

OIR: 2324/844

23 April 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

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

Thank you for your email of **9 January 2024** requesting the following information:

**1. What is the long-term plan for cars on the beach?**

This is an ongoing discussion, which Kapiti Coast District Council plays a small part in. We regularly review our bylaws (the Beach Bylaw was last reviewed in 2021) to ensure that the rules framework fits the values of the community and is consistent with other regulators approach in managing any unwanted effects.

**2. What enforcement is Council currently undertaking given that cars are prohibited on the beach?**

Council can issue stationary (parking vehicle infringements) under the Land Transport Act.

The Police have jurisdiction to manage any driving issues on the beach and can undertake enforcement for any moving vehicle violations that are detected.

Over this summer we have had regulatory staff who carried out regular beach spot checks on their weekday rounds, and regular patrols on the weekends where we are able to engage with the public. We are happy to provide information on what the rules allow and where any unwanted behaviour was documented. This information was passed onto the Police.

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

**3. KCDC's website talks about the coastal environment being "a safe place for fragile habitats and people" – please advise how you say this is being remotely observed by the Council.**

Council acknowledges the challenge in this space and actively works with the other regulators in this space (Police, Regional Council and Department of Conservation). These regulators work together to ensure where unwanted behaviour occurs, it is dealt with.

While Council has the Beach Bylaw that bans motor vehicles on many parts of the beach, the beach is technically considered a road under the Land Transport Act, so it can be controlled, and relevant rules enforced by Police.

Finding the balance between preserving the ecological value of the beach environment, ensuring the safety of families, and allowing people to enjoy the recreational opportunities our coastline affords us, is a complex issue and as described above includes a number of regulatory regimes managing different effects.

Kapiti Coast District Council's Public Spaces Animal Management (PSAM) team, comprising eight staff, is responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with the Beach Bylaw and Transport Bylaw in relation to vehicles on our beaches. Council also regularly carries out education and publicity campaigns to ensure people understand the rules.

Council will continue to enforce where we can and have an active programme of patrols to limit this activity and where our officers see this kind of behaviour, we also report it to the police via 105.

**4. Yes, I would like a reply and if necessary, please treat these questions as an Official Information Request, in particular the Council's enforcement activity over the last three years.**

Council operates a graduated response model. When notifications are received, we investigate and if information sufficient to warrant formal enforcement action is detected, we will follow through within our area of jurisdiction. Council also regularly passes information to our other enforcement agencies where their powers are better suited to deal with the issue.

Tabled below is a summary of the last three years of tickets issued.

Tickets issued for parked in prohibited area of beach (calendar year)	
2021	18
2022	45
2023	12

**5. Any regulations, bylaws, or policies governing the use of cars on Kapiti beaches.**

The following are available publicly either on the Council website or the Legislation website.

- [Land Transport Act](#)
- [Land Transport \(Road User\) Rule 2004](#)
- [Beach Bylaw](#)
- [Public Places Bylaw](#)
- [Transport Bylaw](#)

Also relevant is the [Reserves Act \(Waikanae Scenic reserve bylaw\)](#) (DOC) and [Natural Resources Plan](#) (GWRC) both available publicly who have rules that are relevant to the use of vehicles on beaches

**6. Records of any complaints, incidents, or enforcement actions related to the use of cars on Kapiti beaches over the past 3 years.**

Summary totals below:

Row Labels	Count of Service Request Number
2019	47
2020	111
2021	60
2022	27
2023	21
Grand Total	266

**7. Any assessments or studies conducted by the Council regarding the environmental impact or safety issues of allowing cars on beaches, including measures taken to mitigate any negative effects.**

Please find linked here the [Draft Statement of Proposal](#) that went out for consultation prior to the Beach Bylaw 2021 being adopted. This document discusses the issues regarding the need for providing vehicle access for legitimate reasons (boat launching, monitoring, surf lifesaving etc) and providing restrictions on undesirable activities i.e. driving on populated parts of the beaches.

Measures taken by the Council include:

- Enacting a bylaw that sets speed limits and restricts access to certain parts of the beach.
- Actively responding to complaints when received regarding undesirable beach activities.
- Engaging with the Police and other regulators (DOC/GWRC) on a regular basis.

- Installation of signage at access points to clarify rules to beach users.
- Proactive patrols to educate beach users and if detected pass on any occurrence of dangerous driving activity to the Police.

The documents linked in question 8 also identify issues related to allowing cars on the beaches, and include measures proposed to mitigate the negative effects.

**8. Details of any public consultations or community engagement initiatives conducted by the Council regarding the issue of cars on beaches.**

The most recent review of the Beach Bylaw was conducted in 2021 before its adoption on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The Council conducted a public consultation as part of this review, and a summary of the submissions received is attached below:

The relevant information was made publicly available via the Strategy and Ops meeting agenda on 24 September 2020.

- [Beach Bylaw Review: Summary of Submissions – Summary of post-consultation analysis](#)
- [Draft for adoption: Beach Bylaw 1 June 2021](#)
- [Adoption of the Kapiti Coast District Council Beach Bylaw 2021](#)
- [Record of proposed changes: Kapiti Coast District Council Beach Bylaw 2021](#)

Prior to this, the Beach Bylaw was reviewed in 2009 and amended in 2017.

If you require any further information, please contact Richard Hopkins, Environmental Standards Manager on [richard.hopkins@kapticoast.govt.nz](mailto:richard.hopkins@kapticoast.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi,



**James Jefferson**  
Group Manager Regulatory and Environment  
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū Ture me te Taiao