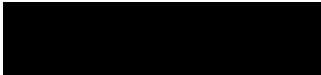


25<sup>th</sup> November 2022



Tēnā koe 

**REOPENED: LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request:  
[2021-52] / [OM: 2022-01]**

I am following up on your Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act request [2021-52] dated the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, which was responded to on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 by Blair King as the acting Chief Executive of Carterton District Council.

Further to our response, your escalation to the Ombudsman [ref 553222] resulted in Mr King advising you on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 that the full financial cost information had been withheld under section 7(2)(b)(ii) and 7(2)(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act.

Having received a further request for this information via the Ombudsman [ref 555581] I have reviewed the request and the previous reasons for withholding it. In summary, I have concluded that a partial release of information is appropriate, for the reasons outlined below.

Your request [2021-52] was for the following information.

- 1. A full financial cost breakdown (incurred and projected) inclusive of the initial consent acquisition process and subsequent Stages 1,2,3 through to commissioning of the plant, including all physical works cost variations (as advised to the project governance team).*

Financial cost information for the project up to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 is outlined in **Appendix 1** (attached). Note this excludes the land purchase which occurred prior to Council's decision to proceed with the new reservoir construction project, often referred to as the "WWTP Project".

As you may be aware, at the end of August 2021, Council removed the main Phase Two contractor, CHB Earthworks Ltd, from site due to a range of issues that have previously been disclosed. The cost to complete the unfinished work, remedy damage, and claims for additional costs and extensions of time have not yet been determined. Reaching agreement on who ultimately pays these costs is likely to be a difficult negotiated process.

Consequently, under section 7(2)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act I have withheld financial cost information from 1 September 2021 onwards in order to enable Council to complete negotiations with the Phase Two contractor regarding these disputed costs.

I anticipate the full financial cost information for the entire project will be made available once the dispute has been agreed. Unfortunately, I do not have a date for when this may be.

The second part of your request seeks the *projected* financial costs. Officers are currently updating the forecast costs for the WWTP Project. I anticipate the projected cost information will be presented to Ordinary Council at the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. This agenda will be available on our website on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2022.

In summary, where information has been withheld under section 7(2), I have considered, as required under section 7(1) of the Act, the public interest considerations which would favour its release. I have identified there are public interest considerations related to the financial cost information for the WWTP project up to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, and it can be released.

Please note, the Council now proactively publishes LGOIMA 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 request. If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or the Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā/Yours sincerely



Geoff Hamilton  
**Chief Executive**  
**Carterton District Council**

CC: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## **PROJECT COSTS BY STAGE**

Carterton District Council  
Wastewater Treatment Reservoir Project  
For Period up to 30th August 2021

### **Stage One**

600311 - Investigation and Design	481,227
600312 - Upgrade to Existing Treatment ponds	766,668
600313 - UV Unit and Associated Plant	370,174
600314 - Shelter Belt	189,725
600315 - Pivot 1	652,993
	<b>\$ 2,460,787</b>

### **Stage Two**

600321 - Investigation & Design	341,800
600322 - Storage Reservoirs	4,988,438
600323 - Disposal and Dispersal - Pipes	100,256
	<b>\$ 5,430,495</b>

### **Reservoir Remedial Work**

600338 - Legal and Insurance Costs	12,797
	<b>\$ 12,797</b>

### **Stage Three (Pumps and Pipes)**

600341 - Investigation and Design	467,359
600342 - Pumps & Pipes Construction	2,504,265
	<b>\$ 2,971,624</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,875,702</b>
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## PROJECT COSTS BY YEAR

Carterton District Council  
Wastewater Treatment Reservoir Project  
For Period up to 30th August 2021

Pre 2014	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
\$ 179,605	\$ 1,316,624	\$ 309,345	\$ 171,260	\$ 304,673	\$ 353,303	\$ 3,334,714	\$ 2,829,562	\$ 2,076,615	<b>\$ 10,875,702</b>