

Our Ref: 18-0070

07 August 2018



Graham Carter
fyi-request-8341-8a4e5a3d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Graham

Official Information Request – Development of Trout Farming

Thank you for your request for information dated 17 July 2018, asking – “How much ratepayers money have the BoP Regional Council spent trying to develop trout farming.”

Council involvement in any discussions regarding the development of trout farming has been indirectly through the Bay of Connections – the region’s economic development framework, which we administer on behalf of Bay of Plenty region. The Bay of Connections facilitates a range of sector and industry groups for the purposes of regional economic development. See www.bayofconnections.com

One of the sector groups in the portfolio is the Regional Aquaculture Organisation. This is an open group consisting of representatives of industry, science, local and central government, and other parties interested in developing aquaculture across the region. Members discuss the development of a range of species, such as kingfish, hapuka, trout, geoduck, seaweed, among others.

In 2015, the Bay of Connections, in partnership with Central Government, took part in the nation-wide Regional Growth Programme. Trout farming was raised by a range of regional stakeholders as an economic opportunity and subsequently included in this independent report <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/sectors-industries/regions-cities/regional-economic-development/pdf-image-library/BOP%20Report%20Regional%20Growth%20Study.pdf>. The report was funded by Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment.

Staff have had discussions in this space, however, no money has been spent on developing trout farming.

Please note that you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Ombudsman under Section 27(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman’s Office can be contacted by calling 0800 802 602, emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or online at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you contact the Council about this request, please quote the BOPRC reference number above.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Namouta Poutasi".

Namouta Poutasi
Acting General Manager Strategy and Science

Objective ID: A2932193