

Reference Number: 2025/1204

16 April 2025

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe | Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 24 March 2025 requesting under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), information relating to cost of reports. Specifically, you requested

***I understand that Council has engaged external consultants to provide data and analysis about the district's stormwater consent process. Can you provide the total cost of these reports over the past five years, the number of the reports and how they have contributed to Council's understanding of the stormwater network?***

Over the last five years we have engaged consultants to work on stormwater consent applications for both Levin and Foxton Beach.

As well as providing formal reports these consultants assisted with other pieces of work including planning, liaising with other agencies, overseeing stormwater monitoring, ecological assessments and preparing consultation material for iwi engagement.

We have interpreted your question to refer to all work relating to stormwater consents over the last five year, and not just reports.

Council has recently recruited a stormwater engineer, after trying to fill the vacancy for some time. The stormwater engineer will be able to carry out much of the work for which we have previously engaged consultants.

In the last five years Council has spent a total of \$583,323.50 on consultancy services related to stormwater consents for Levin and Foxton Beach. Further details of the consultancy work undertaken are provided in Appendix 1.

The work carried out by the consultants has enabled us to progress the consent applications. It has also given us valuable understanding of the stormwater system and its impact on the surrounding environment, and ways in which improvements can be made.

## Appendix 1

### Foxton Beach Stormwater Consent

Breakdown of Consultancy Work (July 2020 - March 2025):

#### 1. Application On-Hold Period (July 2020 - September 2022)

- Stormwater monitoring & liaison with Horowhenua Alliance for sampling and other tasks.
- Reporting to HDC's Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
- Updates to Horizons Regional Council (HRC) & Horowhenua District Council (HDC)
- Technical analysis & reporting for HRC, Request to take application off hold.

#### 2. Consent Processing Period (October 2022 - Present)

- Communications & monitoring during Horizons' review
- s92 matters review & response preparation
- Engagement with HDC, Horizons & councillors
- Ecological assessment & integration into application/s92 response
- Habitat characterization & wetland assessment
- Hydrology effects & erosion assessment
- RMA planning assessments, additional New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 and National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
- Iwi engagement support (MACA consultation)

#### 3. Recommendations for Stormwater System Improvements (March 2024)

- Technical advice on mitigation strategies

#### 4. Consultation Summaries & Materials (October - December 2024)

- Development of engagement collateral

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### Levin Stormwater Discharge Consent (to Lake Horowhenua)

Breakdown of Consultancy Work (April 2020 - March 2025):

#### 1. Monitoring Programme & Water Quality Assessments

- Council briefings & monitoring updates (2021 - 2022)
- Ongoing monitoring support for HDC & Horowhenua Alliance (2022 - 2025)
- Technical memorandum on water quality risks (2022)
- Data quality issues resolution (2023)
- E. coli/FST(Faecal Source Tracking) issue resolution (2023 - 2024)
- Water quality technical report (2024)

#### 2. Consultation Support

- Advice & engagement support (2020 - 2024)
- Development of iwi engagement materials (2024)

### 3. Stormwater Improvement Strategy

- Catchment risk assessment & mitigation planning (2023 - 2024)
- Summary briefing document (August 2024)

### 4. Lakeside Restoration Approach

- Technical input on restoration framework (March 2024)

### 5. Consent Progression

- Horizons & HDC coordination (2020 - 2025)
- Tara-ika Plan change & stormwater integration (2022)
- Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) updates (2022 - 2023)
- New long-term consent application (2024 - 2025, ongoing)
- FARS (Finance, Audit & Risk Committee) reporting, business case updates & council reporting (2020 - 2025)

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact Daniel Haigh (Group Manager Community Infrastructure) on [danielh@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:danielh@horowhenua.govt.nz), or [LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi | Best regards



Monique Davidson  
**Chief Executive**