

12 May 2023

Daisy McWedge

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Tēnā koe Daisy

### **Request for Information pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)**

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 April 2023, in which you have requested the following official information:

1. *What is the total number of council-owned playgrounds in your area?*
2. *What is the number of disability accessible council-owned playgrounds in your area?*
  - a. *Please provide details of what accessibility features they provide*
3. *What is the total number of council-owned public toilets in your area?*
4. *What is the number of disability accessible council-owned public toilets in your area?*
5. *What is the total number of council-owned public swimming pools in your area?*
6. *What is the number of disability accessible public swimming pools in your area?*
  - a. *Please provide details of what accessibility features they provide*
7. *What is the current population size your council serves*

We have responded to these questions below.

#### *Playgrounds*

Hutt City Council has 57 playgrounds around Lower Hutt. This includes three playgrounds that are inside swimming pool complexes.

With there being so many different types of disability, it is very difficult making playgrounds fully accessible to everyone. Many playgrounds have pieces of equipment that are suitable for children with disabilities, and some of our playgrounds have surfacing arranged in ways that enable children and caregivers with disabilities to access the equipment. While children and caregivers with disabilities are able to enjoy play opportunities in our public spaces, Hutt City Council does not provide playgrounds where every piece of equipment and surface is fully accessible.

The Council's focus on in the last few years has been on access routes to play equipment, for example, with artificial safety surface mats. New Installations with barked surrounds have had ramps installed for users, helping those with visual impairments, walking aids, wheelchairs and prams gain access to the play equipment.

#### *Toilets*

Information about public toilet facilities in Lower Hutt, including identifying those with accessible toilets, is provided on the Hutt City Council website on the following link:

<https://huttcity.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/ab818e582dff48e3be6ddd392486f1d0>

This map does not include toilet facilities that are inside Council-owned buildings, such as inside library or swimming pool complexes.

### *Swimming pools*

Lower Hutt has five public swimming pools. Two of these are open through the year (Huia and Stokes Valley pools) with an additional three pools being open in summer months only (McKenzie, Wainuiomata and Eastbourne). A sixth pool is under construction in Naenae.

Most areas in the pool complexes are accessible. Not all pools are fully accessible. Accessible pool facilities include:

- Huia pool has a specialised hydrotherapy pool designed for people with disabilities, those rehabilitating from injuries, and those with less mobility. Facilities include a full hoist, ramp and a therapy bench with jets aimed at the back.
- At Stokes Valley and McKenzie main pools, and Huia's hydrotherapy pool, an access ramp is available. Ramp access is also available to Stokes Valley's learner pool.
- Eastbourne summer pool includes a specially designed access ladder for seniors and people who require some mobility support, for providing access to its main pool.
- Accessible carparking and changing facilities.

The new Naenae Pool and Fitness Centre, which is under construction and will open in 2024, is designed to be fully accessible to all residents and visitors. Its design features include mobility parking, a single flat level, accessible changing rooms with showers; long access ramps into the pools and hoists available poolside and in a changing room.

### *Population*

Lower Hutt had an estimated population of 112,500 as of June 2022.

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 [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales  
**Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy**