

26 July 2022

File Ref: OIAP-7-24733

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2022-092

I refer to your request for information dated 1 July 2022, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 1 July 2022. You have requested the following:

"I refer to your previous letters of 30 March and 3 May. I am pleased that some action is planned and that there may be hope of future flood relief for my own and neighbouring properties.

In the meantime, I am keen to understand funding arrangements for any further improvements etc. In particular, I understand that GW has been charging Featherston residents, or some of them, a targeted rate for the provision of the Donald Creek Scheme:

Presuming the targeted rates are ring fenced for the purpose of the flood defences, can you tell me:

- *When the scheme was first put in place*
- *How the rate is calculated*
- *The catchment area of the targeted rates*
- *The gross income into the scheme by year since inception*
- *The expenditure under the scheme per year since inception and broadly, what it was spent on.*
- *The balance of the scheme fund at today's date*
- *Any planned expenditure from that last total."*

Greater Wellington's response follows:

Generally, it is the responsibility of landowners to maintain watercourses crossing their land, however in certain areas landowners pay Greater Wellington a targeted rate and Greater Wellington undertakes maintenance on their behalf. The areas that Greater Wellington manage on Donald's Creek are highlighted in red in the diagram below and include the retention dam and stop-banks down to State Highway 53 but exclude the culvert crossing under State Highway 2 and the State Highway 2 roadside drainage. Greater Wellington also manage between the confluence of Donald's and Abbot's Creeks through to Lake Wairarapa. Outside of these areas Greater Wellington can still offer advice and, in certain circumstances, may contribute funding to works through the Greater Wellington Isolated Works Fund.



Donald's Creek flood protection is part of the overall Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (LWVDS) and is not a separate ring-fenced fund.

When the scheme was first put in place:

The retention dam, stop-banks, the enlargement of Donald's Creek channel between State Highway 2 and State Highway 53 and the associated infrastructure were constructed in 1998/99.

How the rate is calculated:

The flood protection targeted rate is calculated for each land parcel based on .00099 cents per dollar of land value. The rate that an individual land parcel is subject to can be found on the South Wairarapa District Council website, under rates search: <https://swdc.govt.nz/services/rates-search/>

The catchment area of the targeted rates:

The 1998 design report of the flood protection measures for the Donald's Creek catchment area is 9.6 km².

Currently, there are 1,313 land parcels that are subject to the flood protection targeted rate. This figure has changed over time as land parcels have been subdivided.

The gross income into the scheme by year since inception:

Our records show that the targeted rate for Donald's Creek commenced in 2004/05.

The initial construction and implementation costs of the scheme appear to have been split between Wellington Regional Council and the urban residents of Featherston, who had a 5-year loan that was paid off in 2008/09. The table below shows the total collected targeted rates:

Year	Donald's Creek Total Rate excl GST	Loan Repayment	Maintenance
2004/05	27,031.00	25,171.00	1,860.00
2005/06	27,031.00	25,171.00	1,860.00
2006/07	27,247.00	25,171.00	2,076.00
2007/08	27,247.00	25,171.00	2,076.00
2008/09	27,341.00	25,171.00	2,170.00
2009/10	2,170.00		2,170.00
2010/11	2,170.00		2,170.00
2011/12	2,170.00		2,170.00
2012/13	2,170.00		2,170.00
2013/14	2,235.00		2,235.00
2014/15	2,346.72		2,346.72
2015/16	2,463.96		2,463.96
2016/17	2,513.04		2,513.04
2017/18	2,563.32		2,563.32
2018/19	2,615.04		2,615.04
2019/20	2,667.00		2,667.00
2020/21	2,693.64		2,693.64
2021/22	2,748.00		2,748.00
2022/23	2,788.75		2,788.75
Total	\$170,211.47	\$125,855.00	\$44,356.47

The expenditure under the scheme per year since inception and broadly, what it was spent on:

1. As there is no ring-fenced Donald's Creek funding, this part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information Act 1987 (the Act) on the grounds that the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington, and Greater Wellington does not believe that the information is held by another local authority, a department, a Minister of the Crown, or organisation.

Additional Information regarding this part of your request:

Since 2000, \$527,493.78 has been spend on the 'Western Streams', which include the following watercourses:

- Donald's Creek
- Waiorongomai
- Abbot's Creek
- Owhanga
- Cross Creek
- Manganui

WBS element	West Steam Expenditure from 1999 to Jan 2022	\$
771/0048/01	West Stream Vegetation Control/Debris Clearance	26,607.29
771/0048/02	West Stream Channel Alignment	325,483.92
771/0048/03	West Stream Rock Rip Rap/Heavy Protection	62,670.00
771/0048/04	West Stream Rail Groynes	37,781.89
771/0048/05	West Stream Delta Maintenance/Openings	9,744.50
771/0048/06	West Stream Stopbank	17,483.15
771/0048/07	West Stream Fencing	4,753.38
771/0048/08	West Stream Willow Planting & Lopping	38,510.69
771/0048/09	West Stream Pest Plants Control	1,284.41
771/0048/10	West Stream Weirs	107.30
771/0048/11	West Stream Floodgates	3,066.75
Total		\$527,493.28

Typical maintenance activities on Donald's Creek include but are not limited to.

- Stopbank mowing and vegetation control.
- Channel clearing and vegetation control.
- Repairs to stream bank erosion.
- Floodgate maintenance.
- Annual asset condition inspections and reporting.

The cost of the original Donald's Creek flood protection works was estimated as \$341,000.

The costs of the consultants who undertook the 'Donald's Creek detention facility – hydrological study' in 2018 was \$13,350.

The balance of the scheme fund at today's date:

As there is no ring-fenced Donald's Creek funding, which as advised above is managed as part of the overall LWVDS, this part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the Act on the grounds that the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington, and Greater Wellington does not believe that the information is held by another local authority, a department, a Minister of the Crown, or organisation.

Any planned expenditure from that last total:

The planned work for 2022/23 include:

Description	Forecast expenditure
Vegetation Control	2,000.00
Asset inspection and condition reporting	500.00
Donald's Creek and Abbott's Creek Flooding Hazard Modelling study	100,000.00

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Wayne O'Donnell
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Whaitua | General Manager Catchment Management Group