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17 August 2022

Mike Hunua

By email: [fyi-request-20176-9c1c37aa@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-20176-9c1c37aa@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Mike

**Information Request – Waiharara Scrub Fire**

I refer to your official information request dated 8 August 2022 asking for the following information.

*“Could you provide the incident report and costings for the Waiharara fire in the Far North District that started in December 2021 and burnt over 2000ha of wetland scrub.”*

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (“OIA”), please find below a response to your request.

**SMS Incident report**

Fire and Emergency New Zealand is conducting a thorough investigation into all the events that lead to the outbreak of the fire in the Kaimaumau Wetland in the Far North. This investigation is still underway, and we are taking all contributing factors into account. Until this investigation is complete, we cannot release or comment on any of our findings to date. Accordingly, this information is being withheld under section 6(c) of the OIA, as to provide the information at this time would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law (i.e. the post-incident analysis investigation). Please be assured we are working hard to have the investigation complete as soon as possible.

**Costs**

Please see the costs of the incident set out in the table below. This table shows the invoiced costs up to 8 August 2022 for the fire. It is possible that total costs may increase as additional invoices are received. Of note, the invoices represent the additional cost we incur beyond our fixed cost of maintaining a response capability.

| <b>F3383177 - Norton Rd Waiharara 18/12/21</b> |             |
|--|-------------|
| Hire of Aerial Services                        | \$4,677,970 |

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| External Firefighting Services                | \$2,114,079        |
| Volunteer payments                            | \$415,920          |
| Employee payments                             | \$407,236          |
| Plant & Equipment Hire - Operational          | \$345,732          |
| Incident catering                             | \$315,590          |
| Travel & Accommodation & Meals                | \$198,156          |
| Foam  | \$154,343          |
| Occupancy                                     | \$142,946          |
| Other supplies                                | \$72,866           |
| Operational Equipment <\$1000                 | \$51,042           |
| Fuel  | \$33,629           |
| Fleet repairs and maintenance                 | \$25,977           |
| Laundry costs                                 | \$19,606           |
| Printing and Stationery                       | \$10,853           |
| Freight charges                               | \$9,712            |
| Personal protective equipment (PPE)           | \$8,995            |
| Paramedics (external)                         | \$8,894            |
| Computer and communications equipment costs   | \$6,566            |
| Operational equipment repairs and maintenance | \$4,937            |
| Consultants                                   | \$1,504            |
| Miscellaneous costs                           | \$1,362            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                            | <b>\$9,027,916</b> |

The list below details the types of goods and services that make up some of the payments in the table.

- Employee payments may include payments for overtime and travel reimbursements.
- Volunteer payments may include reimbursements for mileage, parking, petrol, travel costs or meals.
- Consultants may include engineering services and weather information.
- Occupancy may include rental of property, security, cleaning and waste removal.
- External firefighting services are those resources that are not owned or, in the case of people, are not employed by Fire and Emergency. They may include forestry company or Department of Conservation personnel, and operators of heavy equipment such as diggers, bulldozers, and water tankers.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Julia McCook-Weir  
Manager, Information Requests