

19 July 2022

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Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) (the Act) – reference: OIR 2122-308

I refer to your information request we received on 29 June 2022 for the following:

1. Any recent audit of Kapiti Coast District Council land holdings in whatever form

Council has recently carried out a Land Audit to verify all Council-owned land holdings. This audit process involved evaluating all Council land holdings and determining whether there remained a valid public work for retaining that land. For those parcels where no public work requirement was identified, Council is progressively working through a process to determine whether there is a valid reason for Council to retain the land, or whether the land should be disposed of. Council continues to assess the purposes for which we hold parcels of land, and housing suitability is one of several assessment criteria that we consider in this process.

Attached to this letter is a spreadsheet of land holdings identified during the audit.

2. I am also interested in why apparently Council staff rejected any Council owned sites for temporary emergency housing and considered only two sites had any potential for future housing as well as discounting land associated with the Expressway as unsuitable for housing.

Historically, Council has had a very limited role in the housing space, providing a small number of older persons housing in the district. In 2021, through our Long-term Plan 2021-41 consultation process, we asked the community if we should take a bigger role in housing and over half of the respondents agreed we should. Improving access to housing was also included as one of five community outcomes for the long-term plan, reflecting the seriousness of the issue and Council's commitment to taking a bigger role.

In May 2022, Council adopted the Kāpiti [Coast District Council Housing Strategy 2022](#). This document outlines the Council's current thinking about housing in the Kāpiti region. It includes our vision and principles, the various types of roles we can play, and actions for the short, medium and long term. It will enable us to prioritise investment and capitalise on partnership opportunities, manage risk and coordinate our housing response across other areas of our work.

Through this work, Council continues to investigate opportunities for improving access to housing across the district, partnering with Government, iwi, Community Housing Providers and private developers to encourage the development of a range of housing models that better suit the range of needs across our community. As part of this, Council continues to investigate potential residential uses of existing land holdings, as well as considering acquisitions that could provide housing opportunities as they come available.

The various teams within Council who acquire and dispose of land have been tasked with considering suitability of land for housing purposes when undertaking their work. This work is ongoing, and these processes will be further enhanced as we implement the Housing Strategy.

I attach an email memorandum dated 29 October 2019, prepared by The Property Group Limited who were engaged by Council to identify Crown, Council and Māori-owned land holdings that may be suitable for relocatable public housing development in the district. Although the criteria applied are very specific, and includes land owned by others.

You will see that some information has been redacted in the attachment. The information redacted is not related to your request, therefore is considered to be 'out of scope' of the request.

Surplus expressway land is referred to Council to consider by Waka Kotahi NZTA, as part of the Public Works Act disposal process. Housing suitability is one of the criteria that Council officers review in this process. As part of the disposal process, other government agencies are also asked to consider if they have a use for the land, which means that the opportunity for acquisition of land suitable for housing might not reach Council.

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



Angela Bell

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Te Kaiwhakahaere Roopu Rautaki, Te Tipuna me te Whakaoranga