

27 November 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-32277

By email: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2024-281

I refer to your request for information dated 30 October 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on the same day. You have requested the following:

“All Metlink cost savings options, timeframes, and all budgets/budget forecasts in relation to before and after the cost-savings. Please also provide all communications with staff, and whether any jobs have been cut”

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

On 4 September 2024, the government released its 2024-2027 National Land Transport Programme. This document, amongst other things, provides a breakdown of the government’s investment and activities into public transport for the next 3 financial years.

While Greater Wellington is still assessing the extent of the Government’s Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024-2034, the funding shortfall for public transport from decisions in the 2024-2027 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) is estimated at \$134 million over three years (2024/25 – 2026/27).

We understand this NLTP funding shortfall to be the context for your query, and this is the basis of our response.

Greater Wellington believes it has sufficient funding to maintain most services operating today, but there is minimal scope to invest in new assets and infrastructure with little to no central government funding.

Greater Wellington Council Chair, Daran Ponter, wrote to mayors, mana whenua, and members of Parliament in September 2024 about the funding shortfall and public transport challenges:

https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2024/09/Letter-to-MPs_Mayors_Manawhenua-PT-funding-100924.pdf

All Metlink cost savings options, timeframes, and all budgets/budget forecasts in relation to before and after the cost-savings

As we advised on 31 October 2024, there was a report delivered to Greater Wellington councillors regarding the implications of the NLTP's funding changes. The information in this report addresses this part of your request.

You may access the report and the Council meeting's order paper at:

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2024/10/Council-31-October-2024-Order-Paper-Public-.pdf>. The information relevant to your inquiry is from pages 430 to 447.

You may watch a recording of this council meeting at:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/dBpjaQEpd8?si=l8zhNhFPC9b0oimu>

All communications with staff

On 31 October 2024, our team reached out to you requesting clarification of your request regarding "communication with staff" and for a timeframe wherein you would like the information to be sourced. As we explained in our email, the phrasing of "with staff" is unclear if you were requesting all communications between staff or communications that were had with staff, i.e. from senior management.

As we received no response to our request for clarification, we are interpreting your request of communications with staff to be all communications from senior management with the wider staff between 1 September 2024 and 31 October 2024. This period was chosen to align with the date that the NLTP funding information was released (4 September 2024) and the date that we contacted you requesting clarification of the request.

Please refer to **Attachment 1** for a copy of all communication with staff made during the time period outlined above.

Please note that some details have been withheld from this document to protect the privacy of individuals not employed by Greater Wellington or government agencies. These redactions have been made in line with section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Additionally, information considered outside of scope of your request has been withheld from the document.

Whether any jobs have been cut

At this time, no jobs have been cut at Greater Wellington in response to the change in funding as a part of the National Land Transport Programme.

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 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

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

Nāku iti noa, nā



Samantha Gain

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | Group Manager Metlink

PROACTIVE RELEASE