

OIR: 2627/78

8 September 2026

[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 **28 August 2026** requesting the following information:

This morning I heard some disturbing news regarding the proposed pool alterations to be carried out at the Otaki pool. For many months now the proposed alterations have been displayed on a board erected at the pool and I fully support the originally proposed alterations however this morning I was told that the alterations now include altering the main pools length to accommodate a "juniors pool" ~ I was wondering when this was to be announced so that the public could voice their displeasure at this proposed alteration which was never in the originally proposed alteration.

Does the council realise the only reason most of the swimming people attend the pool is because of its length? If the pool is shortened everyone of the swimmers has said they'll stop coming. There are several people who just walk/ride the aqua bike who would not be affected by the length change.

My concern is for swimmers. I have several questions which as a rate payer I believe I am entitled to know:

1. Who proposed the length change obviously not a swimmer.

The change in pool length was proposed by the Manager Aquatic Facilities to enable the existing pool to be divided into two separate water bodies: a 25-metre lap pool and a warmer 7 metre programme pool. This configuration is the standard layout for many modern community aquatic facilities.

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

The 25-metre pool supports lap swimming, club training, swimming carnivals, canoe polo, aqua fitness, play and short-course competitions, while the warmer programme pool provides dedicated space for learn-to-swim programmes, hydrotherapy, rehabilitation, aqua fitness, and other community programmes. This arrangement increases operational flexibility and allows multiple activities to occur simultaneously with fewer user conflicts.

2. Names of the councillors who supported this change in length.

The unconfirmed draft minutes advise that Mayor Janet Holborow, Deputy Mayor Martin Halliday, Cr Steve Botica, Cr Heniti Buick, Cr Himiona Grace, Cr Liz Koh, Cr Rob McCann and Cr Glen Olsen supported the vote to proceed with the project.

3. Have the Canoe Polo people been consulted I'm sure that they would be against it.

Ōtaki Canoe Polo was consulted alongside other stakeholders and user groups.

The original concept design was presented to both the Ōtaki Community Board and Council in November 2024. In May 2026, staff provided Council with an update on the project, including revised usage data reflecting strong growth in the Learn to Swim programme, updated budgets, and detailed design work that did not include splitting the pool.

During that briefing, councillors asked that staff investigate potential changes to the pool's water spaces and recreational features. The consultation that followed was undertaken informally through in-person discussions with key stakeholders and user groups, including updates provided to the Chair of the Ōtaki Community Board who is a member of the Ōtaki Canoe Polo Club.

For further background information you can check out information on the Ōtaki Pool upgrade and the recent announcement of the approval of additional improvements on the following links:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/council/projects/our-towns-improvements/otaki/otaki-pool-upgrade/>

[Council approves additional investment in much-loved Ōtaki Pool](#)

Ngā mihi,



Brendan Owens

Group Manager Customer and Community
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū - Kiritaki me te Hapori