

13 February 2024

[REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Water Metering

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 27 December 2023. You requested the following information:

1. All correspondents between the Wellington City Council (the Council) and Greater Wellington Regional Council relating to water metering over the past six months.
2. All correspondents the Wellington Mayor's office Greater Wellington Regional Council relating to water metering over the past six months.

Wellington City Council has partly granted your request for information.

Question 1 - *All correspondents between Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council relating to water metering over the past six months.*

On investigation, Council officers have not had conversations with Greater Wellington Regional Council relating to water metering during the time frame requested.

We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act because the requested information does not exist.

Question 2 - *All correspondents the Wellington Mayor's office Greater Wellington Regional Council relating to water metering over the past six months.*

Information found in scope of this part of your request relates to a letter sent by Greater Wellington Regional Chair, Daran Ponter. This letter, dated 14 December 2023, was emailed to Mayor Whanau alongside Mayors Barry, Campbell, and Guppy respectively.

A copy of this letter is publicly available and can be found [here](#), attached to this response is a copy of Mayor Whanau's response.

Please note, some information has been redacted under section 7(2)(a) of the Act, as it contains personal information about private individuals.

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.

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

Thank you again for your request,

Kind regards

Ollie Marchant
Official Information

From: [Mayor Tory Whanau](#)
To: [WRC Chair Daran Ponter](#); mayor@porirua.govt.nz; campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz; [Wayne Guppy](#)
Cc: [Barbara Mckerrow](#); [Jo Miller](#); [Wendy Walker](#); [Geoff Swainson](#); [Nick Leggett](#); [Tonia Haskell](#); [Michael Naylor](#)
Subject: Re: Wellington Metro Area water shortages
Date: Monday, 22 January 2024 9:21:04 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High

Kia ora Daran

Thank you for your letter following up on September's Wellington Water Shortage Summit and where universal water metering fits within our draft LTPs. I apologise for not replying sooner as I had intended to do so before Christmas.

Due to the timing of when we received Wellington Water's advice for the LTP we haven't had the opportunity to formally discuss options for funding three waters infrastructure as a whole Council but we will most certainly be discussing water funding this month as a priority as part of our LTP discussions. Planning for smart meters will be part of that. While there are no easy fixes, our Council is committed to working together with other councils and Wellington Water to get on top of this. I am personally committed to increasing our investment in water even further.

As I stated in my media release yesterday, the council has been working hard to expand investment. We have significantly increased our funding for water over the last few years. In the first year of the 2021/2031 Long Term Plan (LTP), we boosted our capital investment in three waters by 33%. Over the last three years we have provided WWL with an additional \$25 million in opex funding over and above what was approved in our 2021-31 LTP, and much of this has been directed to detecting and fixing leaks. Just before Christmas we approved \$2 million in extra funding for Wellington Water to fix as many leaks as possible over the coming months.

At present the recommendation we have received from officers is to fund a business case for water meters in the first 3 years of the 2024-2034 LTP and to signal planned installation in the years following. Our CFO Andrea Reeves has been liaising with the other shareholding councils and confirms that this is the same proposed approach as that being taken by Porirua City Council. Water meters do come at a significant cost and we need to be able to provide the details and options needed to properly consult on this change. However in the light of increasing concern about drinking water supply the Council will consider whether it is possible to do this more quickly, notwithstanding our funding and financing limitations. We must also all consider the suite of initiatives needed to improve the sustainability of water supply, delivery and consumption; including construction of new water storage.

I appreciate that Greater Wellington Regional Council also needs to consult with the community prior to committing to a build programme for new water storage facilities. It would be helpful for our planning if you could give an indication regarding when new water storage would likely move from planning stages into the build and operative stages and how this will be included in your LTP.

With regards to your comment on the application of the provision for Greater Wellington to set water allocation limits and impose surcharges over the next three years I just note that any additional surcharge will impact our financial ability to manage our aging water infrastructure and would therefore not help our shared goal of sustainable water supply and delivery.

Lastly, we are all collectively addressing a long legacy of underinvestment that has reached a tipping point. I am committed to working with the councils of the region on how we address this and on a regional model that is fit for purpose for the future.

Chat soon.

Nga mihi nui

[Tory Whanau](#)

Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council

EA: Tiumalu Sialava'a [REDACTED]

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