

30 October 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2023-73**

Thank you for your email of 20 September 2023 to the Carterton District Council requesting the following information:

1. *“Can you please confirm how much of this project would have been funded by Waka Kotahi?”*
2. *What are the reasons this is not achievable?*
3. *How is it that MDC can go ahead with something similar but CDC can't?*
4. *What is going to happen instead to provide safe options for our children to get around our district?*
5. *Do you have a cycle network strategy and where is the funding going to come from now?*
6. *What were the conversations had with elected representatives and how did this influence the decision?*
7. *What is the plan to improve walking and cycling safety along the main connecting roads such as Carters Line and Gladstone Road?*
8. *What businesses and organisations were involved in influencing this decision?”*

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

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

**Question 1**

Waka Kotahi's Transport Choices package is part of the government's Climate Emergency Response Programme, which was formed out of the Emissions Reduction Plan and Budget 2022 to help make it easier for people to participate in a low carbon transport system.

This project was fully funded by Waka Kotahi from their Transport Choices Project with a total approved budget of \$918,720, which covered pre-implementation funding through to completion of detailed designs. Approval for the next step of construction was subject to Transport Choices reviewing and approving the detailed designs by 30th September 2023.

A further \$180,000 was approved as a “complementary initiative” for the construction of new bike sheds at Dalefield, South End, Ponatahi, St Mary’s, Carterton Schools’ and this work is underway. Ponatahi Christian School elected to paint their existing shed and not construct a new one. The funding including fitout of sheds with new bike racks, artwork and landscaping.

## **Question 2**

Council applied for the funding specifically to create a safe cycle link between Carterton’s Schools (each other); our town centre, and Carrington Park. The initial concept route was 6.2km and included a pathway to our rural Dalefield School. Further investigations found that it was not possible to construct an off-road pathway along Brooklyn Road from the Lincoln Rd intersection to Dalefield, due to the narrow berm and drains. In consultation with Transport Choices this section was removed as there was no alternative option available.

The remaining route plan was for an offroad section that joined Moreton Road to Dellar Drive through private land. Previous conversations with landowners had been positive so Council had been hopeful that access would be approved. Following the funding announcement Council engaged intensively with two landowners, however, we have been unable to secure access through one of the properties.

Alternative routes were then considered, which required the cycleway to run along High Street South (State Highway 2) from South End School to Seddon Street. Engagement with affected businesses was undertaken, while Council was asked to consider the effect of removal of the carparks along the affected part of State Highway 2.

Waka Kotahi required detailed design for the alternative route to be completed by 30th September 2023, with construction completed by 30th June 2024. The route change along State Highway 2 created significantly more risks to providing safe cycleways for school children. Ultimately Council was unable to observe sufficient support for the alternative State Highway 2 route within the short timeframe set by Waka Kotahi, and this part of the project was stopped.

The cycle shed initiative will continue to completion.

## **Question 3**

The Masterton cycleway project does not utilise State Highways, only local roads.

## **Question 4**

Carterton District Council will continue to work closely with Wairarapa Road Safety Council to deliver safety messaging and education in schools.

We also plan to Pilot a “bike bus” project during Moving March to encourage children to bike to school safely in groups with adult supervision. A successful pilot would lead this to be a regular morning and afternoon activity to get to school.

### **Question 5**

We have commenced work on a Walking & Cycling Strategy (or Active Transport Strategy), and this will progress over the next six months. The purpose of the strategy is to provide clear vision, identify priorities and direction, and to identify and make the most of available funding opportunities.

Some funding to develop the Active Transport Strategy will come from ratepayers, however Council will be seeking external funding opportunities where appropriate to deliver the outcomes identified in the strategy.

### **Question 6**

Three Elected Members were appointed as Project Champions, to assist with engagement, advocate for the project, and keep other Elected Members up to date. Project updates were also reported through the Chief Executive report at each Ordinary Council meeting.

An update was provided to Policy & Projects Committee on 16th August 2024 which included the Mayor and all Councillors. At this meeting committee members requested a Councillor workshop which was held on 6th September 2024.

### **Question 7**

There are no immediate plans to construct walking and cycling pathways on these roads at this time. Our Walking & Cycling strategy will seek feedback from our communities, including rural communities to inform future plans.

### **Question 8**

Direct engagement with businesses and organisations along High Street South on the alternative route commenced on Thursday 10th August. From Monday 14th August until Sunday 26th August, we engaged with the wider community, with flyer drops to letter boxes, radio and print advertising, social media and through our website. Our "Have Your Say" page on our website sought feedback from our community.

We received 50 responses through the Have Your Say page, with 26 supportive of proposal, 13 neutral (supportive but "Not in front of our house", or alternate route proposed), 11 not supportive.

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 email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



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

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA