

OIR: 2425/1100

20 September 2024

s7(2)(a)

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Tēnā koe s7(2)(a),

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of **28 August 2024** requesting the following information:

1. A record of the plants that were provided to the volunteers on the planting day?

The following plants were provided for the community planting day on Sunday 14 July 2024:

Latin name	Common name	Amount
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	harakeke	100
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	akeake	25
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	taupata	40
<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>	northern rata	20
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five finger	114
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	ngaio	77
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree	125
<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki	30
Total		531

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

Additional questions:

1.1 We would also like to know the details of the plants provided to the planting group over the last 12 months for this location.

In addition to the plants above, the following plants were supplied to the Paraparaumu Beach Dune Restoration Group over the last 12 months. These have been planted between Arthur Street and Nathan Ave.

Latin name	Common name	Amount
<i>Spinifex sericeus</i>	spinifex	400
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexia</i>	pōhuehue	100
<i>Carex testacea</i>	speckled sedge	25
<i>Disphyma australe subsp. Australe</i>	native ice plant	10
<i>Lachnagrostis billiardierei</i>	sand wind grass	25
<i>Coprosma acerosa</i>	sand coprosma	50
Total		610

1.2 We would also like to know if there was a planting plan and if so be provided with that

A formal planting plan for 2024 for this site hasn't been created. On that basis I must decline this part of your request as the documents alleged to contain the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate them, they cannot be found, section 17(e) of the LGOIMA refers.

2. What consultation was carried out with whom when?

Each year Council sends out a form for community conservation groups to request plants for the following planting season. This helps to provide the basis for plant orders, depending on budgets and plant availability.

The Paraparaumu Beach Dune Restoration Group provided a response for the area in question on 11 September 2023. This is attached.

Additional questions:

2.1 Including, but not limited to all communications with s7(2)(a) and/or other representatives of the dune planting group on social media, email or otherwise

Please find attached the correspondence between Council officers and s7(2)(a) (both email and text message). Screen shots of Council Facebook posts are also included. Please note, the personal details of other parties have been withheld from this information. The decision to withhold this information is made under section 7(2)(a) of the Act which allows for Council to withhold information in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. In Council's view the reasons for withholding these details are not outweighed by public interest considerations in section 7(1) favouring their release.

2.2 Including any further updates to the planting group or its representatives regarding our complaints to the Council

The group was informed verbally on-site at the regular working-bee that some of the adjacent neighbours had concerns with the planting and that plant removal was being discussed.

There were no additional communications on this matter.

3. What was the basis for the Council's decision to concentrate the recent planting 7(2)(a) ?

Council is involved with restoration activities along Paraparaumu beach, from Maclean Park to the Waikanae River estuary. The Paraparaumu Beach Dune Restoration Group has been active in this area for two years and this is one of the 30 plus community conservation groups that we support on the Kāpiti Coast. Given limited Council resources we work alongside community conservation groups where they exist to help boost Council output in the conservation space.

The width of the dune north of Maclean Park provides one of the few urban dune areas on the Kāpiti Coast that allows for a natural transition from fore-dune species to back dune-species.

The coastal landform here means it is one of the closest points to Kāpiti Island. Focusing restoration here will help to encourage birds from Kāpiti Island to the mainland.

Additional questions:

3.1 Why here? Who decided on the species list and numbers and on what basis?

The first part of this is answered in 3. It is part of the Environment and Ecological Services Team's responsibilities to choose planting sites that Council will support and determine the final plant list. The team followed best practice guidelines published by the Coastal Restoration Trust in determining the species and numbers of plants to be planted.

3.2 Please provide any documents (including emails) which disclose how the Council came to choose this particular location for the July planting

Please see responses provided at question 2.1 above and question 4 below.

4. Please provide any reports or advice which you relied upon, so that we can understand why the dunes 7(2)(a) [REDACTED] have been targeted with this high-density planting.

Council staff have utilised a range of sources to help inform our coastal restoration work.

This includes:

- Coastal Restoration Trust of New Zealand Resources:
<https://www.coastalrestorationtrust.org.nz/dune-restoration/>
- Attendance of the annual conference of the Coastal Restoration Trust of New Zealand for the last two years.
- Experience with and observing other dune restoration projects on the Kāpiti Coast, including Ames Street Reserve, Maclean Park, sites along Manly Street, Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve, Waikanae River Mouth, Waitohu Stream Mouth, Field Way, Pharazyn Reserve.

Additional questions:

4.1 And whether such high-density planting is proposed anywhere else on the Kāpiti waterfront

We have not finalised planting plans and orders for 2025. On that basis I must decline this part of your request as the documents alleged to contain the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate them, they cannot be found, section 17(e) of the LGOIMA refers.

4.2 What are the particular strategies and/or plans and/or officer advice, which guided the Council staff in carrying out the planting which has occurred in front of our properties?

Kāpiti Coast District Council Operative District Plan 2021

Kāpiti Coast District Council Open Space Strategy 2022

Additional guidance from the Coastal Restoration Trust of New Zealand is attached.

5. We would also like to know the council's expenditure to date on this section of planting.

2024 Expenditure on this section of planting	Amount
Contractor weed control and site preparation	\$ 970.00
531 assorted native plants	\$ 2,814.30
Planting accessories (Guards, weed mats, fertiliser tablets)	\$ 1,197.00
2024 Total	\$ 4,981.30

We do not hold information on staff time spent working on individual planting sites. On that basis I must decline this part of your request as the documents alleged to contain the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate them, they cannot be found, section 17(e) of the LGOIMA refers.

5.1 Please also provide a list of the suppliers (commercial or private) of the plants which were planted on the recent planting day.

Plants for 2024 dune planting were bulk ordered from the following nurseries.

1. Totara Glen Nursery, Palmerston North
2. The Greenery, Manukau
3. Kauri Park, Palmerston North
4. Coastlands Nursery, Whakatane

I can confirm that no plants have been ordered from Palmers Garden World or from s7(2)(a) .

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi,



Brendan Owens

Group Manager Customer and Community
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū Kiritaki me te Hapori

If you are interested in the attachments which accompany this response,
please contact us at: informationrequest@kapiticoast.govt.nz