

23 December 2019

LGOIMA No. 8140006011
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Harrison

By Email: fyi-request-11721-f934cfc1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Harrison

Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987
Records of all cattle owned by Auckland Council

I refer to your request which we received on 24 November 2019, regarding records of all cattle owned by Auckland Council. Our response to your questions is as follows:

In response to your request, I consulted with the council's Community Facilities department and the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority (Maunga Authority) to provide relevant information.

The Maunga Authority confirmed that they do not have any cattle owned by Auckland Council on any maunga.

NAIT records of all cattle alive/dead/exported/missing held and/or owned by Auckland Council, i.e. at regional parks, mountains, etc.

Please refer to the **attached** NAIT records of cattle on council-owned parks.

In the case of the council not owning cattle on council-owned land, the agreements/contracts in place

Please refer to the **attached** lease/licence agreements for cattle grazing on council-owned lands.

Please note the Long Bay Regional Park Licence has been included in the list of agreements. The licence expired in July 2019 and the grazier has since ceased grazing the land.

Information relating to the licence fees and licence fee reviews in the lease/licence agreements have been redacted under the following sections of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

- Section 7(2)(b)(ii) where making the information available would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information; and
- Section 7(2)(h) to enable the council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

Information about the 'High performance Hereford breeding program' being deployed to replace the 'historical 100% trading system' and what is this?

The 100% trading system is where cattle is purchased to fatten up and sell. Council is now moving towards both breeding and finishing cattle.

The Auckland Council farming business in the Community Facilities department has moved away from purchasing all cattle towards having a Hereford breeding cow herd.

This provides council with calves which we then grow on council parks that we farm on. This allows us to better manage any biosecurity risks, such as Mycoplasma Bovis, while providing a lighter stock class that is wintered on some of our heavy soils.

The aim is to have the beef calves primed for sale at 18-20 months of age before their second winter.

Council has been purchasing high-quality bulls for these cows. We are focusing on the [Hereford Prime Index](#). The index estimates the genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow.

What will happen to the current herds?

The current stock on hand is being replaced as they are sold. Stock are sold to meat companies.

Any policies/rules relating to cattle (i.e. safety, when to sell them, etc.)

Council has several rules relating to cattle. They come from the [Animal Welfare Act](#) and the widely accepted "five freedoms of animal welfare under human control:

1. freedom from hunger and thirst - by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigour.
2. freedom from discomfort - providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. freedom from pain, injury or disease.
4. freedom to express normal behaviour.
5. freedom from fear and distress.

Other rules come under council's management of Kauri Dieback (KDB). Council has parks classified from Green (confirmed clear of KDB), Amber (unconfirmed), and Red (confirmed KDB infected). Council can move stock in the direction on Green to Amber to Red but not the other way, this is to avoid the movement of soil on the cattle's feet.

The decision to sell stock is based on several factors:

- feed supply;
- environmental concerns - livestock weight and how wet our soils are;
- markets - beef schedules;
- cattle size and weight;
- alternative stocking options - for example, are we better to carry lambs instead;
- parasite management.

Due to the size of the attachments, the information can be accessed by using the below OneDrive link

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!Ar3AEgw1mNLnzAxM4k3kvJz-DwB2?e=jfeA7d>

Please note the link expires after 30 days. We recommend you save the information to your personal computer.

Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request you have the right to seek a review of the decision from the Ombudsman.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any further queries please contact me on 09 301 0101, quoting LGOIMA No. 8140006011.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Hua
Privacy & LGOIMA Business Partner
Democracy Services