

# RURAL CITY LIVING

4 April 2025



[REDACTED]  
Regulatory Solutions Manager  
Hastings District Council  
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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, received by the Gore District Council on 6 March 2025. You have asked for:

*Hastings District Council is reviewing our parking enforcement with respect to over 65-year-olds, and we understand that your Council offers a discounted rate for specific categories.*

*Please advise the type of scheme/s you operate*

*Who is eligible to apply (i.e. residents only, Super Gold Card holders regardless of address)?*

*How many people are on the scheme?*

*What have been the impacts on the retail spend, and how has this been evidenced?*

*Did the scheme have a noticeable impact on occupancy?*

*What is the annual impact on budget? (e.g., if 20% of our over sixty-five demographic parked for free for one hour per week, that would equate to \$398,000 loss in revenue PA)*

The Gore District Council operates an over 80's free parking scheme. It is open to Gore residents over the age of 80 years who hold a current driver's license and are still driving themselves.

These permit holders are identified via a parking permit sticker attached to the front window of their vehicle. It is a requirement that they comply with the time restricted areas. A reminder letter is sent to the permit holder one month before their driver license expires, advising that they need to renew their permit.

There are currently 361 operational permit holders and while we don't hold statistical data about the initiative, such as a connection to retail spend, there has not been a noticeable increase on occupancy within in the town. However, the scheme has been well received by elderly residents and works well from an administrative side.

You have asked what the annual impact on the budget is. The council has not undertaken this analysis and the cost/benefit of undertaking this analysis would be prohibitive. Therefore I need to decline this part of your request under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA as there is no obligation on the Council to create information in order to respond to a request.

I can however provide that the overall revenue collected for parking fees was \$72,269 for the 2023/24 financial year.

If you are unsatisfied with the response, you are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsmen. You can find more information on its website [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact me on 03 209-0330.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Straith', with a stylized, cursive flourish.

Lornae Straith  
General Manager Corporate Support / Chief Financial Officer