



WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL

PO Box 54, Wairoa – Telephone +64 6 838-7309 – Facsimile +64 6 838-8874

3 June 2016

Mr Chris Joblin
PO Box 308
Wairoa 4160

FILE REF A06.10

CC: fyi-request-3980-fa83b91a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Joblin

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST - EXPENDITURE ON ROADING TO ACCESS PROPOSED ROCKET LAB LAUNCH FACILITY AT MAHIA PENINSULA

We are in receipt of your information request dated Friday, 6 May 2016, specifically:

As per my letter addressed to the Mayor in the Wairoa Star Thursday 5th May 2016 -

- 1. Has the Wairoa District Council provided or committed to provide any upgrade of the existing East Coast Road or any formation or upgrade of the East Coast or Tawapata “paper” roads that continue through Onenui Station to the proposed Rocketlab launch site? (including the remedial works on nine existing East Coast Road corners to enable access for longer trucks carrying rocket launch componentry)*
- 2. If so, at what cost and through which WDC budget?*
- 3. Further, has the ratepayer provided any other financial assistance or subsidised services in kind to Rocketlab in any aspect of the construction of the Onenui launchpad infrastructure, be it directly from Council or via a Council subcontractor?*

Our response as follows:

Wairoa District Council's Engineering department has a minor improvements schedule planned for the Mahia East Coast Road which will include safety works on up to nine corners as well as visibility and site rail additions. This is in response to the forecast increase in traffic movements associated with the Rocket Lab launching programme. The anticipated budget for this work is \$100,000 which is funded through the minor improvements work category within current budgets although no work has commenced to date.

The repair and reinstatement of 2 flood damage sites has also been approved by NZTA at a budget of approximately \$150,000. This is funded from the emergency work activity category in response to the September 2015 rain event.

The formation of the road corridor at the end of the current Wairoa District Council road is being carried out by Rocket Lab to a Wairoa District Council approved design. No ratepayer funds are allocated for this work.

I understand Rocket Lab has contracted QRS to supply construction services for the launchpad infrastructure. However, Wairoa District Council has had no involvement in this arrangement nor offered any financial assistance in any form.

I note that undertaking apparent OIA communication with Wairoa District Council via various newspapers, rather than by making a direct request of Council, is potentially problematic, and pre-supposes that Council will (a) be aware of your letters to the media and (b) interpret them as OIA requests. If you wish to lodge an OIA request, in future it would be preferable that you direct your correspondence directly to Wairoa District Council.

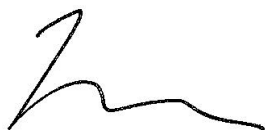
Please note if you are unhappy with the response to your request, you can complain to the Ombudsman.

Under the OIA/LGOIMA, the Ombudsman can investigate:

- decisions to withhold information or to delete information from documents released to you;
- delays or extensions to the time limits for responding to requests;
- charges for supplying information;
- the way in which information has been made available;
- release of information subject to conditions; and
- the response to a request for a statement of reasons for a decision affecting the requester.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact me directly on (06) 838-7309.

Yours sincerely,



Fergus Power
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER