

15 February 2021

**Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: 7951352 (OIR: 2021-169)**

I refer to your information request we received on 29 January 2021 for the following:

***Would like the last 3 years' worth of reports for the maintenance of the Waimea Lagoon.***

**Council response regarding your request**

Maintenance at the Waimea Domain / Waimeha Lagoons comprise of stormwater clearance works, routine mowing and vegetation maintenance by volunteer groups and contractors.

Stormwater Drain Clearance and Maintenance

- Council clears out the celery weed along the Queens road side every January to stop flooding upstream

Mowing Maintenance

- The mowing of the reserve is undertaken on a cyclical nature by our internal operations team. Mowing is scheduled for every three weeks, but that is always dependent on weather conditions.
- The mowing crew have worked through the recent prolonged wet summer, which has led to higher grass growth, and can now get back to their usual schedule.

Vegetation Maintenance

- During the last three years Council has continued its close collaboration and support of the Waimeha Lagoon Restoration Group in protecting and restoring the wetland ecosystem. During that time the group has planted approximately 1,000 ecologically sourced native trees and shrubs supplied by Council. The group has also held regular working bees to maintain planted areas, supported by Council's two Environmental Restoration Officers. Group members have also maintained a predator control network of bait stations and traps targeting possums, rats and stoats.
- In December 2020 the wetland was surveyed by Council's Programme Manager Biodiversity, who noted successful restoration of the wetland buffer, but infestations of invasive weed species. Nga Uruora Conservation Contracting was engaged to

undertake invasive weed control, prioritising Japanese honeysuckle, blackberry and Tradescantia. The contractor spent 64 hours on weed control at a cost of \$3,200 plus GST. Follow-up control will be necessary, and is scheduled for next spring.

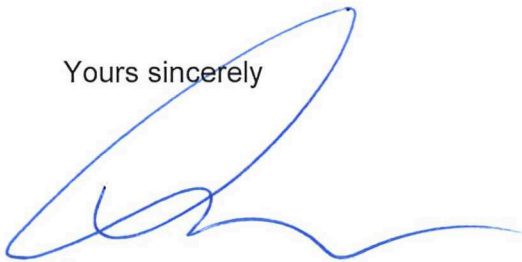
- A seasonal occurrence of flax yellow leaf disease was also noted. This disease occurs periodically throughout Kāpiti and New Zealand. There are no effective prophylactic measures and no cure for the disease, which has been recorded in the district for more than 100 years.

#### **Additional question**

This morning when I spoke with you, you asked whether the Waimea Lagoon will be part of the government-funded work on the Waikanae River which is about to begin. Our Acting Parks Manager advises me that the funding of \$8.5 million is for environmental works within the Waikanae Catchment including work on iwi lands, DOC lands, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Kapiti Coast District lands – and potentially private lands alongside the stream and tributaries. The Waimeha Lagoons are within the Waikanae Catchment, and all reserves that influence water quality of the Waikanae River will be included in considerations for works.

Should you wish to discuss any of these maintenance items further, please call through on 04 296 4700 and ask to be put through to the relevant department – Stormwater, Mowing or Parks and Recreation.

Yours sincerely



**Darryn Grant**

Acting Group Manager Place & Space  
Te Kaihatū Takiwā, Waahi hoki