

3 October 2022

Phillip Hart
fyi-request-20314-6e19aaba@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-10830

Dear Phil

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 22 August 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please supply a detailed breakdown of all the costs incurred for the opening ceremony and events for the Waterview Tunnel in June 2017:

"A number of formal and community celebration events were held in between Sunday 18 and Tuesday 27 June 2017."

Based on currently available information, the costs for Waterview Connection public open days at the completion of the project in 2017 are outlined in the below table:

Event category	Costs
Cost of the opening ceremony events	\$760,000
Events over the 5-year construction period	\$228,000
Tunnel Boring Breakthrough Events	\$172,000
Total	\$1,160,000

For context, the total cost of the development and construction of this major infrastructure project was \$1.4 billion. The opening ceremony events were spread across three days and included a limited viewing for the contractors who built the tunnel, following by public walk throughs and cycle trips into the tunnel. It also included the opening ceremony, dawn blessing and a charity event. The charity event resulted in a donation of approximately \$80,000 to Ronald McDonald House.

The costs to plan and deliver these events included temporary traffic management (TTM), transport, security, catering, videography / photography, portaloos, hire, marquee hire and more.

A number of these events were planned and delivered by the Well-Connected Alliance (the Alliance), which has since been disestablished. A further breakdown of the costs to plan and deliver the Alliance events is not available.

Celebrating the completion and opening of major new transport projects has occurred in New Zealand for a long period of time, including for the opening of the Waterview Tunnel. The events recognise years of disruption for local communities and acknowledge the important contributions of partners such as local councils and iwi. They provide the local communities, stakeholders, project staff and

their families a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a fully completed project up close before it becomes an active part of the transport network and off-limits to foot traffic.

Public open days in particular are highly valued by local communities with strong demand for the opportunity to participate in events which often include allowing thousands of people to walk or cycle on new roads before they open to traffic. Planning and delivering opening events of this scale and managing them safely is a major logistical exercise which does come at a cost.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Ministerial Services, by email to Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Jones', written in a cursive style.

Karen Jones

General Manager Engagement and Partnership