

OIR: 2324/672

26 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 **4 September 2023** requesting the following information:

1. ***Can you please ATTEMPT to justify the doubling in rates over 4 years, when the library STILL is in the process of 'stake holder consultation'.***

Our rates revenue requirement has increased from \$69.5m for 2020/21 to \$88.7m for 2023/24, an increase of \$19.2m (28%).

This \$19.2m increase is mainly due to the following:

- annual depreciation increases as the Council continue to renew and upgrade assets;
- higher borrowing costs;
- increased staff costs;
- increased maintenance costs; and
- increased utility costs.

2. ***Why use outside contractors that where profits as their ONLY motivation, instead of council workers?***

The Council provides a large number of services to the community. Contractors are engaged when (a) there are insufficient resources or (b) specialist skills not accommodated in-house are required.

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

- 3. In your annual report it says that 94% of rate payers are happy with the library services. Really? Because it's hard to know how this stat is derived when the Waikanae library was out of service and a reduced service one has become the norm.**

The satisfaction rate for library services is taken from the annual library customer survey.

The most recent one was conducted in September 2022 and the Council received 2,612 responses.

For the question on overall satisfaction with services the following response was received:

- Very Satisfied – 63%
- Satisfied – 32%
- Dissatisfied - 4%
- Very Dissatisfied – 1%

- 4. I am fine with paying rates, I just CANNOT see where the doubling in rates has gone to. Corporate Services Plus KCDC website says they have a bank account that has a surplus of \$7,000,000 when there's so much left to do?**

The surplus of nearly \$7m as of 30 June 2022 was mainly due to capital grants and development and financial contributions that are for capital projects that are yet to be delivered.

- 5. What happened to the "feasibility study for two potential large-scale solar projects was commissioned and will be delivered in October 2022? It's sept 2023 now, and it's still not on your website.**

The feasibility study was received on potential sites for solar development. One of the projects is a solar hub which is on top of the Council buildings and will be considered as part of the long-term plan 2024-34. The second project looked at a site that will be transferred to the new Affordable Waters entity, and therefore we have not progressed with this project; but will pass the study to the new entity. The project will be published to the website should it be included in the plan.

Ngā mihi,



Mark de Haast
Group Manager Corporate Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū