

OIR: 2425/1109

23 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

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

Your request for information to Greater Wellington Regional Council was transferred to Kāpiti Coast District Council (Council) on 5 September 2024. The questions transferred to Kāpiti Coast District Council are as follows:

***“The draining dates from 2022 when Waikanae had very high rainfall resulting in an unusually high water table. It particularly affected property of [REDACTED] and others. It seems Kawakahia wetland, east of [REDACTED], with a new urban development site, was partially drained by District Council or personal order. Kawakahia had Queen Elizabeth II Trust protection, so how did this occur?***

- 1. If it was not consented, who authorized this? Why has drainage continued as Pharazyn wetland became a dry habitat, so water birds had to leave?***

The works were authorised under the Resource Management Act Section 330 which allowed Council to remove the vegetation [included the blocked culvert on the black drain] in order to prevent the actual and likely adverse effect of the blockages and increased water levels on a main sewer line running through this area.

The works were only done during the period of late August/early September 2022 to reinstate the previously existing long-term levels and no dredging of the stream beds occurred. No further drainage works have occurred in this area other than the unblocking of the Ngarara Stream culverts at the northwestern corner of the Kawakahia Wetland when they were reinstated. Council has reinstated only the existing levels at worst case and has not sort to continue to drain the area.

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

**2. Why did the district council/person authorizing work not then block the channel? What will GWRC and District Council do to restore the Kawakahia wetland and Pharazyn wetland to their original state? Residents of the area are greatly concerned about the lack of water and birds. Whose responsibility are the two joined wetlands? (separated by road). Drying out wetlands by stealth is worrying.”**

The emergency works undertaken only remove the vegetation within the channel to return the Ngarara Stream back to its pre-existing long term level. In the black drain, Council removed some vegetation downstream of the culvert and the confluence and the Ngarara Stream and removed the fully blocked culvert located in the southern end of the Black Drain.

The responsibility for the Kawakahia Wetland lies with the private landowner.

The Pharazyn Ponds [old wastewater treatment ponds] are administered by Council and have been progressively planted and rehabilitated, however the artificial build up of water in the area due to the blockages resulted in a lot of the riparian plantings that had been put in dying due to inundation.

Council is legally obligated to maintain the free flow of water in the Ngarara Stream under the Paetawa Watercourse Agreement and therefore will not be seeking to block the channel.

Council removed the fully blocked culvert on the black drain in line with best practice to daylight the channel. We will not be reinstating a blockage in this area.

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

Ngā mihi,



**Sean Mallon**

Group Manager Infrastructure and Asset Management  
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū Anga me te Whakahaere Rawa