

OIR: 2324/666

19 September 2023

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

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

Thank you for your email of **5 September 2023** requesting the following information:

**1. *When was town water first reticulated to Elizabeth Street, Waikanae.***

Our records indicate that town water was first reticulated to Elizabeth Street, Waikanae in 1969.

**2. *What up-grades have there been since the first reticulation.***

Since the first reticulation, there was the bore-field watermain installed in 2005.

**3. *What correspondence was there between council and property owners regarding the reticulation.***

There were no changes to the reticulation hence the communication was only for the installation of water meters [Water meter project - Kāpiti Coast District Council \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/water-meter-project).

**4. *Was connection to the reticulation compulsory or voluntary.***

Connection to the reticulation was not compulsory but if your property was within the serviceable area, you would be charged the serviceable rates which is 50% of the water rates.

**5. *Did council provide a supply-pipe from the water main to a toby.***

When Council reticulated the water supply, a connection to each property was made available or facilitated later, on request.

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

**6. Who decided what properties would be treated as contiguous.**

Section 20 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA), requires Councils to treat rating units in Common ownership as one unit for assessing rates if those units are owned by the same person, used jointly as a single unit and contiguous or separated only by a road, railway, drain, water race, river, or stream.

**7. Were owners consulted regarding the declaring of properties contiguous.**

No consultation was required because Councils must treat two or more rating units which meet the criteria outlined in Section 20 of the LGRA as one rating unit for assessing rates. This is commonly called applying “contiguous status” for rating purposes.

**8. What criteria was used in making the decision to declare some properties contiguous.**

The criteria to apply “contiguous status” is outlined in section 20 of the LGRA as shown below.

*20 Rating units in common ownership*

*Two or more rating units must be treated as 1 unit for assessing a rate if those units are—*

*(a) owned by the same person or persons; and*

*(b) used jointly as a single unit; and*

*(c) contiguous or separated only by a road, railway, drain, water race, river, or stream.*

***I would like copies of the actual documents used in correspondence with property owners.***

As outlined above, consultation was not required, so there is no correspondence with property owners to attach. On that basis I must decline this part of your request under section 17(e) as the documents alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

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

Ngā mihi



**Sean Mallon**

Group Manager Infrastructure Services  
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Pakiaka