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LGOIMA

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Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from:	Private Individual
Information requested:	Kokatahi/Kowhitirangi rating information
Response by:	Simon Bastion, Chief Executive

14 May 2024

Private Individual

Via Email:

Dear Private Individual

Official information request for rating information for Kokatahi and Kowhitirangi

I refer to your official information request dated 01 May 2024 for rating information for Kokatahi and Kowhitirangi.

You have asked for the following information:

- 1. Pages 71, 72 and 73 of WDC DAP 2024/2025 describes the targeted rates for all ten Community Rating Zones within the Westland District – including the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi District.**

The Kokatahi Kowhitirangi is shown separately on the Funding Impact Statement as calculated differently. This is a special rate and not a community rating zone. We acknowledge the need to be changed and will do so in future references.

- 2. Page 77 provides details of nine Community Rating Zones. It excludes any reference whatsoever for the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi CRZ? Why?**

As above.

- 3. Unlike the other nine community rating Zones, the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi community rating zone does not feature as a separate mapped WDC Community Rating Zone? Why?**

Kokatahi Kowhitirangi are part of the Hokitika Community Zone and are not a separate rating zone. The rate is a specific rate for assets only in the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi area.

- 4. The Kokatahi Kowhitirangi Community Rating Zone is the only WDC CRZ to be also captured within the Hokitika Community Rating Zone. Why?**

Kokatahi Kowhitirangi are part of the Hokitika Community Rating Zone as there are no amenities in this area. As above, acknowledging that Kokatahi Kowhitirangi rate need to be renamed as not a community rating zone. Community rating zones throughout Westland have their own amenities unlike Kokatahi Kowhitirangi.

- 5. There appears to be an anomaly within the WDC DAP 2024/2025 (and indeed also for several previous years), whereby the Kokatahi and Kowhitirangi Districts have also been captured within the Hokitika Community Rating Zone, despite the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi districts having their own Community Rating Zone. What date did WDC commence the “double dip? Of Community Rating Zones for the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi districts?**

This is not “double dipping”, there is only one rating zone in Hokitika of which Kokatahi and Kowhitirangi is included.

- 6. Is this situation transparent, fair and equitable to this group of ratepayers? If so, why?**

As above.

- 7. The WDC DAP 2024/2025 indicates that the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi Districts will also pay the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi CRZ rates of \$261.**

Kokatahi and Kowhitirangi are only part of one Community Rating Zone – Hokitika. As stated above the further special rate is for the assets only in Kokatahi Kowhitirangi and also the \$8,000 per year for Township Development Funding, Hokitika Community Rating Zone does not have a Township Development Fund.

- 8. Based upon the money charged in the 2024/2025 rating year, the combined value of the two separate community rating zone charges, make the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi district the highest Community Rating Zone Districts within the entire Westland District and furthermore, should my interpretation be correct, then they will again “top the polls” as the highest Community Rating Zone for 2024/2025 rating year. Please explain the rationale for this situation.**

As above.

- 9. Hokitika residents enjoy access to the town services and amenities at their doorstep, whilst their “rural cousins” encounter associated travel costs and distances of upwards of 30kms in some instances.**

This includes the local roading network.

- 10. Unlike the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi Community Rating Zone ratepayers, the Ross Community Rating Zone ratepayers are NOT also captured within the Hokitika Community Rating Zone. Why?**

Ross and other areas of Westland have their own amenities.

- 11. Staff advise Kokatahi Kowhitirangi ratepayer sample rates are contained within the Hokitika Community Rating Zone samples under rural and/or rural residential categories – they are NOT listed under the separate Kokatahi Kowhitirangi Community Rating Zone as is the case for all nine other CRZ's? Why?**

They are part of the Hokitika Community Rating Zone.

- 12. How many rateable properties capture within the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi CRZ, are also captured within and charged the Rural Hokitika Community Rating Zone rates?**

205

- 13. What is the total revenue of Hokitika Community Rates collected within the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi Community Rating Zone in the 2023/2024 Rating year to 30 June 2024?**

\$122,351.92

14. How much (if any) of the total Hokitika CRZ rates expended to date, has been expended within the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi Community Rating Zone?

Not applicable, rated for the facilities use by the Hokitika Community Rating Zone.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>.

The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website [here](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Bastion | Chief Executive

SB/MB