



25 June 2025

Vatau Sagaga

s7(2)(a)

Dear Vatau

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

We refer to your official information request dated 26 May 2025 for information about the artificial sports turf at Hutt Recreation Ground in Lower Hutt. Specifically, you have asked:

We are after a full breakdown of the costs of creating the ground including design, earthworks, drainage works, fencing, electrical etc.

Please confirm how much of the cost was covered by the council and if any costs were covered by private donations.

Please also provide details of the annual costs to maintain the turf from its creation to 2024.

**Answer:**

In response to your question about the **cost of construction**, the artificial turf was constructed in 2015 as part of the Hutt Recreation Ground Development. Due to changes in our systems since that time, detailed breakdowns are not readily accessible.

However, we have identified the following sources which may be of use to you:

- [Hutt City Council Annual Report 2014–2015](#): This report notes a total expenditure of \$1,778,000 on the Hutt Recreation Ground Development, which included the installation of the artificial turf.
- [Hutt City Council Community Plan Subcommittee Minutes](#) (26 February 2014, page 16): The scope of the development included: Installation of drainage, an all-weather turf surface for training and junior competition, re-forming of the sporting surface layout, construction of a new cricket practice facility, and a new 100m sprint track for athletics.

While the turf cost is included within the overall development budget, we are unable to identify the cost specific to the artificial turf alone. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA because the information is not held.

We have identified documentation confirming a **third-party contribution** of \$215,000 toward the artificial turf project at Hutt Recreation Ground. This contribution is recorded in the relevant Turf Use Agreement.

With regard to the **annual cost of maintaining the turf**, we are unable to provide a consistent year-by-year breakdown from 2015 to the present. This is because of changes in internal systems, different maintenance contractors over time, and the way costs have been recorded under a general account for the entire park.

However, the current maintenance contract—signed in 2020—sets the annual cost at \$12,644.56 + GST. This amount is based on 2020 pricing and is adjusted each year to reflect increases in the cost of goods and services.

Please note that this figure does not include costs for specific assessments required by different sports codes, nor does it cover lighting, fencing, or major repairs (such as replacing the turf surface). These additional costs are also recorded under the general Hutt Recreation Ground maintenance account, so we are unable to separate out turf-specific expenses over time.

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 response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases | Hutt City Council](#)

Yours sincerely

Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy