



Ref: 21-101
Julian Emeny
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8 July 2021

David Dahya
Via email: fyi-request-15976-c9c737a8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear David

Official information request for information regarding the Aotea Lagoon and fencing at Terrace Road carpark

I refer to your official information request dated Monday 5 July for information relating to Aotea Lagoon and fencing at Terrace Road carpark.

The information you have requested is enclosed. The questions you specified have been included as numbered headings in bold below, with our response following each heading.

Aotea Lagoon duck pond

- 1. Would ignoring the issues to maintain and repair the duck pond after all these years lead to and promote algae growth - depleting oxygen from the water- and subsequently causing a lethal and toxic environment to dogs?**

No. Any lack of maintenance would not promote algae growth.

- 2. What was the reason for not building the splash pad over the duck pond- initial plans were to build over the duck pond but then was relocated to the adjacent grassy area?**

The cost of building a splash pad on top of the duck pond proved too expensive and time consuming so was not in scope for the project or budget.

- 3. Why is it that whenever a new mayor is elected focus on redeveloping areas within Aotea Lagoon arise?**

The decision to fill in the duck pond was planned well before the election of the current Mayor.

- 4. Why didn't the council 'vow' to fix the duck pond when it was needed over 3 years ago, when it was brought to their attention, when they didn't have a wage subsidy to repay?**

The remediation of the duck pond has been a lengthy process due to numerous consents required and planning to ensure the project is done right.

- 5. When did council first become aware of the stench/hazard issues with the duck pond?**

Every summer when temperatures rise the algae naturally creates an odour and we are alerted to it by users of the spaces.

- 6. What have they done since then to address it?**

There is no remediation that can affordably be done to reduce the odour apart from removing the pond.

- 7. When did the council decide to redevelop the duck pond?**

For the last three years planning and discussions have been taking place in regards to developing the duck pond.

8. At what stage was the public initially consulted and notified of the intended proposed redevelopment?

There is no formal public notification or consultation required to fill in the duck pond.

9. Has the council kept us fully informed of the proposed development?

Yes, by way of signage at the reserve, our Council website, multiple social media posts and media enquiries.

10. What was the result of the council's online poll/survey last year on whether the pond area should be redeveloped?

The feedback was that the community generally wanted the duck pond to be remediated in some shape or form.

11. Why would the council decide to redevelop the pond just after the re-establishment of the duck population after a long absence due to the neglect of the pond?

We don't monitor when ducks are in the duck pond nor does that influence when we decide to do work.

12. The council has not considered what happens to the ducks if the duck pond is redeveloped over - does the council know what the results of removing their habitat would be?

The Council has not received professional advice on where the ducks will re-habitat to. However we believe there are other local habitats.

13. Has the council considered, before deciding to redevelop the duck pond, what will happen to the recently re-established duck population if it is redeveloped over –in other words- have they considered the results of removing their existing habitat?

Please see answer to question 12.

14. What has the council done to retain the Kiwi elements of NZ and how have they shown they value custom and history - or are they just interested vote gathering projects?

The Council does not hold this information.

15. What would be more costly - the restoration of the duck pond or a complete redevelopment of that area?

Generally, the redevelopment of an entire park is an expensive exercise. The Council is currently developing a masterplan.

Terrace Road car park fencing

1. Has there ever been a tragedy (or loss of life) involving that area of the cliff top/ due to lack of fencing?

Yes.

2. What is the reason for having fencing around the duck pond at Aotea lagoon?

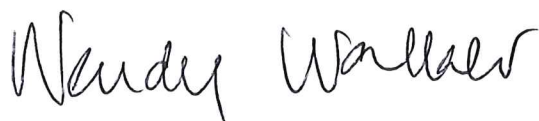
The fencing around the duck pond is the original fencing and at the time staff considered it a risk due to the close proximity of the children's playground.

3. What is the reason for NOT having fencing on the cliff top at Terrace Road car park?

There is no requirement for a fence at the cliff top at the Terrace Road carpark. However, we are planning planting that will create a natural barrier at the site.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Julian Emeny, Manager Parks and City Services.

Ngā mihi



Wendy Walker
Chief Executive
Kaiwhakahaere Matua

