

From: [Tom Hunt](#)
To: [DL: Councillors](#)
Subject: A couple of questions
Date: Monday, 27 May 2024 7:57:42 am
Attachments: [OIA 616 Robinson followup response re Thorndon Quay pipes \(1\).pdf](#)

Apologies if you are getting this twice but I seem to be having some email issues.

But two questions please:

* Does anyone want to comment (briefly) on the attached LGOIMA, showing that even with increased spending on pipes, the backlog of pipes needing replacement (under current planned funding) in the next 10 years will grow by 154km from 406km to 560km.

Do you believe these figures are accurate and does this mean Wellington's pipe issues will actually be worse in 10 years time?

* Can I please check with each of you whether you (personally or via trusts etc) have any business interests/shareholdings in any company that stands to gain from the airport share sale?

If so, can I get details?

Cheers

--

Tom Hunt
Senior reporter

s7(2)(a)

10 Brandon Street,
Wellington 6011



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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: [Tom Hunt](#)
To: [Pearl Little](#); [Mayor Tory Whanau](#); [Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon](#); [Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman](#); [Councillor John Apanowicz](#); [Councillor Tim Brown](#); [Councillor Diane Calvert](#); [Councillor Ray Chung](#); [Councillor Sarah Free](#); [Councillor Rebecca Matthews](#); [Councillor Ben McNulty](#); [Councillor Teri O'Neill](#); [Councillor Iona Pannett](#); [Councillor Tony Randle](#); [Councillor Geordie Rogers](#); [Councillor Nikau Wi Neera](#); [Councillor Nicola Young](#)
Subject: airport shares
Date: Wednesday, 29 May 2024 7:38:21 am

Hi all,

I sent this on Sunday but am still awaiting answers from many of you - are you able to get back to me by midday today? Cheers

Can I please check with each of you whether you (personally or via trusts etc) have any business interests/shareholdings in any company that stands to gain from the airport share sale?

If so, can I get details?

--

Tom Hunt
Senior reporter

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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: [Tom Hunt](#)
To: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
Subject: Re: Ryman Karori state secondary school
Date: Wednesday, 29 May 2024 7:06:53 am

Cheers Ray - sorry, this came too late for the story but aiming to do a follow-up today.

On Tue, May 28, 2024 at 9:33 PM Councillor Ray Chung <[xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](#)> wrote:

Hi Tom

From the feedback I've received from Karori residents, they'd really like to have a school on the Rymans site so I'd support that. There were comments though that many parents in Karori like the "name" schools and think it might be difficult for them to try a new school and would prefer to send their kids to the schools that they attended? I have a meeting in Karori next week so I'll ask them what they think?

I think the crux point will be, does the Ministry of Education have any money to build a new school?

Cheers, Ray

From: Tom Hunt <[xxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xx](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 3:16 PM
To: Councillor Diane Calvert <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx](#)>
Cc: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.x](#)>; Councillor Ray Chung <[xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](#)>
Subject: Re: Ryman Karori state secondary school

I'm trying to figure out what is more newsworthy: A potential new school of Diane Calvert and Rebecca Matthews agreeing on something!

On Tue, May 28, 2024 at 3:12 PM Councillor Diane Calvert <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx](#)> wrote:

Déjà vu. I called for this back in 2017!

Diane

Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

PS7(2)(f)(ii) | E .@. | W Wellington.govt.nz | F dianecalvertnz | T dianecalvertnz | W dianecalvertnz

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From: Tom Hunt <xxx.xxxx@xxxxx.xx>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx>; Councillor Diane Calvert <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx>; Councillor Ray Chung <xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: Ryman Karori state secondary school

Hi all

The Karori rResidents Association, backed by Tamatha Paul, is calling for the Ryman Karori land to be a new co-ed state secondary school. Just wondering, as local councillors, if you want to weigh in?

Cheers

--

Tom Hunt
Senior reporter
s7(2)(a)
10 Brandon Street,
Wellington 6011



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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND ACCESS ACT 1987

From: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
To: [Tom Hunt](#)
Subject: Re: 5.20pm media and social media update - shareholding elected members; infrastructure; lamp posts; protest hikoi; Doctor Who; Carter fountain; skatepark excitement
Date: Monday, 3 June 2024 7:45:59 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Morning Tom

Yes, I asked Tim directly but he didn't give a direct answer either.

Cheers Ray

Ray Chung
Councillor Onslow-Western
Wellington City Council

From: Tom Hunt <xxx.xxxx@xxxx.xx.xx>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 6:49:56 AM
To: Councillor Ray Chung <xxx.xxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: Re: FW: 5.20pm media and social media update - shareholding elected members; infrastructure; lamp posts; protest hikoi; Doctor Who; Carter fountain; skatepark excitement

Hi Ray - I couldn't get a straight answer from Tim but may go down the LGOIMA route.
Cheers

On Sun, Jun 2, 2024 at 4:25 PM Councillor Ray Chung <xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx> wrote:

Hi Tom

Did you get that list of EM's with Infrstil Shares? I'm told Tim Brown has a million and John Apanowicz has some too but I'm never asked them? Someone put an OIA in asking Barbara McKerrow if Tim has a Conflict of Interest and if he's declared it?

Cheers, Ray

From: Richard MacLean <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 5:21 PM
Subject: 5.20pm media and social media update - shareholding elected members; infrastructure; lamp posts; protest hikoi; Doctor Who; Carter fountain; skatepark excitement

Issues of interest to news media and social media today:

News media:

- Shares and pecuniary interests – The Post (Tom Hunt) was looking for a list of elected members with shares in Infratil, and their other pecuniary interests, ahead of tomorrow's vote on the sale of airport shares.
- Infrastructure budgets – The Press (Tina Law) wants to know how much councils are planning to spend on infrastructure over the next 10 years.
- Bowen Street lamp posts – The Post (Tom) wants to know what's happening re allegedly-leaning timber poles outside a new Building in the street.
- Toitū Te Tiriti hikoi – The Post (Justin Wong) was looking for details on tomorrow's protest.

Social media:

- Our Doctor Who giveaway was definitely hotter than a Dalek's ray gun! Our giveaway ended today and we received a whopping 733 comment entries within 24 hours!
- Our post about the history of the Carter Fountain continues to be popular on Facebook with 331 likes, 36 comments and 27 shares!
- Wellingtonians are excited for the draft concept design of the new destination skatepark in Kilbirnie! We shared a post asking for feedback on the design which has received 157 likes, 68 comments and 6 shares so far.

★ Social media comment of the day ★



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From: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
To: [Councillor Diane Calvert](#); [Tom Hunt](#)
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Wellington City Council - Ref IRC-6031
Date: Sunday, 9 June 2024 6:00:00 pm

Hi Folks

Just found this mail! Was this about the complaints against us by council staff?

Cheers, Ray

From: Councillor Diane Calvert <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 2:20 PM
To: Tom Hunt <xxx.xxxx@xxxx.xx.xx>; Councillor Ray Chung <xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxvt.nz>
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Wellington City Council - Ref IRC-6031

I'd forgotten all about this.

What did she about me?

Diane

From: Tom Hunt <[xxx.xxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 11:03 AM
To: Councillor Ray Chung <[xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](#)>; Councillor Diane Calvert <[xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](#)>
Subject: Fwd: Correspondence from Wellington City Council - Ref IRC-6031

Hi both,

I see that Rebecca Matthews has sign-off on Tory's quotes. Given they were most about you Ray (and to a lesser extent you, Diane), were you also asked for sign-off?

Cheers

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **BUS: Assurance** <[xxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](#)>
Date: Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 11:57 AM
Subject: Correspondence from Wellington City Council - Ref IRC-6031
To: [xxx.xxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](#) <[xxx.xxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](#)>

Tēnā koe Mr Hunt

Please find attached correspondence from Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council.

Nga mihi

Danika Morris-Brown

Senior Advisor Official Information
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
E @._____ | W wellington.govt.nz

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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: [Tom Hunt](#)
To: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
Subject: Re: WCC reputational issues and LTP
Date: Monday, 24 June 2024 3:59:46 pm

I do - cheers Ray
FYI, the story has had to hold till tomorrow but a goodie!

On Mon, Jun 24, 2024 at 3:48 PM Councillor Ray Chung <Ray.Chung@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Tom

You have this don't you?

"Rubber stamping?" What a crock! Any responsible councillor should understand that this statement is further from the truth that we'd hope that the mayor would understand but obviously not!

Cheers, Ray

From: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 7:23 AM
To: Councillor Ray Chung <Ray.Chung@wcc.govt.nz>; Holden Hohaia <Holden.Hohaia@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor John Apanowicz <John.Apanowicz@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: WCC reputational issues and LTP

Kia ora Ray

May I point you to our agreement with mana whenua and our obligations when it comes to Te Tiriti

[Taki Here partnership - Wellington City Council](#)

Our Pouwhi have already voted in support of our LTP. While discussions will be happening about how we manage committee and council this week, the vote on Thursday is intended as a rubber stamping exercise.

Can I please remind everyone, following on from Laurie's message last week, that we speak to each other and staff with respect.

Nga mihi

[Tory Whanau](#)

Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council

From: Councillor Ray Chung <Ray.Chung@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 9:21 PM
To: Holden Hohaia <Holden.Hohaia@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor John Apanowicz <John.Apanowicz@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: WCC reputational issues and LTP

Thank goodness you're ineligible to vote then Holden! I consider this LTP to be the height of irresponsibility for the majority of Wellingtonians and the huge rate increases are making it unaffordable to live in Wellington!

Cheers, Ray

From: Holden Hohaia <Holden.Hohaia@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 9:38 AM
To: Councillor John Apanowicz <John.Apanowicz@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: WCC reputational issues and LTP

Tautoko e Hone. The LTP has been through a long and rigorous process. To vote against it at this point would be irresponsible and, in my view, and with the utmost respect, a dereliction of your duty as Councillors. If I was able vote to adopt the LTP at full Council, I would certainly do so. Ngā mihi, Holden.

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From: Councillor John Apanowicz <John.Apanowicz@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 9:21:57 AM
To: Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: WCC reputational issues and LTP

Diane,

We have been working on the LTP for 10 months.

Your continued attempts to undermine the process and decision making are at the least unhelpful.

Regards,

John Apanowicz

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From: Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 9:03:31 AM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: WCC reputational issues and LTP

Morena Tory and colleagues

Today's paper has four (negative) articles on its first five pages about WCC. I have never seen this before over the past eight years. Two of those articles identify that senior staff on separate occasions have intentionally and significantly misinformed us. Is this the tip of the iceberg?

Barry and Ponter's contrived letter re the airport shares served no purpose other than to make even more councils look stupid.

In the meantime we have the LTP decisions next week. I am very concerned that despite attempts by some of us to reach a compromise and have a Plan B, just in case (prudent risk management), that any conversations have stalled. Tory- you were to come back to us on Wednesday, then Thursday and now it's Monday. Hardly helpful to see if we can find a constructive way forward to try and find a consensus amongst 75% of us. After all it is the LTP- the city's budget for the next 10 years.

Whether the LTP passes or not - there will be a massive fallout from any decision. The least we could do is help minimise it (and any action does not mean meekly rolling over).

Happy to meet today or over the weekend. Democracy should not be only Mon-Fri 9-5.

Diane

the cancer drugs funded may differ from the 13 treatments National campaigned on, given Pharmax will be the agency making the decisions.

That could happen as early as next week once final details are worked through. The plan has been a focus for the Government since Budget day, which

mark the biggest investment in medicines New Zealand has ever seen outside annual budgets, sources said. It's expected Pharmax will be handled

per year would be needed to clear this list. In April, Pharmax told *The Post's* The C-word series that 43% of the drugs on its

TURN PAGE 3

Plan to sell airport shares to regional council 'madness'

Local Government

Andrea Vance

Local Government Minister Simeon Brown has delivered a slap-down to Wellington's regional council as it weighs up buying the city council's shares in the capital's airport.

The *Post* revealed yesterday that regional councillors had met behind closed doors to discuss options to retain public ownership of Wellington City Council's 34% stake in the asset.

The city council voted last month to sell the holdings, worth about \$278 million and establish an investment fund for repairs in the event of a major earthquake.

That decision has divided mayor Tory Whanau's left-leaning voting bloc and thrown into question support for the city's Long Term Plan, which is subject to a final vote next week.

The National-led Government is watching that process intently, and sources say if

"If it's seen to be such an important public asset, why are we selling?"

Wellington City councillor Diane Calvert



The city council wants to sell-off a 34% holding in Wellington International Airport.

BRUCE MACKAY/THE POST

the council fails to agree on its 10-year budget that could trigger ministerial intervention, such as a Crown observer.

On hearing news of the buy-up discussions, Brown said: "Councils are very quick to cry poor, but now they're looking at literally trying to buy a stake in an airport."

"They need to be focused on the core business of making sure that we have roads ... [and] critical infrastructure that ratepayers rely on, rather than looking at getting into shares."

It's the second rebuke Brown has directed at Wellington's local body figures

in as many days.

On Wednesday, he said he was "appalled" by a new code from WCC chief executive Barbara McKerrow which restricted information shared with councillors. She has since withdrawn the protocols.

The idea of regional ownership of the shares was first floated at a recent meeting of the Wellington Regional Leadership committee, of which nine local mayors and regional council chair Daran Ponter are members.

TURN PAGE 4

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Weather

High: 13 Low: 6

Forecasts, page 22



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From p1 // Plan to sell shares 'madness'

It was also discussed at a closed-door meeting of regional councillors, where it was agreed to look at options to "help out" the city council. Officials were tasked with preparing advice on options, a "desktop exercise".

There is no appetite among councillors to use ratepayers' money to buy the shares, *The Post* understands. The council recently approved a 20% rates hike.

Regional councillor Thomas Nash said the regional council purchasing the shares was unlikely.

Another said they believed the idea was "cooked up" as a bid to soothe tensions on the left.

Now the proposal will be on the table at an upcoming regional mayors' forum. That follows a letter from Lower Hutt mayor Campbell Barry to Ponter yesterday.

"While I understand the challenging financial position of Wellington City Council (like many councils across New Zealand) we would be remiss as a region not to fully explore the future of Wellington Airport as a strategic asset of regional significance and undertake an in-depth analysis of retaining public ownership," Barry wrote.

Both men are currently in England on an infrastructure tour.

City councillor Diane Calvert questioned why the regional council would take on debt to buy an asset that was in public ownership.

"If it's seen to be such an important public asset, why are we selling?"

"The only ones who will make money from selling to the regional council are banks and lawyers."

"The whole idea is madness. WCC ratepayers will end up paying for an asset they already own as they are half the ratepayers of Great Wellington. Imagine the interest costs alone."

- Additional reporting by Erin Gourley



Simeon Brown says councils should stick to core business. ROBERT KITCHIN/THE POST

Chief Ombudsman doesn't endorse council's controversial information sharing code

Wellington City Council
Andrea Vance

Chief Ombudsman Peter Boshier has distanced himself from a mothballed confidential information sharing code for councillors.

Wellington City Council chief executive Barbara McKerrrow faced backlash from elected members when she introduced new protocols, without consultation, and has since withdrawn it.

McKerrrow has frequently cited the information watchdog's support for the protocols, in correspondence with councillors and *The Post*.

However, yesterday evening, Boshier stressed he did not endorse the code – and had written to the council to outline his position.

"I have told the council that I have not given my endorsement of the protocol. However, I did provide comments on elements of the draft for the council to consider after receiving a request for advice from the chief executive," he said in a proactive emailed statement.

"I advised the council that a protocol must recognise the rights of elected members to gain access to information they reasonably need to do their work," he said. "I also stated that the final shape and contents of the protocol is, of course, for the full council to determine."

In a letter to McKerrrow in October, Boshier wrote that a draft of the code should be "socialised" with councillors.



Chief Ombudsman Peter Boshier does not endorse councils information sharing protocols.

"I advised the council that a protocol must recognise the rights of elected members to gain access to information they reasonably need to do their work."

Chief Ombudsman Peter Boshier

Boshier said he was regularly approached by agencies for advice. "I consider it part of my role to promote good administrative practice and to encourage agencies to develop policies that comply with the law. They are responsible for the final outcome."

In comments to *The Post* last week, McKerrrow said: "The Office of the Ombudsman has been consulted extensively during the process of developing the protocols and is supportive of the initiative."

"The ombudsman has encouraged the council to provide them to the local government sector as good practice." And in an email to councillors in April, she wrote: "My team has worked closely

with the Chief Ombudsman since then to develop the attached protocols which provide clarity on the process and scope of such requests.

"The Chief Ombudsman has congratulated WCC on this initiative and is pleased we have consulted him."

The council's chief strategy and governance officer Stephen McArthur said the input of the watchdog in developing the code was appreciated.

"It has always been well understood that it is not the role of the Chief Ombudsman to endorse these protocols, which have now been withdrawn," he said in a statement.

"We have great respect for and understanding of the independence of the office of the Ombudsman. We have always accepted that the Ombudsman reserves the right to consider any complaint case by case on its own merits."

McArthur said officials would work with councillors "on a new way forward."

Some councillors said the new code prevented them seeking advice on previous votes, such as the controversial Reading cinema deal or on reducing business rates.

Councillor Ben McNulty was also refused legal advice on the sale of a 34% stake in Wellington airport, but the council has since backed down.

On Wednesday, Local Government Minister Simon Brown said he was "appalled" by the withholding of information from elected representatives.

Read online at thepost.co.nz

The Post Friday, June 21, 2024

News 3

Council backs down on airport legal advice - to an extent

Wellington City Council
Tom Hunt

The Wellington City Council has backed down on its information blockade about the airport share sale legal advice – but only to an extent.

The council had refused a request from councillor Ben McNulty, an opponent of the council selling its 34% stake in the airport, to see legal advice over the sale but in-house legal counsel Beth Keightley emailed councillors yesterday afternoon with a change of tune.

"I can confirm that this [legal advice email] will be shared with councillors. We will arrange a time tomorrow for any councillor to read that email and ask any questions about it (or at any other time that is suitable).

"The email does contain legal advice, and we therefore ask that it not be publicly shared or disclosed at this time."

The legal advice was not shared earlier as the matter was being investigated by the auditor-general, she said.

The sale of the city's 34% airport stake has divided the council even among traditional left and right factions.

Many on the left dislike the sale because they oppose losing public assets but its loudest cheerleader is mayor Tory Whanau, who wants the money from the sale to set up a fund to help the city after a big disaster.

The sale is included in her once-a-triennium Long Term Plan which now runs the risk of being derailed with a near-majority looking to vote it down. The plan also includes a rates rise of about 18%, more money to fix the city's aging pipes, and serves as a blueprint for the next decade of council spending.

McNulty asked for the legal advice after he and other councillors alleged they were told, in a behind closed door workshop,

that voting down the sale would put them at personal legal risk.

He previously asked, under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA), for the legal advice this was based on. He was told by council chief strategy and governance officer Stephen McArthur that "no formal legal opinions were received on this issue".

However, there were emails with legal advice between in-house lawyers and an external law firm about the upcoming vote. These could not be shared due to legal privilege, he said.

McNulty yesterday said it was strange that the reason to withhold the information was originally to protect legal privilege. Now councillors were being told it was being withheld due to the auditor-general investigation.

Local Government Minister Simon Brown on Wednesday said he was

"appalled" by Wellington City Council staff withholding information from elected councillors, which McNulty followed with an email to council staff asking if it would now release the information.

For councillor Nureddin Abdurahman, who filed the complaint asking the auditor-general to investigate the council's handling of the share sale issue yesterday's email from Keightley was the first confirmation he had that his complaint was leading to an investigation.

He hoped that investigation would show councillors had lost faith in staff advice, and hopefully changes would follow.

Councillor Dane Calvert, who originally voted for the airport share sale but now planned to vote against the Long Term Plan because of alleged broken promises, said having councillors able to read the advice only in the room was another way of staff controlling advice to elected members.

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The \$9m memo council denies getting - but did

Wellington City Council
Tom Hunt

The memo the Wellington City Council says it never received, outlining \$9.2 million of needed pipe work about to be buried beneath a \$55 million bus and cycle way, was in fact sent to it.

The new information has seen council chief infrastructure officer Siobhan Procter changing her tune – in May she said the council didn't get the draft memo but now she says it was sent to a council staff member, who then left, and the council cannot find a record of it.

Wellington Water, responding to a Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act request, confirmed the memo was sent to Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) – the entity running the now-ditched \$7.4 billion transport overhaul for the capital – then sent on to an unnamed council staff member. The council, as one of the three LGWM partners, was also represented at LGWM.

The *Post* in May revealed that Wellington Water in 2022 wrote a draft memo showing that there was \$5.2m of must-do pipe work beneath Thorndon Quay, with another \$4m of "should do" work. The memo said costs were based on 2020 rates so would have gone up.

Thorndon Quay business owner Paul Robinson urged the council to fix pipes as it installed the new \$54.8m bus and cycleway above them, to avoid having to dig them up later. He confirmed he was told by the council that it never got the draft memo.

Council infrastructure boss Siobhan Procter then appeared on RNZ in May to defend the council starting work without addressing the pipes.

She claimed variations of "we didn't receive any advice from Wellington Water in this particular case" multiple times during the interview.

Procter, in a statement yesterday, said she never received "any advice" from Wellington Water or LGWM about the pipes there.

She said the first time she saw the draft memo was when she was sent it by Robinson, who obtained it after an official information request.

"On receipt of the memo from Mr Robinson, I became aware that one of the people on the memo was a WCC staff member who has since left WCC and we have been unable to find any record of the memo despite an extensive search of their emails and files," Procter said.

Procter said she would have been "formally advised" by Wellington Water or LGWM if pipes had been confirmed as needing replacement within five years. This advice never came, she said.

Robinson has now launched a petition, which has reached more than 1000 of its 1500-signature target, calling for all works on Thorndon Quay to stop until an independent review of the project was completed.

Among its allegations were that staff did not tell councillors about the state of the pipes, some of which were more than a century old.

Councillor Diane Calvert who has found herself at odds with the council as she advocated for Thorndon Quay businesses said it was surprising the state of the underlying pipes were not "checked and double checked".

"Nevertheless now that this information has publicly surfaced ... [the council] needs to act immediately on getting advice on the best way forward to renew the ageing pipe network before it is covered up once again."

Sent from my iPhone

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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: [Tom Hunt](#)
To: [DL: Councillors](#)
Date: Tuesday, 25 June 2024 7:20:32 pm

FYI all- we are going to have video/photographer at tomorrow's meeting if people want to make themselves presentable... not to suggest you wouldn't otherwise

Tom Hunt
Senior reporter

s7(2)(a)

10 Brandon Street,
Wellington 6011



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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
To: [Tom Hunt](#)
Subject: RE: Bike counters
Date: Tuesday, 9 July 2024 9:27:00 pm

Hi Tom

Tim is hardly being unbiased about his assumptions and only picking the numbers from the Basin that suit his rhetoric!

Cheers, Ray

From: Councillor Tim Brown <x@xx>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 5:21 PM
To: Tom Hunt <x@xx>; Richard MacLean <richard.maclean@wcc.govt.nz>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <x@xx>; DL: Councillors <x@xx>
Subject: Re: Bike counters

Tom

I'd be skeptical about drawing any quick conclusions from the data

- Cobham Drive up 4% YoY in both May and June
- Evans bay shared path up 4% in May and down 12% in June
- Oriental Bay up 6% in May and down 16% in June
- Basin up 8% in May and up 18% in June
- Tasman Street down 15% in May and down 27% in June

Its not sending a very clear message about overall ridership. The only figures that completely accord with anecdotal evidence are the Basin numbers

Elsewhere the May numbers look plausible, the June ones dont

Tim

From: Tom Hunt <x@xx>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 12:47 PM
To: Richard MacLean <x@xx>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <[victoria.barton-xx](#)>; DL: Councillors <x@xx>
Subject: Re: Bike counters

If anyone else was going to respond, stand down as I have enough!

Would still be good to have council comment Richard and Vic.

Cheers

On Tue, Jul 9, 2024 at 8:39 AM Tom Hunt <x@xx> wrote:

Hi all,

I see that across virtually all bike counters in the city, cycle trips are dropping compared to last year:

<https://www.transportprojects.org.nz/cycle-data/#showdata/electronic/100041856/2023-06-01>

Does the council want to comment on why this is?

And if any councillors want to comment, please do (briefly!)

--

Tom Hunt

Senior reporter

s7(2)(a)

10 Brandon Street,

Wellington 6011



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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
To: [Tom Hunt](#)
Subject: RE: Road cones
Date: Monday, 22 July 2024 1:39:00 pm

Hi Tom

I might just squeeze this in before your deadline!

This report for Auckland is excellent and I agree with this. We go overboard with traffic management under the excuse that Health and Safety requirements demand it! I'm not convinced that this is the case and know of cases where traffic management has double the budget of actually doing the job! This is ludicrous and is increasing the cost of doing anything! I've suggested that we could instigate a business case for taking this traffic management in-house and comparing the cost benefit ratio. We should also stop installing speed humps that have not been justified but simply because we use these as a "cure-all" solution!

I agree with these findings and the four recommended steps for Auckland as being pertinent for Wellington.

Cheers, Ray

From: Tom Hunt <xxx.xxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 9:30 AM
To: Pearl Little <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; Richard MacLean <richard.maclexx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; DL: Councillors <xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: Road cones

Hi all,

Attached is an EY report on traffic management in Auckland, but many of the findings appear to be NZ-wide:

- * The current system is "defined by risk aversion",
- * there is little consideration on the impacts on businesses and homes,
- * TTM contractors have little incentive to work cheaper and faster,
- * There is a TTM "overkill" across NZ

Does WCC and Tory accept these same findings could be applied to Wellington?

There are also four immediate steps recommended for Auckland - it would be good to know if WCC would consider the same:

- * The council taking leadership of coordinating traffic management,
- * setting up a disruption assessment tool,
- * use 'super weekends' to get a lot of work done in a short time,
- * Investigate compensation for businesses/ houses (which ties in with my questions from yesterday).

Will WCC consider any of these?

Will Wellington get its own report done specific to Wellington?

If you could get back to me by 2pm today.

Copying in councillors in case they want to comment (briefly!).

Cheers

--

Tom Hunt

Senior reporter

s7(2)(a)

10 Brandon Street,
Wellington 6011



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From: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
To: [Tom Hunt](#)
Subject: RE: Parking at Green Party office
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 2:14:00 pm

I asked Diane and she doesn't know?

From: Tom Hunt <[x@xx](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Councillor Ray Chung <[x@xx](#)>
Subject: Re: Parking at Green Party office

Thanks Ray - you don't happen to know who this person who tweeted is?

On Tue, Jul 23, 2024 at 1:35 PM Councillor Ray Chung <[x@xx](#)> wrote:

Ray Chung
Councillor Onslow-Western
Wellington City Council

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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: [Tom Hunt](#)
To: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
Subject: Re: FW: cycle way
Date: Thursday, 25 July 2024 7:45:40 am

Thanks - very keen on this story so let me know how you go!

On Wed, Jul 24, 2024 at 4:41 PM Councillor Ray Chung <xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx> wrote:

Hi Tom

Haven't had a chance to speak with s7(2)(a) yet but will do!

Cheers, Ray

From: s7(2)(a) <[s7\(2\)\(a\)@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:s7(2)(a)@xxx.xxxx.xx)>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:39 PM
To: Councillor Ray Chung <xc@xx>
Subject: cycle way

Hi Ray

For your information:

s7(2)(a) We called the ambulance and as in an emergency the fire brigade came followed by a paramedic and two ambulances. Even though the fire brigade is at the corner of Karori Road and Chaytor Sreet it took some time for it to get to Collier Ave. We could hear it coming down the road. In talking to a fireman he expressed his concern in the developments proposed along Karori Road. They are already struggling with the humps in the road and are really concerned that if the road is narrowed by a cycle way even more time will be taken to get to emergencies. I see from an email I got today that he 'protected' cycle way will be installed in September.

After today I despair for those who need an ambulance in an emergency when these cycle lanes go down Karori Road.

Regards

s7(2)(a)

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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
To: [Tom Hunt](#)
Subject: RE:
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2024 4:29:00 pm

Hi Tom

I don't support balustrades.

Cheers, Ray

From: Tom Hunt <xxx.xxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 12:22 PM
To: DL: Councillors <xxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject:

Hi all,

In the Sandy Calkin inquest today it turned out that the \$6m for edge lighting and fencing will likely blow out to \$10m-plus. As lighting is already well-progressed, it looks likely to be the balustrade work that will need more money.

Shane Bonney says the decision to proceed with balustrades will likely come down to a council vote (ie, if we put balustrades there at all, but possibly also the extra funding).

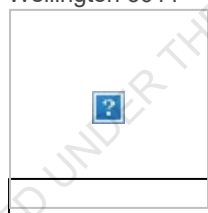
Is it possible to get a yes/no/undecided from each of you about whether you would support balustrades?

You are welcome to send some commentary but it is unlikely to make the story!

Cheers

--

Tom Hunt
Senior reporter
s7(2)(a)
10 Brandon Street,
Wellington 6011



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From: [Tom Hunt](#)
To: [DL: Councillors](#)
Date: Monday, 27 May 2024 9:25:42 am
Attachments: [OIA 616 Robinson followup response re Thorndon Quay pipes.pdf](#)

.@.. appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person. [Learn why this could be a risk](#)

Hi,

Does anyone want to comment (briefly) on the attached LGOIMA, showing that even with increased spending on pipes, the backlog of pipes needing replacement (under current planned funding) in the next 10 years will grow by 154km from 406km to 560km.

Do you believe these figures are accurate and does this mean Wellington's pipe issues will actually be worse in 10 years time?

Cheers

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RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

24 May 2024

Ref: OIA-616

s7(2)(a)
s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe ^{s7(2)(a)}

Request for further information relating to the pipes on Thorndon Quay.

I would like to apologise on behalf of Wellington Water if you have found this experience less than satisfactory.

Thank you for your email of 14 May 2024, in which you seek answers to questions and ask for information relating to the water services pipes in Thorndon. Wellington Water Limited ("WWL") must treat this request as an official information request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 ("LGOIMA" or "the Act").

We note the urgency of this request and will collate the documents you have requested as quickly as possible.

We have considered your request in accordance with the Act and can provide you with information related to part of your request. Initial scoping of the remainder of your request has resulted in a significant amount of information and we would like to seek further clarity from you to help confirm the scope.

As our Chief Executive offered in her email to you, we are very happy to meet with you either here at our premises or to come to the premises of the Thorndon and Hutt Road Collective.

Please see our responses to your questions in the Appendix of this letter.

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 www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to email us at official.information@wellingtonwater.co.nz

Nāku noa, nā,



Julie Alexander
Group Manager
Network Strategy and Planning

For the latest news and updates, follow us on our social channels:

 /wellingtonwater  @wgtwaternz & @wgtwateroutage  @wellington_water

www.wellingtonwater.co.nz

Our water, our future.

Appendix

Request 1

The draft memo was received by LGWM. It is therefore a communication and is covered by the OIA. The fact that it has “draft” written on it does not exempt it from the provisions of the OIA. Do you accept that WW has breached the Act by attempting (albeit unsuccessfully) to withhold it on the basis that it is “out of scope”? – Yes or No?. If yes, what are you going to do about it?

Response:

When a request for information is made, our starting point is that we make the information available unless there is good reason to withhold it (based on what’s set out in the Act). Reasons to withhold information under the Act include things like free and frank advice, confidentiality, legal privilege, and to protect privacy. WWL’s interpretation of the Act is that some documents that are in draft and not finalised can be withheld on the grounds of free and frank advice.

This document was meant to be withheld because it was a draft document which had not been finalised. The reason why this was not finalised is that it was contingent on a particular part of the Let’s Get Wellington Moving Programme progressing, which it has not.

When we balanced whether or not this was in the public’s interest to disclose this information to you, we decided that this didn’t meet the public interest test. This is because the advice and assessment in the memo were developed in 2022 (two years ago) and the figures are out of date and would need further assessment and updating.

However, now that you have received the redacted memo and there has been media interest on this matter, we have taken the decision to proactively publish your received LGOIMA response (ref OIA IRO-616) on our website: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/about-us/official-requests/official-information-act-responses/>

Request 2

There have clearly been meetings/ decisions made following the date of the draft memo. Where are the records of those decisions?

Response:

The draft memo was sent to Let’s Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) and their consultant engineers. We have conducted an electronic search of email records of the named people in the memo. There were no records found. WWL can confirm that there were no follow-up meetings, communications and discussions between WWL and LGWM in regards the Thorndon Quay work following the memo.

Request 3

This request relates to questions sent prior to this request to Nick Leggett, Chair of the Board of WWL.

Hi Nick

I am forwarding you an email trail (sent in error) by your officers to Tom Hunt from Stuff.

I am concerned that my requests to WCC and WW for information concerning the condition of water infrastructure along Thorndon have been responded to with less than the utmost probity. Certainly, the email trail below indicates a serious breach of the OI Act.

- 1. WCC:-Following my OIA request WCC (and LGWM) have advised that WCC hold no condition reports or correspondence relating to Thorndon Quay water infrastructure. . At a meeting at WCC last Thursday, an officer confirmed that his name was one of those redacted in the attached document. Clearly WCC have misinformed me. I cannot believe that they would not have information on the condition of these pipes prior to committing to a \$60m roading contract.*
- 2. WW- The email trail below speaks for itself. How on earth could the attached document be regarded as "out of scope"? What other potentially useful information has been excluded because it is "out of scope"? There must be a communication trail that follows this draft memo. If not, why not?*

Response:

The answer to the above question is encompassed by the response to request 2.

Request 4

*Would you please ask your CEO and her team to provide **you** "chapter and verse" information on all internal communications, communications with WCC and external advisors relating to this issue. I want to know if there will be any need, recommendation, or plan to replace or do major repairs to any pipework along Thorndon Quay within, say, the next 10 years. As the information you provide will be business related, there should not be any need to redact any names – there is no personal privacy interest.*

Response:

WWL has undertaken an electronic search of its internal communications, communications with Wellington City Council ("WCC") and external advisors regarding the pipework along Thorndon Quay. The result of the search reveals a significant amount of responses over 7,000 in number. This does not include email and documents. This is significant amount of information and would require a large amount of people resource and time to undertake a comprehensive review. Section 17(f) of the LGOIMA allows for a request to be refused under substantial collation and research. One option is to narrow the scope of your request, so a more targeted response could be undertaken. We have already contacted you to do this.

Request 5

Why are there no plans to replace these pipes? We all know these pipes are shot, as the photos attest. (The December 8th explosion wasn't even recorded on your incident register that you released). I have talked to Downer's site foreman yesterday and asked him what they had found from the excavations they had carried out in the current segment of work. His reply was that from what they had seen the pipes looked to be in poor condition. Are you telling us that we have to put up with another 10 years of leaks?

Response:

The sections of pipe along Thorndon Quay have been identified as being in poor condition based on a preliminary assessment and have been tagged as assets that need further, more detailed investigation. Further investigation, such as a physical inspection of the pipe, would provide a fulsome picture of the state of the pipe and potential work needed.

While this work is important, it is not unique. WCC are dealing with a significant backlog of pipes in the city that are in need of renewing (replacing). WWL looks after around 2,700km of pipe assets on behalf of WCC.

Many of which are also in poor condition and need renewing. Currently, WCC has a backlog of 406km of pipe that need to be renewed. Every year the network ages and more pipes come closer to the end of the operational lives, meaning the backlog of work will continue to grow. This is a significant amount of work, and we recognise WCC needs to balance this with a wide range of other priorities across the city.

In the current draft Long-Term Plan (2024-34), WCC is proposing to invest in renewing approximately 330kms of pipe over a 10-year period. We estimate that by the end of the 10-year period, the backlog of pipes that need to be renewed will have grown to around 560kms.

To prioritise this work, we must focus on the most critical assets first (these are ones that if they break or fail would result in significant and widespread impact to the public / community). As part of our work to support WCC's Long-Term Plan, we reviewed all the work that needs to be done across the city. When compared to other more critical assets or assets that are in need of urgent work, no renewals in the Thorndon Quay and Hutt Road area were identified as in need of prioritisation for the current draft Long-Term Plan.

This means that pipes along Thorndon Quay, like many others across the city, will need to be programmed in at a later date for further investigation when funding and resources allow. We continue to monitor the condition of pipes and assets across the city as part of our ongoing programme of condition assessments. We also formally review the city's water asset renewals programme every three years as part of each Long-Term Plan period. We'll use this information and evidence as a basis for our advice to WCC who set our budgets and decide what work they can fund.

Request 6

I cannot understand how the recommendations contained in the draft memo (which seem to be consistent with my layman's reading of the actual condition reports) could transform from "must do" or "should do" to – " we have no plans to do anything in the next 10 years" – It does not make sense. It does not reconcile with the knowledge and experience that local property owners have of the condition of this network. It does not reconcile with the December 8th explosion that destroyed a car (see attached photo). It does not reconcile with today's all too familiar leak (see attached photo).

Response:

Please refer to the answer above.

Request 7

I want to know if there will be any need, recommendation, or plan to replace or do major repairs to any pipework along Thorndon Quay within, say, the next 10 years.

Response:

There are no plans to renew the pipework along Thorndon Quay in the next 10 years based on WCC's draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. However, it is not possible to predict if repairs will be required due to breakages etc.

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From: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
To: [Tom Hunt](#)
Subject: RE: Thorndon Quay pipes
Date: Friday, 21 June 2024 12:51:00 pm

Hi Tom

Sorry, have been frantically busy and just read this mail and read your article in today's paper!

Cheers, Ray

From: Tom Hunt <[x@xx](#)>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 8:18 AM
To: Councillor Nicola Young <[x@xx](#)>; Councillor Iona Pannett <[x@xx](#)>; Councillor Diane Calvert <diane.calvert@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Ray Chung <[x@xx](#)>; Pearl Little <[x@xx](#)>; Councillor Geordie Rogers <[x@xx](#)>; Richard MacLean <richard.maclea@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Thorndon Quay pipes

Hi all,

Just to clarify (and I am checking I have this correct) but it appears WCC was sent this memo twice: Once when it was sent to people at WCC when it was first sent out, then again to a single person at WCC by an engineer.

WW sent through a clarification to a line in the LGOIMA response: "We also understand that the draft memo was sent to a Wellington Water Consultant Engineer overseeing LGWM work who also forwarded it to several people at Aurecon Group and a person at WCC."

Either way, WCC was sent it once but it appears it was sent twice.

I would wait for WW to clarify but we all know that that could take a while!

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 7:52 AM Tom Hunt <[x@xx](#)> wrote:

Hi,
Does anyone want to comment on the below?
By 1pm please.
Cheers

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tom Hunt <[x@xx](#)>
Date: Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 6:35 AM
Subject: Thorndon Quay pipes
To: Richard MacLean <[x@xx](#)>, Victoria Barton-Chapple <[x@xx](#)>

Hi,
Attached is a LGOIMA showing WCC was copied into the draft memo showing the \$5.2m

of must-do work under Thorndon Quay. WW has since clarified it went to one person at WCC.

This is the opposite of Siobhan Procter's statement on RNZ, where she said a [few times that WCC didn't get any advice from WW on this](#). (First time about 9.50, again at about 13.10, then 13.59)

Paul Robinson at the Woolstore says he also has info from WCC saying it didn't get the advice.

I think I, somewhere in my emails, have something similar.

Can I find out, by midday, if WCC now accepts it did get this draft memo?

Thanks

--

Tom Hunt

Senior reporter

s7(2)(a)

10 Brandon Street,
Wellington 6011



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