



# WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL

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20 May 2026

Tēnā koe Naomi,

- Any definition, explanation, criteria, or understanding used by the mayor and/or Council to interpret or apply the term "woke" in the context of emergency management, civil defence, or disaster response.

See attached Press release with explanation.

- All information (including briefings, emails, texts, aide-memoires, notes, or other communications) that informed, influenced, or relate to the Mayor's use of the term "woke" in connection with decisions about declaring, or not declaring, a state of emergency.

There were a number of briefings and monitoring from HB CDEM relating to former Tropical cyclone Vaianu. These took the form of video conference calls.

- Any Council policies, frameworks, guidance, or decision-making criteria in which the term "woke" is referenced, or which were considered relevant to the Mayor's comments.

There are no such policies, frameworks, guidance, or decision-making criteria referring to the term "Woke" therefore, it does not exist. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

- Any internal communications discussing:

(a) The meaning or interpretation of "woke" in this context; and/or

This part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, as the information requested is not held by Council.

- (b) The appropriateness or implications of using that term in relation to emergency management decisions.

This part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, as the information requested is not held by Council.

- Confirmation of whether the Mayor's comments reflect an official Council position. If not, please provide any information held that distinguishes the Mayor's personal views from formal Council policy in this instance.

The aspect of your request seeking confirmation as to whether the Mayor's comments reflect an official Council position, or to distinguish between the Mayor's personal views and formal Council policy, is not a request for official information held by Council. Rather, it seeks interpretation and/or the provision of opinion. Accordingly, this part of your request is declined on the basis that it does not constitute a request for official information under LGOIMA.

Your rights and further assistance:

You are entitled to seek a review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman:  
[www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,

LGOIMA Administrator