

31 March 2023

Byron Cummins  
President, Wellington Branch  
BRONZ Inc

s 7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Byron

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

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 March 2023, in which you have requested official information relating to Wellington Water Limited (WWL).

Each of your questions are answered in turn below.

**What was the reason Wellington Water was created?**

WWL was created by shareholder councils in the region to coordinate, manage and deliver three waters infrastructure and services on their behalf. Note that Hutt City Council and Wellington City Council established Capacity Infrastructure Services Limited in 2004, which became WWL in 2014 when the other councils joined.

**What legal reasons were behind Wellington Water being created?**

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) enables councils to establish Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) for the delivery of local authority undertakings, including those relating to **three waters** services (see part 5 of the LGA).

**What was the dollar amount of funds collected by Hutt City Council for its water services and maintenance over the past 10 years?**

These are available from our published Annual Reports. Please refer to the Hutt City Council website: [www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/annual-plans-and-publications/annual-reports](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/annual-plans-and-publications/annual-reports)

**What dollar amount of Hutt City Council collected funds in that period of 10 years was actually spent on water services/maintenance?**

These are available from our published Annual Reports. Please refer to the Hutt City Council website: [www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/annual-plans-and-publications/annual-reports](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/annual-plans-and-publications/annual-reports)

**What dollar value of the Hutt City Council collected funds over the last 10 years for water services have been diverted to 'other projects'?**

Nil

**What cost increase in dollar terms was incurred to change to Wellington Water?**

Council funds WWL to operate and manage its three waters assets. At the time council established Capacity Infrastructure Services Limited in 2004 it was required to undertake a special consultative procedure which would have provided a wide range of information on the proposal for community consideration.

**As Wellington Water is owned by six councils, what is the profit margin recorded by Wellington Water?**

WWL operates at a level commensurate with the funding it receives from each shareholder council. It is not established to make a profit.

**Who approved the prioritisation methodology Wellington Water uses? ie, as advertised – up to 4lt/min is low priority.**

WWL establishes the prioritisation methodology for managing water leaks, as our trusted technical advisors.

**What level of control does Hutt City Council have over Wellington Water operations?**

Hutt City Council, like other councils, has input into WWL, through the establishment of the Statement of Intent (SOI), which establishes the strategic priorities for the company each year. The SOI is prepared in draft form by WWL each year and is finalised through the Water Committee with all shareholder councils having input. WWL provides monthly reports to council on its operations and expenditure and produces half yearly and annual reports which can be found on its website at: [www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/documents/document-library/](http://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/documents/document-library/)

**What is the culpability of Wellington Water to HCC for failed services/lack of maintenance?**

WWL carries out its functions subject to the level of funding provided by the council and available resources. WWL cannot be held responsible for the poor performance of aging infrastructure with historical underfunding from councils.

**What is the culpability of Wellington Water to HCC for damages caused by failed services/lack of maintenance?**

Hutt City Council as the asset owner is responsible for possible liabilities relating to water services activities.

**What methodology is in place for HCC to ensure Wellington Water is undertaking the works required to ensure services and maintenance?**

WWL reports to council on key performance indicators through its SOI. It also provides monthly reports on its operations.

**When was the service and performance of Wellington Water last reviewed? What was the outcome and actions required from this last review?**

WWL was established in 2014. There have been four variations to the service level agreement since then, where the parties have reviewed the services provided by the company and changes made. These are largely in response to legislative changes. WWL's performance is reviewed through its annual reporting to shareholder councils. There have been no other reviews.

**What methodology does HCC have in place to ensure the required actions of a review have been met?**

WWL's performance is managed through the formal processes in the LGA as indicated above (SOI and Annual Reports). Reviews of specific functions or activities such as the Fluoride Review are managed by WWL's Board with input from shareholder councils.

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**