

17 November 2021



Dear 

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2021-116

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2021 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) requesting the following information:

WasteMINZ is looking at developing a guide around management and disposal of coal tar in the road corridor. The guide is intended to provide direction on identifying coal tar embedded in asphalt or sub-base materials within the road corridor, options for managing it and disposal. From the work AT has done in Auckland (and presented at the RCA Forum a couple of years ago), we know that AT rarely finds coal tar during road corridor works. We also know that Christchurch does identify coal tar more frequently as a result of the earthquakes, and management/disposal of the material is a concern.

What we don't know is the prevalence of coal tar in the road corridor across NZ and whether other RCA members have an issue with it – either as an asphaltic material or in sub-base layers. The working group is keen to understand the prevalence and whether the proposed guide is likely to be useful to NZ RCAs.

The working group is seeking a simple yes/no/short comment responses to the questions below. Members are welcome to provide additional comments if they wish.

- 1. Have RCA members encountered coal tar within the road corridors within their region?*
- 2. Is the presence of coal tar an issue they frequently encounter or only occasionally?*
- 3. Do you have any records or information (no need to provide this) on the occurrence and prevalence of coal tar in road corridors in their region/district?*
- 4. Do they perceive the presence of coal tar to be an issue that would benefit from a guidance document?*

If so what sort of guidance would be helpful? How to identify coal tar, management options, disposal options??

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act).

Our response to your request is provided in the number order of your request below.

1. Have RCA members encountered coal tar within the road corridors within their region?

No, the RCA members does not encounter coal tar within the road corridors within the Carterton region.

2. Is the presence of coal tar an issue they frequently encounter or only occasionally?

Since the RCA members have not encountered coal tar within the Carterton regions there have been no issue.

3. Do you have any records or information (no need to provide this) on the occurrence and prevalence of coal tar in road corridors in their region/district?

The CDC does not have any reports or information on the occurrence and prevalence of coal tar in road corridors in the Carterton District.

4. Do they perceive the presence of coal tar to be an issue that would benefit from a guidance document?

Since CDC doe does not have any reports or information on the occurrence and prevalence of coal tar to be an issue, there is no guidance document held.

Please note, the Council now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.



Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council