

03 February 2022

Official Information Request No. 8140009806
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Iain Palmer

fyi-request-17736-7d6185aa@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Iain

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Re: support for rail heritage groups

I refer to your email, which we received on 27 November 2021 and subsequent refinement on 14 January 2022, requesting information about support for rail heritage groups.

I have liaised with our Grants and Incentives Manager and our Team Leader Heritage Information in relation to your request. For clarification, we have interpreted the word 'support' to pertain to financial assistance.

1. *What public good activities in the 2020 financial year did Auckland Council undertake in support of the various rail heritage groups with its Region? There are a number of other rail heritage groups within the Auckland boundary, how has Auckland Council supported them? These include;*

- Auckland Dock line Tram
- Glenbrook Vintage Railway
- Helensville Railway Station Trust
- Railway Enthusiasts Society Inc

Our experts have found the following rail heritage groups may be operating within the Auckland region:

- Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand
- Glenbrook Vintage Railway
- The Railway Enthusiasts Trust
- The MOTAT groups (Western Springs Railway, Western Springs Tramway and the Dockline Tram)
- Helensville Railway Station Trust
- Auckland Electric Tramways Company Ltd
- Waitakere Tramline Society (closed 2014 and managed by Watercare)
- Remuera Railway Station Preservation Trust
- Papatoetoe Railway Station Preservation Trust
- Swanson Railway Station Trust
- Auckland Society of Model Engineers Incorporated (models)
- Manukau Live Steamers (small gauge)
- Heritage Trams for Henderson Society Inc
- Whangapararua Narrow Gauge Railway

We have compared the above list against applications to council's community grants programme, to see what, if any, applications were made to council for funding. The results are as follows:

- Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand – no applications have been received.
- Glenbrook Vintage Railway – an application was received in the 17/18 financial year and two applications in 19/20.
- The Railway Enthusiasts Trust – no applications have been received.
- The MOTAT groups (Western Springs Railway, Western Springs Tramway and the Dockline Tram). All identified grants come under the Auckland Electric Tramways Trust or Remuera Railways Station Preservation Trust.
- Helensville Railway Station Trust – an application was received in 13/14 and one in 15/16.
- Auckland Electric Tramways Company Ltd – an application was received for 17/18; four applications in 18/19; one application in 19/20; and one application in 20/21. The application in 20/21 was successful and a grant awarded.
- Waitakere Tramline Society (closed 2014 and managed by Watercare) - no applications were received.
- Remuera Railway Station Preservation Trust – three applications were received in 19/20 and one application in 20/21. The application in 20/21 was successful and a grant awarded.
- Papatoetoe Railway Station Preservation Trust – only one application was received in 14/15.
- Swanson Railway Station Trust - no applications have been received.
- Auckland Society of Model Engineers Incorporated (models) - no applications have been received.
- Manukau Live Steamers (small gauge) - no applications have been received.
- Heritage Trams for Henderson Society Inc - no applications have been received.
- Whangapararua Narrow Gauge Railway - no applications have been received.

2. *Furthermore, what is Councils policy in relation to both supporting and engaging with these rail heritage groups?*

Auckland Council does not have a specific policy in relation to supporting and engaging with rail heritage groups. Therefore, the information pertaining to this question has been refused under Section 17 (e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act - *that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.* However, Auckland Council provides various forms of support to community groups. On our website there is the section called "Grants, Community Support & Housing" which may be of some assistance. For ease of reference, I have passed this below;

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/grants-community-support-housing/Pages/default.aspx>

Decisions pertaining to the withholding of this information have been made by **Morna Macfarlane - Acting Group Treasurer.**

Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request, you have the right by way of complaint, under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA, to apply to the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of the decision.

If you have any further queries please contact me on 09 301 0101 quoting Official Information Request No. 8140009806.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a trailing line.

Grace Ray
Senior Privacy & Official Information Business Partner
Governance Services