

23 February 2026

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-47887

By email: [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

### **Request for information 2026-044**

I refer to your request for information dated 4 Feb 2026, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 4 Feb 2026. You have requested the following:

*“Could you please let me know when the below figure referenced in your response was calculated (and if possible, send a copy of the report)?”*

*[...] In previous information releases, particularly regarding the cost of services to the Wairarapa for any ‘Unitary’ analysis, Greater Wellington has applied multiple formulas for estimating the expenditure applied to the Wairarapa area.*

*The estimate of the cost of services (rating impact) for Wairarapa, based on apportionment of Group activity expenditure including overheads, is \$40 million (excl. GST) (\$30 million, excluding overheads).*

*The apportionment of Group activity expenditure is based on officers’ estimate and review, considering factors including location of staff, assessment of effort and knowledge of programmes. [...]”*

### **Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

Your request has been assessed under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act).

Please find below our initial cut of numbers outlining Greater Wellingtons investment in the Wairarapa. While these are still relatively high-level numbers, it does provide a reasonably clear explanation of where Greater Wellington invests in the Wairarapa, what for, and how we have quantified this. It also outlines where Greater Wellingtons revenue comes from via rates in the Wairarapa and presents the funding ‘gap’ between revenue and expenditure.

A few explanatory notes:

- These numbers are based on the percentage allocation of Greater Wellingtons activity rates by Group of activity.
- They provide information that both includes and excludes overheads. Our overhead allocation is based on costs of central support services that enable frontline and rate activities to operate effectively, such as finance, treasury, IT, employment services etc.
- They are based on the 2025/26 annual plan budget.
- They are based on a cost 'allocation' regime as described in the table below. The approach of using percentage of activity was utilised for the 2016 Morrison Low Wairarapa Local Government Options report with allocations based on location of cost and staff, population proportion, iwi location proportion and general rates contribution. Public Transport estimates were a mix of location of cost, proportion of work programme, and proportion of trip kms.
- It's also worth noting that these figures are based on current expenditure and make no allowance for planned future investments, such as the new regional trains.
- Note our financial system does not hold the detailed breakdown information by geographic area; in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, our expenses are categorised by activity type.

2025/26 Annual Plan Group Activity	Allocation %	Wairarapa Investment Including overhead \$m	Wairarapa Investment Excluding overhead \$m
Environment & Flood Protection	29.0%	34.6	24.5
MetLink Public Transport	5.7%	8.8	8.3
Regional Strategy & Partnerships	10.0%	2.2	2.0
Investments	10.0%	1.9	1.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>43.7</b>	<b>33.4</b>

A more detailed breakdown of costs by Activity Group is below:

**Environment & Flood Protection: 29%**

- This activity has 80 cost centres of which, 40 can be directly attributed to Wairarapa or non-Wairarapa activity. For instance, flood protection maintenance and capital programmes can be easily separated into Wairarapa and non-Wairarapa locations. We have high confidence in these numbers.
- The remaining 40 cost centres within the environment & flood protection activity cannot be directly attributed to Wairarapa and are allocated based on percentages.

These are in areas such as knowledge and information/science (30% allocation), strategy and policy (30% allocation), regulation (30% allocation), flood planning and investigation (30% allocation), pest management (50% allocation) and land management (90% allocation). We have medium confidence in these numbers and have therefore applied a conservative approach to the allocations for these 40 cost centres.

**Metlink Public Transport: 5.7%**

- This estimate was reviewed and confirmed in September 2023 and are based on the 2016 Morrison Low report referred to above. The percentage allocation was reviewed for reasonableness when applied to our current LTP budget, and we have a medium confidence in these numbers.
- These figures provide assumptions for both bus and rail.

**Strategy & Partnerships: 10%, and Investments: 10%**

- Allocated by a Wairarapa general rates percentage (10.7%) with conservatism it was rounded down to 10%. We have high confidence in this number.

**By way of summary for 25/26:**

- Net Greater Wellington **spend** in the Wairarapa \$33.4m (**excluding** overheads and external revenue)
- Greater Wellington rates **income** from Wairarapa \$19.3m
  - General rate \$10.73m
  - Transport \$5.27m
  - River schemes \$2.07m
  - Catchment schemes \$0.49m
  - Wellington Regional Strategy \$0.46m
  - Warm Wellington \$0.26m
  - Regional stadium \$0.02m
- **Funding 'Gap'**
  - \$14.1m **excluding** overheads; or
  - \$24.4m **including** overheads

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 appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Alison Trustrum-Rainey**

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Pūtea me ngā Tūraru | Group Manager Finance and Risk

PROACTIVE RELEASE