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Enquiries to: Laura Van Veen
Client ID: REQ175861



3 August 2021

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Francis Phan
Via email: fyi-request-16010-f3b7e12b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Francis

Official Information Request REQ175861 Te Huia Projected costs and patronage

I refer to your request for information received by Council 8 July 2021.

Request Details:

Dear Waikato Regional Council, I am requesting information under the Official Information act regarding

1. The projection for patronage levels for the Te Huia train service from when it was launched till the next 5 years (or till a point that is the end of the projection the Ministry has if such projection ends sooner than 2026), presented as daily number of people using the train service. The methodology of estimation is optional.
2. The annual costs of operation of the Te Huia train service in 2021, and projected rise in such costs of operation in 2022, and if it happens to be available, until 2026.

Council Response

1. The projection for patronage levels for the Te Huia train service from when it was launched till the next 5 years (or till a point that is the end of the projection the Ministry has if such projection ends sooner than 2026), presented as daily number of people using the train service. The methodology of estimation is optional.

For the purpose of this request, a passenger count (1) is defined as: An individual travelling to/from Frankton (Hamilton) or Huntly to/from Papakura (Auckland) – single trip.

Please find below the projected average daily patronage in Te Huia's Annual Business Plan for the next 5 financial years (including 2020/21):

Financial Year	Projected Average Daily Patronage (Monday to Friday)
2020/21	200
2021/22	287
2022/23	413
2023/24	422
2024/25	432
2025/26	442

Note: The estimations of patronage assumed that demand would ramp-up in the first three years of the Te Huia service and achieve 422 passenger per weekday by 2022/23. This is a 2.3% growth rate per annum.

Financial Year	Projected Average Daily Patronage (Saturdays)
2020/21	116
2021/22	161
2022/23	241
2023/24	331
2024/25	338
2025/26	346

The detailed method of estimation is not provided at this time. We trust the above is satisfactory.

2. The annual costs of operation of the Te Huia train service in 2021, and projected rise in such costs of operation in 2022, and if it happens to be available, until 2026.

The total gross operating cost (for the 2021/22 financial year) for the Te Huia service is \$7,681,612. Every year after this, the operating cost per year will be adjusted to reflect inflation.

Note: Gross means that this figure has not been adjusted for fare revenue.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at laura.vanveen@waikatoregion.govt.nz.

Yours faithfully



Laura Van Veen
Statutory Processes Advisor, Democracy