

24 July 2020

File Ref: OIAP-7-15874

Tony Randle

**By email:** [fyi-request-13157-a6476872@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13157-a6476872@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Randle

### **Request for information 2020-094**

In your email dated 26 June 2020 you requested the following information from Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington):

- ‘1) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of the business case(s) that support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services?’*
- 2) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of reports and/or presentations to council meetings that support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services along with the meeting agenda and minutes?’*
- 3) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of reports and/or presentations to council workshops that support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services along with the workshop agenda and minutes?’*
- 4) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of detailed benefit calculations used to support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services?’*
- 5) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of detailed cost calculations used to support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services?’*
- 6) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of any reports and/or presentations that outlined the increased contract costs of Tranzurban and NZ Bus acquiring 98 new electric buses compared to using diesel buses and from where these increased costs will be funded?’*
- 7) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of any reports and/or presentations where the decision to increase the Wellington electric bus fleet would be done through contracts with operators instead of these electric buses being acquired by GWRC and leased to the bus operators (as with the passenger rail fleet)?’*
- 8) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of any correspondence, reports or presentations with NZTA associated with obtaining their agreement and support for the GWRC to increase the Wellington electric bus fleet?’*

*9) The specifications of the new electric buses (including dimensions, weight empty, weight fully loaded, seats, capacity seated & standing, range between charging, facilities such as heating and air-conditioning).'*

Greater Wellington's response follows:

- 1) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of the business case(s) that support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services?*

The Council has made a number of recent decisions to increase the electric buses in the fleet by 98 - taking the total to 108. Greater Wellington does not possess a single, formal business case for the increase in the electric bus fleet. However, the attachments provide rationale to the Council's recent decisions to agree to the acquisition of electric buses.

- 2) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of reports and/or presentations to council meetings that support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services along with the meeting agenda and minutes?*

Please refer to attachments 1-18.

- 3) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of reports and/or presentations to council workshops that support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services along with the workshop agenda and minutes?*

Please refer to attachment 6.

- 4) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of detailed benefit calculations used to support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services?*

Please refer to attachments 11 and 12.

- 5) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of detailed cost calculations used to support the increase in the electric bus fleet to support Wellington bus services?*

Please refer to attachment 11 and 12.

- 6) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of any reports and/or presentations that outlined the increased contract costs of Tranzurban and NZ Bus acquiring 98 new electric buses compared to using diesel buses and from where these increased costs will be funded?*

Please refer to attachments 7, 8, 9 and 14.

- 7) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of any reports and/or presentations where the decision to increase the Wellington electric bus fleet would be done through contracts with operators*

*instead of these electric buses being acquired by GWRC and leased to the bus operators (as with the passenger rail fleet)?*

Under current contract models, Greater Wellington does not own the buses currently in service, and therefore decision-informing documents of the sort you refer to do not exist. This part of your request has therefore been refused in accordance with section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the ground that the information requested does not exist.

*8) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of any correspondence, reports or presentations with NZTA associated with obtaining their agreement and support for the GWRC to increase the Wellington electric bus fleet?*

We have identified two pieces of correspondence between Greater Wellington with Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) which relate to electric bus procurement contracts. We have elected to withhold these documents in full under Section 7(2)(i) and Section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.

*9) The specifications of the new electric buses (including dimensions, weight empty, weight fully loaded, seats, capacity seated & standing, range between charging, facilities such as heating and air-conditioning).'*

We have a range of specifications for the new electric buses that we are currently discussing through our negotiations with the operators. We will be pleased to share more information on the new bus specifications as they are confirmed. We can confirm that one model will have climate air-conditioning, and the other will have air-conditioning with electric heaters. Both bus models will be classified as large vehicles and therefore will have 75 or more passengers (excluding driver) and includes minimum of 36 seats. The maximum length will need to be no more than 12.8m excluding the bike rack on the front. Greater Wellington does not have criteria for weights as this is a transport law requirement and is managed through the Waka Kotahi Certificate or Fitness certification process.

#### Document list

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Information withheld</b>
1	Confirmed public excluded of the Council meeting on 13 September 2019	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Section 7(2)(i)
2	Confirmed public excluded of the Council meeting on 1 September 2018	Section 7(2)(i)

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Information withheld</b>
3	Confirmed public minutes of the Sustainable Transport Committee meeting on 18 September 2019	Released in full
4	Confirmed Restricted public excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 14 May 2019	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Section 7(2)(i)
5	Declaring a climate emergency	Released in full
6	Electric bus fleet - presented to a Council workshop 5 December 2019	Section 7(2)(b)(ii)
7	Report Public Excluded 19.393 - Fleet acquisition	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Section 7(2)(i)
8	Report Public Excluded 19.188 - Future Fleet Options	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Section 7(2)(i) Section 7(2)(f)(i)
9	Restricted Public Excluded minutes – Council meeting 12 December 2019	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Section 7(2)(i)
10	Report 19.364 – Setting a carbon neutrality target for GWRC	Released in full
11	Report Public Excluded 19.231 – Strategic Assessment for transitioning to a zero emission bus fleet	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Section 7(2)(i)
12	Attachment 1 to Report PE 19.231 - Strategic Assessment for transitioning to a zero emission bus fleet	Section 7(2)(i)

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Information withheld</b>
13	Attachment 2 to Report 19.364 - The cost of inaction on climate change	Released in full
14	Attachment 2 to Report 19.188 – NZ Bus Fleet proposal timeline	Released in full
15	Attachment 1 to 19.364 – Setting a carbon target for GWRC	Released in full
16	Report 19.292 – What is a Climate Emergency?	Released in full
17	Attachment 2 to report 19.342 – Options Assessment	Released in full
18	Attachment 3 to report 19.292 – Action plan to support the declaration of a Climate Emergency	Released in full

Information has been withheld pertaining to sensitive contractual information under the following three sections of the Act on the basis that:

- Section 7(2)(i) – in order to allow Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations);
- Section 7(2)(b)(ii) – as this would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of Greater Wellington and its operators;
- Section 7(2)(f)(i) – to allow the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of Greater Wellington.

Certain information has been removed on the basis that it does not fall within the scope of your request. These are marked accordingly on the attached documents.

We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs Greater Wellington’s need to withhold certain aspects of the requested information. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs Greater Wellington’s reason for withholding parts of the document under the grounds identified above.

We hope you find the attached information useful. If you have any additional questions, please let us know.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Gallacher", written over a horizontal line.

**Scott Gallacher**  
General Manager  
Metlink