plan, Councillors tabled a range of ideas to *potentially* generate revenue for the community, improve resilience, and reduce the burden on rates. An ecotourism idea was tabled by Councillor Liz Koh. The concept proposes to assess the feasibility of: economically prudent tiny-home

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

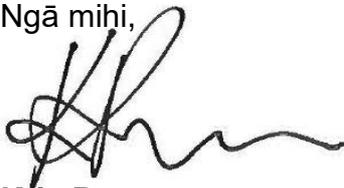
(or similar) huts, with compostable toilets and sustainable design principles, that could be utilised primarily for ecotourism purposes and as backup for emergency events to provide immediate transitional and emergency housing during response and recovery.

Given that there is a gap between supply and demand for ecotourism offerings in Kapiti, and devastation experienced from recent severe storm and flood events on the East Coast could also pose a similar risk to the Kapiti District, a majority of Council agreed that the idea had merit for further analysis. They expressly asked that the analysis determine costs and benefits, with the expectation that if it were to proceed to the next stage of consideration it would not only cover Council costs, but also provide a return to Council.

We have not developed plans for the location of progressing the Tiny-home huts concept, and budget requirements have not yet been determined or approved. On that basis I must decline this part of your request as the documents alleged to contain the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate them, they cannot be found, section 17(e) of the LGOIMA refers.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, by fax to (04) 471 2254, or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi,



Kris Pervan

Group Manager Strategy and Growth
Te Kaihautū Rautaki me te Tupu