



29 October 2025

Mands Valentine

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Mands,

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 27 October 2025, seeking information about the closure of the Ava Rail Bridge and voter turnout statistics. Specifically, you requested:

1. The reason for the closure of the Ava Rail Bridge until mid-2026 and whether the walking and cycling paths on the bridge are being widened to allow two-way traffic.
2. The percentage of voter turnout at the last local elections and how this compares with the previous elections.

Answer:

1. *The existing Ava footbridge has to be removed as part KiwiRail's work to replace ageing infrastructure on the rail bridge.*

Designs for the new shared-use bridge are being developed by Egis NZ Limited. We had originally planned to share the designs in October, but due to delays with testing we now expect to share them in November 2025.¹

The shared path will be wider to enable users travelling in opposite directions to pass safely.

¹ [Ava Rail Bridge Shared Path | Hutt City Council](#)

Further information regarding the Ava Rail Bridge can be found here [Ava Rail Bridge Shared Path | Hutt City Council](#) and here [YouTube](#).

2. The voter return at the last local elections was 41.56%, being 33,038 votes, including special votes.

The voter return in 2022 was 40.24%, being 31,408 votes, excluding special votes.

All information regarding the local elections can be found at [Local Government Elections | Hutt City Council](#)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [Office of the Ombudsman - Complaints](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases - Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui

Lakna Siriwardena

Legal Operations Advisor