

OIR: 2526/245

2 February 2026

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Tēnā koe ██████,

**Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)**

Thank you for your email of **2 January 2026** requesting the following information:

***Correspondence and records related to decisions to cut down large trees near the Waikanae river. To include why particular trees were chosen.***

This request was clarified on **5 January 2025**:

***Any large trees on the reserve surrounding the Waikanae river between Jan 2022 and Dec 2025.***

***Happy to take a commonsense approach to what's a "large trees" my practical interest is documentation pursuant to why council have removed large (inter alia) poplars along the river reserve area.***

Most tree removals occur from reports from the public of storm damage or safety concerns. These concerns are assessed by either Council staff or contract arborists and the decision is then made for next steps. Due to immediate safety concerns much of this correspondence is verbal and written records of these conversations are not kept.

Year	Month	Location	Detail	Reason for removal
2022	February	Waikanae Water Treatment Plant land, Reikorangi	Large stand of radiata pines and eucalyptus removed after 40% blew over in a windstorm	Storm damage

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

2022	February / March	Otaihanga Domain	Removal of two large poplars that fell in December storm	Storm damage
2022	June	Waikanae River Trail and Waimanu Lagoons	Removal of multiple fallen and damaged trees over large area	Storm damage
2022	August	Weggery Drive	Removal of pines	Storm damage/safety concerns
2023	May	Waikanae River Trail	Removal of large pines fallen over in storm	Storm damage
2023	May	Otaihanga Domain	Removal of rotten willow tree	Rotten/safety concerns
2023	May	River Glade	Removal of ash tree overhanging two properties	Safety concerns for private property
2024	February	Otaihanga Domain	Removal of fallen macrocarpa and dead willow	Storm damage/safety concerns
2024	May	Maple Lane	Removal of decayed and structurally unsound kohekohe	Safety concerns for private property
2024	November	Weggery Drive	Removal of two large pines and a spar due to safety concerns. Root plate lift observed	Storm damage/safety concerns
2025	January	Otaihanga Domain	Removal of two wind-blown willows	Storm damage
2025	May	El Rancho	Removal of one large fallen pine tree and 6 other pine trees at risk of failure	Storm damage/safety concerns
2025	July	Edgewater	Removal of dead karaka	Safety concerns for private property
2025	October	Otaihanga Domain	Removal of rotten willow	Rotten/safety concerns

Please find attached written correspondence relating to some of these tree removals, where it exists. You will note that the personal details of some individuals have been withheld from the information provided. The decision to withhold this information is made under section 7(2)(a) of the Act which allows for Council to withhold information in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. I am satisfied that the withholding of this information is not outweighed by public interest considerations in section 7(1) favouring release.

You will also see that some information has been redacted as it is outside the scope of your request and relates to other matters.

Finally, I note that our email to you on 8 January 2026, advised that we had partially transferred your request to Greater Wellington Regional Council as they will also hold information related to your request. This means you will also be receiving a response to this request directly from Greater Wellington Regional Council.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz), or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi,



**Brendan Owens**

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

If you are interested in the attachments which accompany this response, please contact us at: [informationrequest@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:informationrequest@kapiticoast.govt.nz).