

25 May 2022

Chuck Schooner

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Kia ora Chuck

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 12 April 2022. You requested the following information:

- Net loss of businesses and or forecast loss of businesses following the implementation/ construction of the following cycleways:
  - Central city cycleways
  - Cobham drive
  - Hutt Road
  - Kilbirnie connections
  - Miramar town centre
  - Newtown to city
  - Newtown connections
  - Oriental parade
  - Thorndon quay
  
- If the above is not measured, can you please explain why?
- Can you please provide any business "hubs" that have opened up following the implementation of the cycleways above?
- If rates were tied directly to businesses rather than landowners does Wellington City Council / GWRC believe they would have any businesses still operating in the city?

Wellington City Council (the Council) has **refused** your request for information.

The Council has not undertaken forecasting on business due to the development of the Bike Network. This part of your request has been refused under section 17(g) of the Act because the information is not held.

The Council has not forecast loss of businesses due to the development of a safe, connected Bike Network. In many urban cases, evidence suggests that creating more people-orientated streets including, but not limited to the instalment of bike lanes, increases footfall and revenue in these areas. Changes in [Fort Street](#) in Auckland that reduced vehicle volumes and speed, and encouraged cycling, lead to 47% more visitors and a 429% increase in hospitality spending. We expect in the next 30 years to see a substantial increase in population in our central city and suburban centres and these main arterial streets which connect them will need to be used to move more people.

The Newtown to the City transitional bike and bus improvements project is monitoring the economic impact of the new bike and bus lanes. Baseline economic data has been collected and will

be compared with 'after' data once the full route has been installed and the new design has had time to embed. Attached (Item 1) is some research data the was undertaken by the Council. I refer you to pages 14-20. Please note that the strong rebound in Thorndon (absent at other areas in the CBD) is probably due to the large number of Home Improvement retailers in that precinct. Spend on the Home Improvement category has been strong irrespective (or because of) COVID-19.

The Council does not have business hubs as such, but the spatial plan identifies growth and multi-use development in the central city and suburban centres. This part of your request has been refused under section 17(g) of the Act as the alleged documentation containing the information specifically about business hub creation around bike lanes is not held. The Bike Network aim is to reduce our emissions from road transport, make it easier and safer for everyone one to move around our growing city, opens up our streets for people of all ages and alibies and help connect people to places.

The Council must follow the rules as set out by the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and supported by the Council's [Revenue & Finance Policy](#), [Rates Postponement Policy](#) and [Rates Remission Policy](#). The Council cannot comment on rates being tied directly to businesses as this is not part of the legislation and no research has been undertaken on this aspect. Therefore, as we do not hold such information, this part of your request has been refused under section 17(g) of the Act.

#### **Right of review**

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Asha Harry  
**Official Information**