

OIR: 2425/1391

30 June 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 **10 June 2025** requesting information related to the Waikanae Skate Park closure and earmarking \$3million to remedy concerns.

- 1. As a ratepayer I'm very interested to see the quotes you've received for this skatepark project that imply you need to set aside \$3m for it? Even commercially sensitive quotes can have the names of contractors redacted, there is no justifiable reason for not releasing that information. Has there been a competitive tender released? If not why would you publish the budget ahead of releasing the tender?***

A Capital budget of \$3million has been made available for the renewal of the Waikanae Park active recreation space. This area is comprised of both the skate space and the playground area, both of which have reached the end of their safe useable life. Funding for replacement of these areas was already identified in the Long-term Plan (LTP) for renewal and replacement works over coming years. Given the significant safety risk identified at the skate park, LTP funding has been brought forward and consolidated into one combined project allowing the work to be delivered sooner. Procurement for design and build works is yet to be undertaken but will be done in accordance with KCDC's procurement and engagement policies. It is common practice to scope a project against an available budget.

- 2. Is koha to the local iwi included in the budget, and if so how much of the budget has been earmarked for koha?***

There is no specific Koha budget included in the renewal budget for the Waikanae Park Recreation space.

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

- 3. I quote from your own comms on this: “We know the Waikanae Park skatepark is a much-loved and well-used community facility and this decision will be disappointing for many. However, in our view this is the safest and most responsible action, and it couldn’t wait, knowing what we now know about its state, and failed safety rating, which was about as bad as it could get on all counts,” he said. What exactly, or specifically, about the park is so unsafe that it now requires giant "keep off" fencing?**

Approximately 18mths ago Sport NZ commissioned and completed a piece of work named the Sport NZ Skate Guidelines for Local government. Essentially, this work was commissioned because of under investment, lack of asset management and generally just a lack of capability in the Skatepark maintenance and design sector. One of the follow up pieces of work is the development of the Wellington Regional Skate Facilities plan, led by Wellington City Council (WCC), supported by Sport NZ and co-funded by the other Councils within in the Greater Wellington (GW) region.

One of the actions of this Regional Skate Facilities Plan was to commission an independent review/assessment of all Skateparks across GW. CONVIC were engaged to lead this piece of work, procured through the WCC procurement team. They are an Australian based company who do a lot of work in NZ due to a lack of specialist expertise in the skate park industry and are highly recommended by Auckland and Tauranga Council and engineers such as BECA.

The [CONVIC assessment](#) identified significant safety failings prompting the decision to close the skate park effective immediately.

- 4. How many ratepayers complained about the parks safety in the last 12 months? How many ratepayers said it needed rebuilding?**

According to Service Request records Council has not received any formal safety related complaints within the past 12 months. The rebuilding is scheduled in a manner that recognises asset deterioration and safe usable lifespan and is not directly linked to ratepayer desire for a rebuild. Skate Parks usually have around 20 years safe useable life and Waikanae Skate Park was scheduled for renewal this LTP period. In this instance an independent expert assessment of the asset conducted by CONVIC identified significant safety concerns including underlying construction failures that aren’t necessary visible to users. The findings were significant and justified immediate action meaning an intervention before any significant incident or failure.

- 5. Will the same company that just finished the Paraparaumu skate park be awarded the contract to rebuild the Waikanae skate park? (Cos that doesn't seem suss at all does it.)**

The work has not yet been contracted. When any engagement does take place this will be done in line with Councils’ approved procurement policy. Depending on the type of procurement undertaken, expressions of interest, proposals and quotes are welcomed from any potential service provider who chooses to submit.

**6. How much is the temporary, and completely unnecessary, temporary fencing costing ratepayers each week?**

Construction site fencing is hired from Hirepool at a monthly rate of \$1462.03. incl GST. Establishment and disestablishment costs of fencing are to be included in the total demolition costs of the appointed contractor.

**7. What exactly does Brendan know about the park that regular users don't, that means people can't use the park right up until demolition day?**

The condition assessment for Kāpiti skate parks contains all the information that led to the decisions taken and has been made available on the [Council website](#)

**8. Who came up with \$3m as the price tag? How did they arrive at this figure? Has the project gone to competitive tender? (Before, or after, you announced you had \$3m of ratepayer money to spend on it?)**

The Capital Works program of KCDC sees projects delivered under the oversight of a Capital Program Board that has full delegation from Council to provide strategic decision making on project delivery scope and timeframes up to an annual cap of \$75 million per year spread across three years. Through the Capital Programs Board, LTP funding in outlying years was able to be brought forward to allow for the entire active recreation space at Waikanae Park to be renewed and upgraded as one project. This is the budget that has been set, and future procurement for service providers will operate within that maximum budget that is set.

**9. Which councilors have agreed this money needs to be spent? Are they the same councilors that voted in a massive recent rates rise for ratepayers?**

Please see answer to Question 8 above.

**10. What is the salary of the CEO of Kapiti Council? Who is the CEO accountable to? What value to ratepayers does the CEO provide if projects like this are costing ratepayers \$3m?**

The salary of the Chief Executive is \$397,800 pa. The Chief Executive is a legislative appointment made by the Mayor and Councillors, as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002. Performance is considered by the Chief Executive Performance and Employment Committee. You can find more about the structure of the Committee in Council's [governance structure and delegations 2022-25](#).

Information about the value provided to ratepayers can be found in Council's [Annual Reports](#).

Ngā mihi,



**Brendan Owens**

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