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Tēnā koe Ryan

11 March 2024

Response REQ206846 Habitat Tuateawa follow up questions re 2023 funding

Thank you for your further request for information clarified on 19 February 2024. This relates to Council's response to your request (reference REQ200439) for funding granted by Council to Habitat Tuateawa Incorporated.

Your request

Can you please supply the 2023 information as part of this request to keep the information and thread together and I then can close this matter off as successful.

1. Please release information for 2023 funding year in relation to all applications made by Habitat Tuateawa Incorporated and if any additional applications have been granted and if so, for what amount. If the 2023 grant application was refused, please provide information showing why.

2. Please release all information related to the 2023 funding application, along with any documents held by Waikato Regional Council to substantiate or support the ongoing partnership with Habitat Tuateawa incorporated including but not limited to all strategic planning or proposal documents in support of any application made by this incorporation.

3. Please release under the Act - any documentation relating to third party interests or disclosure of conflicts of interest, if any, between Habitat Tuateawa Incorporated members & Waikato Regional Council contractors and agents within the meaning as set out in the Secret Commissions Act 1910.

Council response

Habitat Tuateawa's 2023 application to the Environmental Initiatives Fund was declined. Reasons are contained in the information linked below. Habitat Tuateawa has not made any additional funding applications to Waikato Regional Council since the 2023 Environmental Initiatives Funding round. The information requested is provided here:

REQ206846 Habitat Tuateawa

Some documents have details redacted and a bank statement and private landowner consent documents have been withheld under section 7(2)(a) and (b) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. These sections protect the privacy of natural persons and prevent prejudice to the commercial position of the supplier. In each case, the interests protected outweigh the public interest in release.

Council does not hold a list of Habitat Tuateawa Incorporated members and therefore can only respond regarding the three Habitat Tuateawa members that the Council deals with. All staff and Councillors involved in recommending or deciding on Environmental Initiatives Fund funding applications are required to declare any conflicts of interest. To the best of its knowledge Waikato Regional Council does not hold any documentation relating to any third party interests or conflicts of interest between Habitat Tuateawa Incorporated members and current Waikato Regional Council contractors and agents.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at <u>www.ombudsman.parliament.nz</u> or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti nei, nā

Sarah McLeay

Team Lead Democracy Services