

9 June 2023

Cameron Taylor

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Susan Sales  
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Our reference: LGOIMA

Dear Cameron

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

We refer to your official information request dated 13 May 2023 for information about 'CBD pickup points' signage, specifically:

1. *When were these signs put up and how many signs were there?*
2. *What suburbs had the signs?*
3. *What was the cost for the signs to be put up?*
4. *What was the purpose of the signs and how effective was their usage?*
5. *Is there any value in the signs remaining and if they are not in use are plans being made to remove them?*

The information you have requested is below.

*When were these signs put up and how many signs were there? What suburbs had the signs?*

Signage was initially installed in the Western Hills in 2006, to trial an informal car-pooling pick-up point, at the suggestion of ex-councillor Chris Milne. Under a later scheme, promoted by the East Harbour Carbon Reduction Action Group in 2010, signage was added in Eastbourne. We are unable to advise how many signs were installed.

*What was the cost for the signs to be put up?*

The cost per pole and sign has been advised to be under \$100.

*What was the purpose of the signs and how effective was their usage?*

The purpose was to instigate a meeting point for informal car-pooling to Lower Hutt and Wellington cities, to help lower emissions and road congestion. Usage appears to have reduced with time, although they remain active.

*Is there any value in the signs remaining and if they are not in use are plans being made to remove them?*

With the 2023 vehicle kilometre travelled (VKT) reduction programme underway with Waka Kotahi, the Council is reluctant to remove the signage as the public may be motivated to enhance companion travelling, to reduce car usage in response to climate emergency and with a goal to provide a sustainable land transport system.

You may find more information in the following public articles:

[www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/7678995/Hitch-hiking-pickup-signs-condemned](http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/7678995/Hitch-hiking-pickup-signs-condemned)

[www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/local-papers/hutt-news/3393381/Cut-carbon-share-cars](http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/local-papers/hutt-news/3393381/Cut-carbon-share-cars)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. 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. Please refer to the following link: [www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contact-us/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contact-us/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases)

Yours sincerely



Susan Sales

**Senior Advisor Official Information and Privacy**