From: Laura Cannon
To: Councillor Diane Calvert
Cc: Councillor Tony Randle

Subject: RE: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

**Date:** Thursday, 20 June 2024 8:19:15 am

Attachments: image001.png image002.png imace003.png

Thanks, Diane.

I'll come over to WCC for 12 noon and meet you at reception.

Thanks,

#### **Laura Cannon**

Sector Manager – Local Government Group

s7(2)(a) s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz

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From: Councillor Diane Calvert <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 8:13 AM

Subject: RE: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

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Hi Laura

We will find a room at WCC. Yes 12 noon works well for us.

Diane

#### Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

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From: Laura Cannon <s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 8:12 AM

Subject: RE: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

Kia ora Diane,

I can meet with you both at 12 noon today if that suits.

You are welcome to come to our office, I could come to WCC, or we could meet over Teams – let me know which you prefer. If WCC or Teams, I have more flexibility with time as I'm restricted by room availability in our office today (only 12-1pm, or 2.30-3.30pm currently available).

Let me know your preference.

Ngā mihi, Laura

From: Councillor Diane Calvert <xxxxx xxxxxxx@xxx xxxx xx >>

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 4:57 PM

To: Laura Cannon ⟨s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz⟩

Cc: Karen Young  $\sqrt{57(2)(a)}$  @auditnz.parliament.nz>; Councillor Tony Randle  $\sqrt{2000}$  @auditnz.parliament.nz

Subject: RE: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

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Hi Laura

Tony and I are available from 9.30am anytime.

Diane

#### Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

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From: Laura Cannon <s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 2:36 PM

Subject: RE: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

Kia ora Diane,

Noting that you wish to meet before Friday, I am looking into OAG/Audit NZ availability tomorrow – please can you confirm that you and Tony would be available for a meeting tomorrow.

Ngā mihi,

Laura

#### Laura Cannon

Sector Manager – Local Government Group

s7(2)(a) s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz

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From: Councillor Diane Calvert < xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx >

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 12:49 PM

To: Laura Cannon <<u>\$7(2)(a)</u> @oag.parliament.nz>

Cc: Karen Young <<u>\$7(2)(a)</u> @auditnz.parliament.nz>; Councillor Tony Randle <<u>xxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxxxx</u>>

Subject: RE: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

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Thanks Laura

I do wish to meet along with the Deputy Chair of Audit and Risk-Tony Randle. This is raising concerns that past audits including the audit of the recent LTP consultation document did not significantly highlight the Council's continual breach of its debt limit.

Regards

Diane

#### Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

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From: Laura Cannon <s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 12:46 PM

To: Councillor Diane Calvert <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxxx >
Cc: Karen Young <57(2)(a) @auditnz.parliament.nz>

Subject: RE: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

Kia ora Diane.

Thank you for your e-mail and for sharing your concerns with us. Karen is addressing matters relating to the airport shares and debt headroom as part of our independent LTP audit and will report her findings to the OAG for review on Friday. We need to complete the full audit process before we are in a position to comment on our findings.

Therefore, unless you have any new/additional information to share with us re: debt headroom, we may not need to meet at this stage of the process. However, please let us know if you have further information you would like us to consider as part of the audit.

Ngā mihi, Laura

#### **Laura Cannon**

Sector Manager – Local Government Group

s7(2)(a) |s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz

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**From:** Councillor Diane Calvert < xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxxx >>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 10:45 AM

To: Karen Young <s7(2)(a) @auditnz.parliament.nz>; Laura Cannon <s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

**Cc:** Councillor Tony Randle < xxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx >

**Subject:** RE: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

#### CAUTION External email: Unless you are certain the email is from a trusted source, DO NOT click links or open attachments.

Further to my email below I wish to meet with you both to discuss my concerns that the final LTP is not complicit is not making it clear to the public about the city's debt situation. At the meeting, I will also bring the Deputy Chair of Audit & Risk - Tony Randle.

Can we please find a suitable time **before this Friday** when I understand OAG and Audit NZ are meeting to review the findings of the audit.

Regards

Diane

#### Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

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**From:** Councillor Diane Calvert **Sent:** Sunday, June 16, 2024 3:47 PM

\$7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Subject: FW: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

FYI

Please note my last paragraph to Councillor Brown in the email below ie

"But the headroom is bullshit. Its a fiction. I'm sure a key reason council hasn't honoured this limit to its borrowing is because everyone

knows that it does not exist and means nothing." causes me great concern. This also suggests that the Mayor, some elected members, the executive, our external auditor and the Office of the Auditor General are also complicit in this charade to dupe the public and Council's governors

Regards Diane

Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

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From: Councillor Diane Calvert Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2024 3:33 PM 

Subject: FW: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

#### Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

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**From:** Councillor Diane Calvert < xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx >

Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2024 3:32 PM

To: Councillor Tim Brown <xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx >; Mayor Tory Whanau <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx

Subject: RE: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

Tim

The pool has nothing to do with the situation and in any case had far more broad support (17/18 votes) than either the sale of the shares or the LTP. And guess what! it had a huge amount of public support especially when the clear facts where laid out and not solely relying on officer information. I trust however there is no attempt to 'blackmail' me to fall into line?

I have always been very clear that my support for the sale of the airport shares had to be good for the city hence why I supported and negotiated the extra controls around the ring fencing of the proceeds and that we wouldn't increase our debt to what was proposed.

In terms of your specific comments'

Overall you have incorrectly considered limits that this Council has agreed on being 'voluntary" and only an agreement to "honour". Whilst we can 'honour' agreements, we also have a fiduciary requirement to ensure we adhere to what we have agreed and included in our strategy that has been consulted on with and advised to Wellingtonians (the ones who pay the bills and who we serve) ie a limit of 225% debt to income ratio

- 1. I have never previously heard the debt to income ratio as 'voluntary' . The Council has one which it set itself via its Financial Strategy ie 225%. Whether that is approved by LGFA or S&P is ancillary to Council's own decision. In any case the 225% is not a target but a limit.
- 2. The majority of elected members in the past circa 2021 wanted to increase the limit to the maximum permitted ie 280% because interest rates were low. There were however a few of us (especially those that had seen cycles of economic changes) knew what comes down, can easily go up ie interest rates (as has been proven)
- 3. As noted in 1, the 225% rate is not something just to be 'honoured' but is a limit as part of our financial strategy. For the council to continue to blatantly overreach is not acceptable and not good financial governance if we continually allow that to occur
- 4. As noted above the ratio is not governed solely through being 'voluntary' but is a limit that this council set.
- 5. We had many graphs provided to us showing the dire state of the city's finances included those through the KPMG Balance Sheet review in 2023 which was publicly withheld for eight months for no valid reason by officers and the Mayor. Simply we have to cut planned expenditure. That can be done by looking at the 'big rocks' and not playing around the edges with 'pebbles' as in local community facilities
- 6. You are correct with calling things 'bulldust' but it's much more sinisterly broader and deeper than that. The whole thing is

- 'bulldust' as we need to deal with cutting expenditure. That was why I was happy to see the \$272 million headroom remain as a means to cut expenditure now and not in 10 years.
- 7. You suggest that the debt situation has existed for some time. That is exactly why I have continually publicly raised concerns about council expenditure since 2021 (at the last LTP) even if hampered by the executive saying information was 'confidential' when it was clearly not.
- 8. As per 7

The rest of your commentary shows exactly why there is a clear lack of transparency with elected members and the public and reinforces that I made the correct statement on Friday.

Your comment "But the headroom is bullshit. Its a fiction. I'm sure a key reason council hasn't honoured this limit to its borrowing is because everyone knows that it does not exist and means nothing." causes me great concern. This also suggests that the Mayor, some elected members, the executive, our external auditor and the Office of the Auditor General are also complicit in this charade to dupe the public and Council's governors.

Regards

#### Diane

#### Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

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From: Councillor Tim Brown <xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx >>

Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 10:18 PM

Subject: Re: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

#### Diane

Well there goes the pool, or are you just seeking to up the anti and get it heated?

But seriously, I'm unsure if this is your Road to Damascus moment or something else

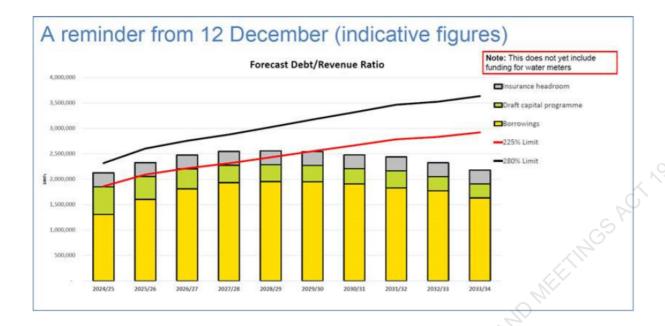
Council's projected debt profile has been abundantly clear through out

The "\$272 million debt headroom" is irrelevant except as a signal.

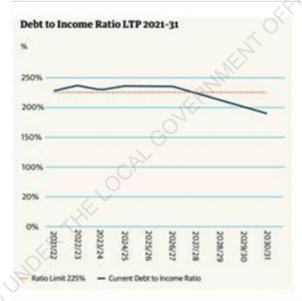
To assert otherwise now defies credibility.

Several people, notably Tony and Paul RS, made a big deal of this, and I'm happy to repeat the points I made to them.

- 1. Council honours two externally recommended Debt/Revenue ratios. One from LGFA and one from S&P. The former is 225% and the latter 250%. Remaining below 225% is voluntary, but if Council borrows above that level, (except briefly) it will increase Council's cost of funds.
- It's not compulsory, Council could borrow more (Auckland Council has a higher ceiling and Watercare has
  recently had its ceiling raised to 500%), but our management have persuaded WCC councillors to keep
  borrowing below 225%.
- 3. In addition to recognising (and honouring) the 225% ceiling, Council also has the \$272m of earthquake-related headroom. This is in effect saying "we will borrow up to 225% of revenue minus \$272m". But the "minus \$272m" isn't honoured. As illustrated below, it has never been honoured.
- 4. Both the 225% and the \$272m are voluntary rules. The former is honoured, the latter not. As explained below, this is logical.
- 5. The following graph (one of many provided to us) makes the point very clearly. The reason Tony insisted on retaining the \$272m headroom is that it *could* have an affect (as a signal), even if it hasn't thus far. In the meantime, when annual spending and revenue programs are agreed someone concerned about Council borrowing can point to the breach, but that is it's only relevance.



- 6. The reason the 225% is honoured and the \$272m isn't is due to the nature of the consequences. Breaching the 225% ceiling would have an immediate and tangible impact on Council's borrowing cost. Breaching the \$272m doesn't mean anything. You may say "but if we leave that capacity, isn't that money we can tap after a disaster?" But of course Council couldn't. Its bulldust. If a major disaster strikes Wellington tonight, no one is going to lend Council anything, debt headroom or no debt headroom.
- 7. Its important to recognise that not delivering the \$272m of headroom is nothing new. Your Road to Damascus moment has occurred a long way down the road. The following graph shows WCC's debt/revenue as projected for the last LTP (as it happens, Council's actual borrowing has been less than this as capex lagged projections).



8. I'm sure you were aware of Council's borrowing and where it sat relative to revenue. But seemingly not of where it sat relative to the \$272m of headroom. No surprise, the headroom was, and is, chimerical (a thing which is hoped for but is illusory). As such, why bother noticing it.

If we establish the Fund we will have improved Council's risk profile, have done the moral thing of preparing for rebuilding after a disaster, and brought insurance cost, risk, and management into focus. It's the first step.

Does it impact the headroom? No. But the headroom is bullshit. Its a fiction. I'm sure a key reason council hasnt honoured this limit to its borrowing is because everyone knows that it does not exist and means nothing.

It was abundantly clear that establishing the Insurance Fund would not magically cause the chimerical headroom to be suddenly tangible.

It beggars belief that someone of your experience could have only now seen the blinding light (as Saul did on his way to Damascus).

The Earthquake Headroom could be renamed "The Norwegian Blue Headroom" in honour of the Monty Python skit. If you choose to consign the pool to closure, and all the other mischief that voting "no" on the LTP could cause, your call

But try and find a more plausible reason than claiming that you suddenly learnt that the Norwegian Blue Headroom was dead.

Tim

From: Councillor Diane Calvert < Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz >

Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 2:14 PM

To: DL: Councillors < councillors@wcc.govt.nz >; Mayor Tory Whanau < Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz >

Cc: Michael Naylor < Michael. Naylor@wcc.govt.nz >

Subject: Sale of Airport Shares and LTP - I withdraw my support

As you know, the sale of the Airport shares for some elected members was dependent on agreeing "that Council retains the \$272m debt headroom as part of its debt to revenue ratio.." . This was agreed at the LTP committee meeting of 30 May and followed on from the officers' recommendation and supporting documentation.

I have since learned that this will not be achieved until around year 10 of the LTP even though officers noted in the papers that If the debt headroom was retained as well as the fund, larger cuts in the capital programme would be required.

I have just checked with officers and discovered that there is no plans or recommendations to reduce the current large projects capital programme to fit with the debt to income ratio sooner. Because of this I can no longer support the sale or the LTP. I had at least expected there would be a LTP amendment as per clause 15 below.

Regards

Diane

Below is the relevant excerpts from the committee meeting agenda

Agenda of Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee - Thursday, 30 May 2024 (wellington.govt.nz)

#### Page 92

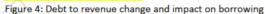
14 Based on modelling, officers recommend the Council would need to reduce its debt by a minimum of \$450m over the 10 years of the LTP. It is important to note however, that this only mitigates risk; it does not create adequate headroom to meet the current underinsurance risk – managing the underinsurance risk through spending and debt reductions alone is not feasible.

15. Given the scale of required change and the statutory responsibilities of Council, the Council would need to carry out an LTP amendment to get public feedback on a new financial strategy, reductions in capital expenditure and possibly levels of service. In adopting the LTP on 27 June, the Council would need to resolve to carry out an LTP amendment within six months (by December 2024), with the commitment to reduce debt by a minimum of \$450m. Officers would work up options for consultation that set out specific details on how those reductions could be made.

16. Achieving the necessary reductions in the capital programme cannot be achieved within the current LTP timetable as the implications of different savings options need to be fully considered. It remains critical that the Council adopts its LTP by 1 July 2024 to meet its statutory obligations and enable collection of rates and the sludge levy. In the event that Council determined not to sell any of the shares, officers recommend the Council adopts the current LTP, committing to a clear plan to amend it within a suitable timeframe

#### Pages 94-95

22. Officers have modelled options for a new debt-to-revenue target and recommend 215% as a starting point as a demonstration of a longer-term commitment to continuing to manage financial constraints. Under the current capital programme in the LTP, this would result in breaches in years two and four – which would be eliminated with an approximate \$40m cut to the programme, or alternatively with a Council resolution to breach for this period. Note this modelling has also taken out the current \$272m debt headroom in recognition that the fund is established. If the debt headroom was retained as well as the fund, larger cuts in the capital programme would be required.





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From: Councillor Ray Chung

To: s7(2)(a)

Subject: RE: Received: Cr Ray Chung / Wellington City Council - Reading Cinemas proposal

**Date:** Tuesday, 7 May 2024 10:54:00 am

Good morning s7(2)(a)

Many thanks and yes, I understand but this isn't a new case but the current one.

Cheers, Ray

From: s7(2)(a) < s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 9:23 AM

To: Councillor Ray Chung <xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxxxx

Subject: RE: Received: Cr Ray Chung / Wellington City Council - Reading Cinemas proposal

Morena Cr Chung,

Dave and Laura have both agreed for me to share their emails with you.

However, I must remind you that any requests for inquiries etc should go through the standard channels via the enquiry email address.

s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz

Ngā mihi,

s7(2)(a)

Executive Co-ordinator – Legal, Policy and Inquiries

s7(2)(a) s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz

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**From:** Councillor Ray Chung < xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx >

**Sent:** Sunday, May 5, 2024 9:02 PM

To: s7(2)(a) < s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Subject: RE: Received: Cr Ray Chung / Wellington City Council - Reading Cinemas proposal

CAUTION External email: Unless you are certain the email is from a trusted source, DO NOT click links or open attachments.

Hi <sup>s7(2)(a)</sup>

I can't recall whether I have David and Laura's email addresses so would you be able to send these to me please?

Many thanks

Cheers, Ray

From: S7(2)(a) < S7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 9:02 AM

**To:** Councillor Ray Chung < <a href="mailto:xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx">xxx.xxxxxx.xx</a> >

Subject: RE: Received: Cr Ray Chung / Wellington City Council - Reading Cinemas proposal

Morena Cr Chung,

Would Tuesday afternoon at 2pm – 3pm work for a meeting?

And if you would like David and Laura could briefly talk today ahead of that meeting for 15 mins at 9.30am?

Ngā mihi,

s7(2)(a)

Executive Coordinator - Legal, Policy and Inquiries

s7(2)(a)

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**From:** Councillor Ray Chung < xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx >

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 8:06 AM

To: s7(2)(a) < s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Subject: Re: Received: Cr Ray Chung / Wellington City Council - Reading Cinemas proposal

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Hi again <sup>\$7(2)(a)</sup>

We think we can cover most issues in 30-45 minutes but even if we can only fit a shorter time, that'll be appreciated and if we don't get it all done, we could possibly continue next Tuesday?

We consider there's an urgency in this case?

Many thanks

Cheers Ray

Ray Chung Councillor Onslow-Western Wellington City Council Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:23:40 PM

To: S7(2)(a) < S7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Subject: Re: Received: Cr Ray Chung / Wellington City Council - Reading Cinemas proposal

Hi <sup>s7(2)(a)</sup>

Thanks for this. I'm guessing 30-60 minutes and coming with **S7(2)(a)** and Cr. Diane Calvert.

If you could let me know tomorrow morning if there's a spot tomorrow afternoon, that'll be great! I can do Tuesday afternoon but will check with the others on this.

Cheers Ray

Ray Chung Councillor Onslow-Western Wellington City Council

From: s7(2)(a) < s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 08:45

Subject: RE: Received: Cr Ray Chung / Wellington City Council - Reading Cinemas proposal

Morena Cr Chung,

How long would you like the meeting for?

Friday is now looking full at this stage, so I will need to confirm with you tomorrow morning.

Alternately I could confirm sometime on Tuesday.

Ngā mihi,

s7(2)(a)

Executive Coordinator - Legal, Policy and Inquiries

s7(2)(a) s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz

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**From:** Councillor Ray Chung < <a href="mailto:xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxxxxx">xxx.xxxxx.xx</a> >

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 4:19 PM

To: s7(2)(a) < s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Subject: RE: Received: Cr Ray Chung / Wellington City Council - Reading Cinemas proposal

CAUTION External email: Unless you are certain the email is from a trusted source, DO NOT click links or open attachments.

Hi<sup>s7(2)(a)</sup>

How about Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> please?

I'm trying to get some more information prior to this meeting

Cheers, Ray

From: s7(2)(a) < s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 2:56 PM

Subject: RE: Received: Cr Ray Chung / Wellington City Council - Reading Cinemas proposal

Tēnā koe Cr Chung,

We would like to arrange a meeting to discuss your letter.

Do any of the below dates/times work with you?

• Friday 22 March: 1-3pm.

• Monday 25 March: 8am-10am.

• Tuesday 26 March: 8am-10am or 1.30-3pm.

• Wednesday 27 March: 10am-12pm.

Alternatively please provide some suggestions and I will see what I can do.

Ngā mihi,

s7(2)(a)

Executive Coordinator - Legal, Policy and Inquiries

s7(2)(a) s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz

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From: David Lemmon Councillor Ray Chung To: Cc: Laura Cannon

Subject: RE: Reading Cinema land Date: Thursday, 9 May 2024 8:16:51 am

#### Kia ora Mr Chung

AND WEETINGS ACT 1981 Thank you for your email. We will consider it with the other material you have provided and the information from our meeting, and will be in touch soon.

Ngā mihi

#### **David Lemmon**

Manager, Inquiries

Legal, Policy and Inquiries Group

Mobile: s7(2)(a) | Email: s7(2)(a)@oag.govt.nz

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From: Councillor Ray Chung < Ray. Chung@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 11:22 AM

@oag.parliament.nz> To: David Lemmon < S7(2)(a)

Subject: Reading Cinema land

You don't often get email from ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz. Learn why this is important

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Hi David and Laura

You will be aware I recently lodged a complaint with your office in respect of Wellington City Council's (WCC) proposal to undertake a loan to Reading Cinemas shaped as a purchase and buy back option for the land that the cinema sits on.

Since the complaint was lodged, WCC CEO- Barbara McKerrow announced on 23 April 2024 that, "staff did not believe they would be able to reach the best possible outcomes for Wellingtonians and the decision was made to not pursue the proposal further."

Whilst this is a good outcome, elected members have informally agreed with the CEO that there does need to be a policy to be put in place to guide the Council on any other future similar proposals.

As part of this policy formulation, I and a number of my colleagues believe it is critical that WCC elected members (governance) and the people of Wellington understand what led the Council to develop up such a proposal and what lessons have been learned to include in future direction. Given that Council staff (through all levels) and some elected members including the leader of the Council (the Mayor) have been inextricably involved in the original proposal, it is important that an independent review is conducted.

You may be interested in the following articles written by a respected member of the public – Paul Ridley-Smith who has significant experience in such commercial deals.

Wellington.Scoop » Good news: the flawed welfare deal is off Wellington.Scoop » The Reading deal: explained, debunked

Following on from my complaint, I believe there is wide public support and interest that an independent investigation/review is undertaken.

We also can't rely on WCC to conduct such a review. When we had a similar situation with the recent extreme blow out on the Town Hall costs, officers and the Mayor did not support a councillor led amendment to review management's governance of the project. It subsequently did not proceed despite public support.

I would hope therefore that your organisation will continue with your independent investigation/review so that the public get the accountability they are looking for along with appropriate improvements identified.

Best regards

Ray

#### **Rayward R Chung**

Wellington City Councillor Onslow Western ward Wellington City Council

#### M = 57(2)(f)(ii)

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# OUT OF SCOPE

On Mon, 27 May 2024, 11:21 pm Councillor Ray Chung, <<u>ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz</u>> wrote:

From: s7(2)(a) < s7(2)(a) <u>@oag.parliament.nz</u>>

**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2024 1:32 PM

To: Councillor Ray Chung < ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz >

Cc: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>; David Lemmon

<s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>

Subject: Reading deal

Tēnā koe Councillor Chung

Please find attached a letter from David Lemmon, Manager of the inquires team about the Reading deal. We plan to publish this letter on our website at 2pm today.

Ngā mihi

s7(2)(a)

s7(2)(a)

Principal Inquiries Specialist – Legal, Policy and Inquiries S7(2)(a) |S7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz

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## OUT OF SCOPE

From: \$7(2)(a) <\$7(2)(a) Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 1:32 PM @oag.parliament.nz>

**To:** Councillor Ray Chung < <u>ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz</u>>

Cc: s7(2)(a) <s7(2)(a) @oag.parliament.nz>; David Lemmon

@oag.parliament.nz> ⊲s7(2)(a)

Subject: Reading deal

#### Tēnā koe Councillor Chung

Please find attached a letter from David Lemmon, Manager of the inquires team about the Reading deal. We plan to publish this letter on our website at 2pm today.

Ngā mihi

al Inquiries Specialist – Legal, Policy and Inquiries

|s7(2)(a)

@oag.parliament.nz

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Wed, 3 Jul at 8:16 AM



### Traffic light crossing bonanza raises hackles

thepost.co.nz

Front page of The Post today. Lucky no water leaks! This is being funded half by NZTA. Concerns raised by businesses & emergency services as well. From: Councillor Ray Chung

To: <u>.@..</u>

**Subject:** LTP amendments for reducing staff **Date:** Tuesday, 28 May 2024 6:26:00 pm

#### Hi Simeon

I was just told today by council officers when I wanted to move an amendment to freeze recruiting more staff with a possible sinking lid that we can't do this because of the Local Government Act and that any authority to do this has to come from central government?

This is very hard to believe? We're continuing to employ more and more staff despite reaching record expenditure and debt! Is this correct as why aren't we cutting back on staffing levels that have grown 27% in the past four years!

Cheers, Ray

#### **Rayward R Chung**

Wellington City Councillor Onslow Western ward Wellington City Council

#### M s7(2)(f)(ii)

E xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx

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Sophie Farrell
Councillor Ray Chung
MoLG to Councillor Ray Chung
Friday, 14 June 2024 11:24:21 am

image001.png Ministerial response to Councillor Ray Chung.pdf

Dear Ray,

Please find attached recent correspondence from Hon Simeon Brown.

Kind regards.



#### Office of Hon Simeon Brown

of Local Government, Minister for Energy, Minster for Auckland

Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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From: Councillor Ray Chung <xexxxx Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:17 AM To: Simeon Brown (MIN) < Subject: RE: MoLG to Councillor Ray Chung

Hi Sophie

Many thanks for this and to Simeon Brown for his comprehensive reply.

I understand his comments on the +/-10% rule and acknowledge that this will not be covered in this upcoming bill, that I absolutely support. Are there any future plans to address this inequity between the qualifying ward numbers between general wards and the Maori ward? The same with the inequity of having unelected members being afforded voting rights on council?

Many thanks

Cheers, Ray

> On Behalf Of Simeon Brown (MIN)

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 2:52 PM To: Councillor Ray Chung < x x xx Subject: MoLG to Councillor Ray Chung

Dear Ray,

Please find attached recent correspondence from Hon Simeon Brown.

Kind regards,



Office of Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport, Minister of Local Government, Minister for Energy, Minster for Auckland

Website: www.Beehive,govt.nz Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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#### **Hon Simeon Brown**

Minister for Energy Minister of Local Government Minister of Transport Minister for Auckland Deputy Leader of the House



**COR797** 

Ray Chung By email: ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz

Dear Ray,

Thank you for your two emails of 28 May 2024 regarding Māori wards and Long-Term Plan (LTP) amendments for staffing levels at Wellington City Council (the Council).

Regarding Māori wards, there are currently no plans to work on the +/- 10% rule. As noted in my response to your 31 March 2024 email, the current +/- 10% rule only applies to different wards of the same type.

If a council has multiple Māori wards, then the +/- 10% rule would apply between these wards as it does for general wards. There are no plans for this policy to be changed in the upcoming Bill. This Bill is also not intended to abolish or amend iwi voting rights on council committees and subcommittees. Currently, this matter is not on the work programme.

I acknowledge your concerns regarding the staffing levels at the Council. However, as the Minister of Local Government, I am primarily responsible for the legislative framework within which local authorities operate. Central government cannot dictate staffing levels, which is a matter for councils. Councils are accountable to their communities for their actions and decisions.

The Local Government Act 2002 sets out the process for councils to develop, consult, and decide on their LTPs. I encourage you to seek advice from council officers or your fellow elected members on the best way to put forward ideas for consideration by both the Council and the community ahead of adopting your next LTP.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Local Government







Thu, 27 Jun at 7:52 PM



Fancy footwork and exploding debt wellington.scoop.co.nz

Happy Matariki!

From: Councillor Ray Chung
To: Nicola Willis
Cc: Celia Horner

**Subject:** Casino for Wellington

**Date:** Wednesday, 26 June 2024 1:24:00 pm

#### Hi Nicola and Celia

We've just finished discussing Takina, our Conference Centre and looking at ways of improving the utility of it and stop or at least slow the continuing losses on it. One idea that came up was to build a casino in there as we consider that as the capital city, it seems that we should have one here.

It's not that we're not considering the oft-discussed negative sides of problem gamblers but many countries and cities have come up with solutions for this such as Singapore.

I recall some years ago, central government decided that there would be a moratorium on building a new casino in Wellington but this had a finite length of time. Has this moratorium expired now and if so, could we start a discussion on this?

Many thanks and looking forward to catching up at the Ethnic Community meeting at Johnsonville next week.

Cheers, Ray

#### **Rayward R Chung**

Wellington City Councillor Onslow Western ward Wellington City Council

#### M s7(2)(f)(ii)

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