OIR: 2627/154

30 October 2026

[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 **11 October 2026** requesting the following information in relation to the Ōtaki Pool proposed changes:

1. ***On what dates were the 2nd Consultation period for 2025?***

   There was no second consultation period in 2025.

   On 28 May 2026, there was a public briefing outlining a request that the date for the construction of Ōtaki Pool be brought forward to commence in 2027. The project had progressed to detailed design and did not include splitting the pool. At that time, staff advised Council of significant attendance growth of approximately 65% since 2023, particularly in Learn to Swim, Water Safety and Kauora programmes.

   Staff also highlighted increasing asset renewal risk, escalating energy and maintenance costs, and the need to bring the project forward due to concerns about future capital renewal expenditure.

   During that briefing, councillors requested that staff investigate potential enhancements to the facility's water spaces and recreational offering before the design was finalised.

   This included;
   1. revisiting the pool split concept
   2. assessing options for a deep-water pool
   3. and investigating the feasibility of a hydroslide.

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

2. ***Please produce copies of the submissions from those consulted or any evidence consultation occurred.***

   There was no consultation in 2025.

   Following Council's request for staff to investigate potential changes to the pool's water spaces and recreational features in May 2026, informal engagement was undertaken through in-person discussions with representatives from key user groups.

   Feedback was specifically sought from youth, Learn to Swim and water safety users, as these groups do not typically participate through the Community Board forum. Support was received from the Youth Council, Learn to Swim parents and the Kauora founder, and was reinforced by messages from local kura and the Kauora founder at Council's September meeting. The canoe club was also engaged.

3. ***Which option(s) were presented to those consulted.***

   We did not carry out formal consultation however through our informal engagement we discussed these options:

   1. Splitting the 33-metre pool into two zones: a 25-metre competition-ready lap pool heated to 27.7°C, and a 7-metre programme pool heated to 32°C for Learn to Swim, rehabilitation, health and wellbeing programmes.
   2. Developing a deep-water/manu pool to support boating and water safety activities, deep-water fitness, aqua jogging and manu, with the space also available for public hire.
   3. Installing a hydroslide.

Ngā mihi,



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

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