

OIR: 2526/115

1 October 2025

[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 **12 September 2025** requesting the following information:

[REDACTED] *when reading over the breakdown of rating categories I see there is one for "Tangata Whenua" for \$3.1 m. Please explain what this cost is for, what do I get out of it, the cost benefit analysis and if it is justified and if so, why.*

This number represents the total operating cost – day to day expenses including staff costs, overheads, utilities, maintenance supplies, interest on debt and asset depreciation, as set out in the annual report.

The cost benefit analysis – The Tangata Whenua rate delivers significant quantifiable and strategic benefits to the district. From a risk mitigation perspective, this investment avoids potential legal costs from Treaty obligation breaches. It provides for our iwi partners capacity and capability to engage meaningfully in decision-making processes.

Beyond measurable returns, the investment delivers crucial strategic and social benefits including improved decision-making quality through cultural expertise and local knowledge, enhanced community trust and social license for Council operations, as well as cultural heritage protection that supports our district identity – to name a few.

Inadequate resourcing of these requirements would expose council to significantly higher financial, legal and reputational risks.

The cost is justified as it is a legal requirement, and it is mandated through multiple legislation:

- **Local Government Act 2002 Section 14(1)(d):** In performing its role, a local authority must act in accordance with the following principles: (d) a local authority should provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes.

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

- **Local Government Act 2002 Section 81 (1)(a-c):** A local authority must—
(a) establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and
(b) consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and
(c) provide relevant information to Māori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).
- **Resource Management Act 1991 – Section 8:** Treaty of Waitangi – In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

Legislation determines that local government must invest in these relationships, partnerships and processes. Council has no discretion to avoid these obligations, the only discretion is in how effectively and efficiently we meet them.

Kapiti Coast District Council has demonstrated effectiveness in meeting these statutory obligations, through our 30-year partnership agreement with iwi – one of the longest standing partnership agreements between Council and iwi in the country. This enduring partnership serves as a model of effective Treaty-based relationships and demonstrates our commitment to fulfilling our legal obligations in a meaningful and sustainable way. Our investment in the Tangata Whenua rate has enabled us to build genuine, productive partnerships that deliver positive outcomes for both iwi and the wider community.

Ngā mihi,



Hara Adams

Te Kaihautū Rōpū Hononga ā-Iwi
Group Manager Iwi Partnerships