

23 August 2021

Kia ora

Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: 2122-45

I refer to your information request we received on 18 August 2021 about our recent cull of Canadian Geese. I have discussed your query with our Acting Parks and Recreation Manager who has advised the following:

1. *Is it possible to get a list of the councillors who voted to cull the Canadian Geese in Kapiti?*

Pest management is an operational matter and although Councillors were informed prior, because this is operational in nature, we were not required to ask them for a decision.

2. *If the results have been already been published for transparency with the rates payers (which it should have been) then could you please point me to this document*

3. *Can you always confirm how many were killed?*

4. *How was it done and what happened to the bodies?*

107 geese were shot, with the meat repurposed into sausages and salamis by one of the pest control contractors.

5. *Also what qualifications did the person(s) that made this decision have as regards to the humanity of it and the ecological damage that they were supposedly causing? In other words what tertiary degrees do they hold on these matters?*

Our Acting Parks and Recreation Manager has a master's degree in Environmental and Marine Sciences, obtained with Honours.

6. *Also why was it supposedly done in the dark?*

7. *Was this so the poor birds had no way of escape against the big brave men that carried it out?*

With regards to the timing, this operation was not undertaken in the dark. It commenced at 7.30am on Sunday. This was not a hidden operation as notices were given to houses in the rural vicinity. Immediately following confirmation of bird numbers, Council released a media release and posted on its website.

8. Thanks would appreciate answers to these questions as the council has not been transparent about it.

This operation was not undertaken lightly. Council checked with other councils who have undertaken control measures, researched the bird ecology and have trialled repellents. The fouling of sports fields was a major health and safety risk we could not ignore.

Looking ahead, we will be looking at egg addling, monitoring Canada Goose numbers in our parks and working with Greater Wellington Regional Council who have overall responsibility of pest management in our region.

Further to this, here is a link to the media advisory we issued at the time:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/whats-on/news/2021/canada-geese-population-control-begins/>

Council has been transparent about the need to control Candian Geese and this has been widely reported on.

Ngā mihi



Sacha Haskell

Group Manager Place and Space
Te Kaihautū Takiwā, Waahi hoki