

9 April 2024

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requests@taxpayers.org.nz

Tēnā koe ██████████

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2026-25

Thank you for your email of Saturday 28 March 2026 to the Carterton District Council requesting the following information:

1. *What is the full budgeted cost for the symposium inclusive of staff time/contractor costs, speaker fees, venue hire, transportation (reported by type ie. air, road, taxi, train), mileage, catering, marketing, printing, and speaker costs?*
2. *Who is speaking at the symposium, what is the town or city they live in and how are they getting to the Wairarapa Events Centre?*
3. *Do any speakers/attendees/staff/contractors require accommodation and if so, what is the cost inclusive of food?*
4. *What is the projected carbon footprint (CO2-e) of the two day symposium?*
5. *How many staff/contractor hours have been involved in organising the symposium to date and forecast to the Symposium and post event matters?*
6. *What are the position titles of all persons employed or contracted to the Council involved in organising the symposium?*
7. *What is the purpose of the symposium, and on what statutory basis, or council role does it fit within?*
8. *What steps are being taken to avoid ratepayer funded resources being used as a political platform by speakers or groups being represented?*
9. *What efforts has the Council made (or is making) to ensure participants are provided a fair and balanced view of climate and climate-related public policy matters, or is hosting solely one-sided, alarmist, far left activists seen as a feature, not a bug?*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act). My response to your request is in the number order of your request below.

1. ***What is the full budgeted cost for the symposium inclusive of staff time/contractor costs, speaker fees, venue hire, transportation (reported by type ie. air, road, taxi, train), mileage, catering, marketing, printing, and speaker costs?***

28 Holloway Street, Carterton, Wairarapa | PO Box 9, Carterton, 5743
info@cdc.govt.nz | 06 379 4030 | www.cdc.govt.nz

LGOIMA ID: 2026-25

The symposium is the fifth in a pilot series of climate community fora/forums that were suggested by the public when Carterton District Council was consulting on its draft climate change strategy in 2025. It is the only one focusing on a youth audience.

- The full budget is up to \$4,000, including catering, transport and koha for speakers.
- The venue is a Council facility. The cost equivalent is \$340 hire fee for two days.
- Staff time equates to approximately 15 FTE days (including the symposium itself).
- No speakers are receiving fees, but koha of \$150 in total from the budget is being provided to cover transport costs (train and private vehicle).
- The theme for these pilots is to keep things local and relevant, so local speakers are used where possible.

2. *Who is speaking at the symposium, what is the town or city they live in and how are they getting to the Wairarapa Events Centre?*

The programme for the symposium has the following speakers:

- Carterton District Council's climate change coordinator – Carterton based.
- A speaker working on Victoria University's research on information and misinformation – Carterton Based.
- Speakers from the School's Strike for Climate – Wellington based (travelling by train to the symposium).
- A workshop on climate and the arts with a theatre company who are performing at the Wairarapa Events Centre at the time – no additional travel required as they will be in Carterton.
- Carterton District Council's Park's team – Carterton Based.
- A speaker from the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office – Wairarapa based.
- Carterton District Council's waste management officer – Carterton Based.
- Various local volunteer groups (catchment groups, predator trapping, Enviro Schools) – Wairarapa based.

3. *Do any speakers/attendees/staff/contractors require accommodation and if so, what is the cost inclusive of food?*

None of these participants require additional accommodation.

4. *What is the projected carbon footprint (CO₂-e) of the two day symposium?*

It is anticipated that the symposium will be emissions negative, as it includes a session planting in a local reserve, however carbon calculations have not been done.

5. *How many staff/contractor hours have been involved in organising the symposium to date and forecast to the Symposium and post event matters?*

See the response in question 1. Staff time equates to approximately 15 FTE days (including the symposium itself).

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6. What are the position titles of all persons employed or contracted to the Council involved in organising the symposium?

There is only one person involved in organising the symposium, it is the Carterton District Council's Climate Change Coordinator.

7. What is the purpose of the symposium, and on what statutory basis, or council role does it fit within?

The purpose:

This is a youth climate forum, and part of the six-month trial of general Climate Community Fora that began in October 2025. It supports the Climate Change Strategy and the Rangatahi Strategy implementation plans. The target audience is secondary school students in the Wairarapa districts. The forum also contributes to leadership development of our Carterton Youth Council members.

The intent of the fora is to engage the community in climate related discussions, and prepare community members for changes ahead. The pilot will be evaluated in May 2026.

The symposium aligns with the purpose of local government to promote the environmental well-being of communities under section 10 of the Local Government Act (2002):

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

8. What steps are being taken to avoid ratepayer funded resources being used as a political platform by speakers or groups being represented?

We have not invited speakers from political parties to present. Half of the sessions are led by Council staff.

9. What efforts has the Council made (or is making) to ensure participants are provided a fair and balanced view of climate and climate-related public policy matters, or is hosting solely one-sided, alarmist, far left activists seen as a feature, not a bug?

The format of the symposium is not presenting or critiquing policy, but a discussion what is going on, and what could be done.

The purpose of the symposium is covered in question 7 above. We refer to question 8 regarding political speakers.

Please note, the Council 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 or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA