

15 July 2026

Stuff.co.nz

[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information dated 26 May 2026, that was subsequently extended on 22 June 2026 to allow staff time respond to your request.

Your request sought:

all costs associated with the Code of Conduct complaints lodged by councillors Joe Stringer, Torrone Smith, Neville Phillips, Robert MacKenzie, Andy Fraser and Paul McPhail against Mel Cupit and Donna Bruce.

a copy of the decisions made by the councils lawyer.

all emails, texts and whatsapp messages sent between councillors from April 23 until today.

To date the Council has not received all invoices for the costs of the complaints. As soon as these have been received, we will provide you with the information.

The report on the investigation into the Code of conduct complaint made by Councillor McKenzie against Councillor Bruce is publicly available through the Council Agenda of 30 June 2026 at www.goredc.govt.nz.

The remaining two complaints are subject to an obligation of confidence and are therefore refused under section 7(2)(c)(i) of the Act given the confidential nature of Code of Conduct complaints and processes of investigation.

Email correspondence between Councillors from 23 April 2026 to 26 May 2026 are enclosed. Note that in some instances, emails exist within an email chain and those emails that are outside the scope of your request are identified and information is removed. A small amount of information has been removed under sections 7(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, such as non-Council staff, private information pertaining to an elected member, or any staff who are below General Manager level.

Some information has been withheld under section 7(2)(f)(i) of the Act where the free and frank expressions of opinions are given in their duty of an employee. There are instances where views have been shared in the expectation that the audience is only peers, and therefore it is important that early views maintain the effective conduct of public affairs.



29 Bowler Avenue, Gore 9710
PO Box 8, Gore 9740

Phone 03 209 0330

Email info@goredc.govt.nz

www.goredc.govt.nz

Further within an email dated 18 May 2026, a small amount of information has been withheld under section 7(2)(i) so that the local authority holding the information can carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.

With regards to text messages, group chats or WhatsApp messages between Councillors in their roles, these are held personally on personal devices (Councillors are not issued with council owned phones) and therefore I release to you those messages provided to the Council for release to you. Note that within these messages, a small amount of personal information has been removed under section 7(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bainbridge-Zafar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Bainbridge-Zafar
Acting Chief Executive

From: [Stewart MacDonell](#)
To: [Lornae Straith](#)
Cc: [Ben Bell](#); [John Gardyne](#); [Mel Cupit](#)
Subject: Airport
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 9:25:23 am

Hi Lornae

s (7)(2)(i) Commerical Negotiations

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards
Stewart

Released under LGIOIMA

From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Ben Bell](#); [Torrone Smith](#); [Neville Phillips](#); [Mel Cupit](#); [Paul McPhail](#); [John Gardyne](#); [Stewart MacDonell](#); [Andy Fraser](#); [Joe Stringer](#); [Nicky Coats](#)
Subject: Big Day yesterday.
Date: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 12:46:37 pm

Just a Quick Comment on a long day yesterday, 7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank

We all make sacrifices at times to sit at the table 7(2)a Privacy

nk

Anyway my point today is letting folk have a say without speaking over them. When I was trying to speak I did not hear what he had to say because of burble in the background.

Plus When Deb was speaking she was having to contend with two or 3 people talking at her at the same time. Lets keep it as polite as possible please and let people talk without interruption then have your turn. Not a biggie but good manners go a long way with this old fart.

Cheers Robert John Murray McKenzie.

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#); [Donna Bruce](#)
Subject: Chambers seating
Date: Thursday, 14 May 2026 3:14:17 pm

Afternoon Ben - s 7(2)a Privacy [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thank you for understanding- Mel & Donna

Sent from my iPhone

Released under LGOMMA

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#); [Donna Bruce](#)
Subject: Council chambers seating
Date: Sunday, 3 May 2026 6:08:32 pm

Hi Ben - this email is from myself and Donna.

We would like to request a change to our seating arrangements at the council table ... being that I swap with Cr McKenzie.

As you're aware, Donna and I both have current allegations against us from half of our team of councillors.

Although we are happy to follow the process that is now underway - s 7(2)a Privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s 7(2)a Privacy

Please consider this, and let us know if it's possible.

Thank you for understanding, Mel & Donna

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Mel Cupit](#)
Subject: Donna Bruce shared "Donna Evidence 2_Redacted" with you
Date: Monday, 4 May 2026 8:38:23 pm
Attachments: [f02895b0-0316-4cd6-b7b6-146c0a591f14.png](#)
[84a14a14-5953-4df4-a0c7-2d5052ef36df.png](#)
[8d423001-403e-46b9-b7da-1d24ca7087c5.png](#)



Donna Bruce invited you to edit a file

-->

Here's the document that Donna Bruce shared with you.



Donna Evidence 2_Redacted

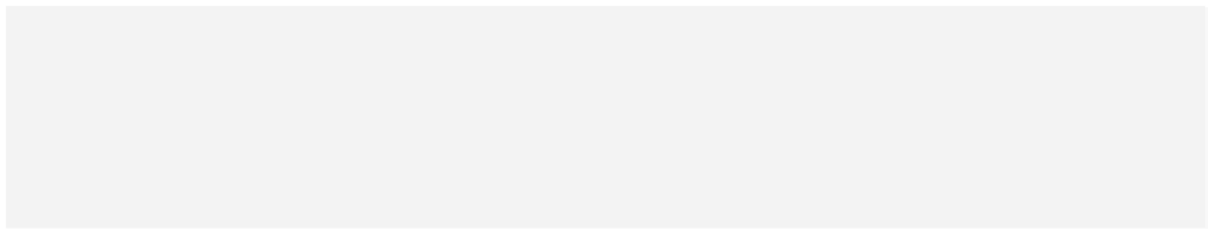


This invite will only work for you and people with existing access.

Open

Share

This email is generated through Gore District Council's use of Microsoft 365 and may contain content that is controlled by Gore District Council.



Released under E.O. 13526

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: s 7(2)a Privacy [Robert McKenzie](#)
Subject: For FB video
Date: Thursday, 23 April 2026 6:42:59 pm
Attachments: [image0.png](#)

Hi  and Caveman ... just saw this and might tie in with your dog video - down by riverside
Cheers Mel



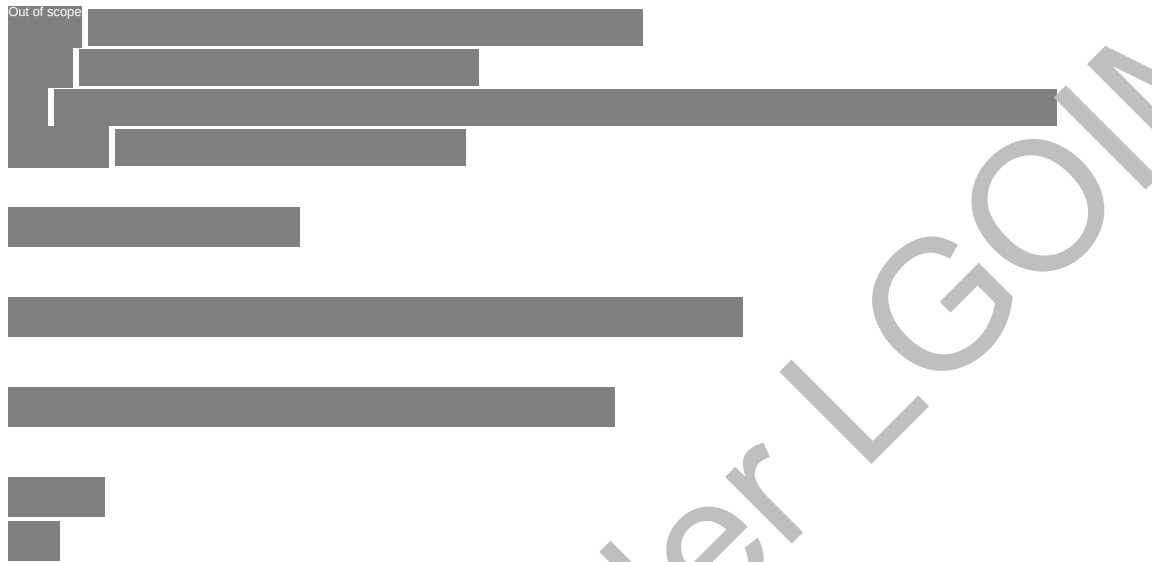
Sent from my iPhone

Released under LGIOIMA

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Mel Cupit](#)
Subject: Fw: Final evidence - Donna Bruce
Date: Thursday, 7 May 2026 7:52:10 pm
Attachments: [Donna_email_evidence.pdf](#)
[Donna Bruce evidence 2.pdf](#)

FYI

Out of scope

The body of the email contains several paragraphs of text that have been completely redacted with black bars. The redactions are as follows:

- A block of four lines of text is redacted.
- A single line of text is redacted.
- A block of two lines of text is redacted.
- A single line of text is redacted.
- A block of two lines of text is redacted.

Released under LGIOIMA

From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [David Bainbridge-Zafar](#); [Lornae Straith](#); [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: FW: Victorian Hydrogen Chat Allan Blood on Cave FM
Date: Friday, 24 April 2026 3:29:08 pm
Attachments: [chat with Allan Blood Victorian Hydrogen.mp3](#)

Here it is folks.

My interview with Allan went really well I must admit being a little nervous talking to a guy whose company is considering spending 3 Billion dollars in the southern region. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence [REDACTED]

Im proud of my work today as a radio host and GDC member.

PS I did manage to stay awake through the whole process.

Cheers CR Caveman

From: Studio, Cave FM <studio@cavefm.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 3:11 pm
To: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Victorian Hydrogen Chat Allan Blood on Cave FM

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: LGC media release
Date: Monday, 25 May 2026 3:12:44 pm
Attachments: [favicon.png](#)

Hi all - incase you haven't seen it, today Commission advised they will be going ahead into Phase 2 of amalgamation investigation. Mel

Southland reorganisation investigation
phase 1 decision - Local Government
Commission
lgc.govt.nz



Sent from my iPhone

Released under LGOMA

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Debbie Lascelles](#)
Cc: [Ben Bell](#); s 7(2)a Privacy
Bcc: [Mel Cupit](#)
Subject: LOGIMA request
Date: Tuesday, 5 May 2026 7:08:29 pm

2.7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please acknowledge receipt of email.

Kind regards

Donna Bruce

Released under LOGIMA

From: [Nicky Coats](#)
To: [Paul McPhail](#)
Date: Friday, 1 May 2026 7:15:45 am
Attachments: [Sister City Working Group Terms of Reference 2026.docx](#)

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Released under LGOIMA

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: Mel's code of conduct
Date: Monday, 11 May 2026 3:19:04 pm

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under LGOMA

From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Lornae Straith](#); [David Bainbridge-Zafar](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea
Date: Sunday, 17 May 2026 12:06:41 pm

Hello Everyone,

Most of you will now know I have been in regular coms with Allan Blood (CEO Victorian Hydrogen) and had a beer together.

As you will also know some of my coms with Allan are commercially sensitive so must be kept confidential and private.

I have given him my word on this. It was fantastic Allan was on grumpy old men show for over 30 minutes with us on Saturday morning

Im proud of the grumps as they asked some very pertinent question's Allan was happy to answer on air. This was his second time on Cave FM.

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

Cheers CM.

OK another idea I have under my coms role is Lets all get Tested for P/Drug use. This could be done in conjunction with local Police in a united show of our distaste towards this crap that is ruining the lives of our young (and some older) people in this wonderful place I have called home for over 66 years.

Obviously this would be on a voluntary basis but a great PR exercise that could be shown as a united council against P and other hard drugs.

If there are no objections I will look into the cost per test (I would pay for my own)
Any Objections ? please do a reply to all right here.. Cheers Caveman Robert John Murray McKenzie

From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: Private and confidential what does it actually mean?
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 11:46:25 pm

7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lets move on and do what we are supposed to do look after the interests of our rate payers and not cost them money ?

We all need to understand what Private and confidential actually means

Just a thought all of my own construction.

Cheers For Now

Robert John Murray McKenzie

From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Donna Bruce](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Ben Bell](#); [David Bainbridge-Zafar](#); [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: RE: 3B fertiliser planned plant proposal (front page Southland times Today)
Date: Thursday, 23 April 2026 10:14:41 am

Hi Donna Can Do..... at the moment we are looking at 2pm Friday for live broadcast with Allan Cheers CM

From: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2026 7:55 am
To: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>; Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; David Bainbridge-Zafar <dbainbridge-zafar@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: 3B fertiliser planned plant proposal (front page Southland times Today)

Thanks Cavey .

Perhaps you could send us the interview once its all done and dusted .

Cheers
Donna

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 8:12 PM
To: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; David Bainbridge-Zafar <dbainbridge-zafar@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: 3B fertiliser planned plant proposal (front page Southland times Today)

Good one Cavey, that's exciting!
Look forward to listening, good luck with a little hustling, Go-Gore!
Sent from my iPhone

On 22 Apr 2026, at 7:50 PM, Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hello everyone,

Great news the executive director Victoria Hydrogen Allan Blood has agreed to a phone interview with me about the proposed 3 Billion plant in the southern
Region. [REDACTED]

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

Best you read the southland times for more info on the process.

Allan knows that I am a GDC member as well as radio station owner and is happy to talk with me tomorrow afternoon or Friday. Time to be confirmed will let you all know.

Yours truly did mention coal in our conversation yesterday and I feel a hussle coming up.

Cheers N Beers Robert

Released under LGIOIMA

From: [John Gardyne](#)
To: s 7(2)a Privacy; [Andy Fraser](#); [Stewart MacDonell](#); [Keith McRobie](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: A & P JMC meeting minutes - 21 May 2026
Date: Tuesday, 26 May 2026 6:27:05 pm

Received with thanks.

From: s 7(2)a Privacy@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 24 May 2026 9:01 pm
To: s 7(2)a Privacy
Andy Fraser <afraser@goredc.govt.nz>; John Gardyne <JGardyne@goredc.govt.nz>; Stewart MacDonell <SMacDonell@goredc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] nz
Subject: A & P JMC meeting minutes - 21 May 2026

Dear all

Please find attached for your information the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 21 May 2026.

Regards, [REDACTED]

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: Re: Amalgamation chat
Date: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 10:45:51 am

Hi Ben

I see Waimate are holding a public meeting re amalgamation . I'd like to suggest Gore District take part in something like this so the community is included in this huge reorganisation of our Southern District

Cheers

Donna

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: s 7(2)(a) Privacy [Joe Stringer](#); [Torrone Smith](#); [Andy Fraser](#); [Paul McPhail](#); [Robert McKenzie](#); [Neville Phillips](#)
Cc: [Debbie Lascelles](#)
Subject: Re: Code of Conduct - Councillor Bruce - Preliminary Assessment - Confidential
Date: Monday, 25 May 2026 8:39:08 pm
Attachments: [ALToituCarbonZero_480px3.png](#)

Dear s 7(2)(a) Privacy

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this matter.

I appreciate the clear and balanced assessment provided. Common sense has prevailed, and I am pleased the complaint has now been dismissed in full.

I also appreciate the professionalism shown throughout the process.

Kind regards,
Donna Bruce

Out of scope

A large rectangular area of the email body is redacted with a solid grey block. The redaction covers approximately 15 lines of text. The text "Out of scope" is written vertically along the left edge of the redacted area.

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [REDACTED] [Robert McKenzie](#)
Cc: s 7(2)a Privacy
Subject: RE: Code of Conduct Allegation - Staff Presentation - Initial Assessment
Date: Friday, 1 May 2026 2:14:31 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon [REDACTED] s 7(2)a Privacy

Thank you for your correspondence regarding this matter.

(2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kind regards
Councillor Bruce

Out of sight [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hi James,

Kind regards

Age Group	Should Take Action	Should Not Take Action
18-29	85%	15%
30-49	85%	15%
50-69	85%	15%
70+	85%	15%

Out of scope

[Redacted]

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Out of scope

The text "Out of scope" is followed by three large rectangular black redaction boxes. The first box covers approximately two lines of text. The second box is larger, covering approximately four lines of text. The third box is a single line of text.

Released under LGIOMA

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: s 7(2)a Privacy
Cc: [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#); [.Senior Leadership Team](#); [Laurel Turnbull](#); [Michelle Hamilton](#); [Steve Dixon](#); [Neil Sinclair](#); [Tanya Rowling](#); s 7(2)a Privacy
Subject: Re: Community Engagement - Multi Sports & Newman Park 10:30am
Date: Friday, 22 May 2026 3:23:42 pm

Hi team - I'm sorry I don't think I will be there tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who organised and has taken time to help, the two days I have done have been awesome . Good luck tomorrow, Mel

Sent from my iPhone

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Released under LGOIMA

Hi

Cheers

Donna

Out of scope

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 2:50:15 PM
To: Nicky Coats <NCoats@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: s 7(2)a Privacy <[REDACTED]>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; Tanya Rowling <trowing@goredc.govt.nz>; Neil Sinclair <nsinclair@goredc.govt.nz>; Michelle Hamilton <mhamilton@goredc.govt.nz>; Laurel Turnbull <LTurnbull@goredc.govt.nz>; Steve Dixon <SDixon@goredc.govt.nz>; .Senior Leadership Team <SeniorLeadershipTeam@goredc.govt.nz>; s 7(2)a Privacy <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Community Engagement - Seeking your availability

Thanks Mel

Sent from my iPhone

On 14 May 2026, at 8:07 AM, Nicky Coats <ncoats@goredc.govt.nz> wrote:

Morning s 7(2)a Privacy

As per my call with you yesterday

Can you please clarify what it is we will be engaging about? Also wondering what the thinking was behind the visitors' centre location? Have the staff at four square been given a heads up?

I'm available for Wednesday and Friday

Thanks
Nicky

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: [s 7\(2\)a Privacy](#)
Cc: [Councillors \(with e-mail\); Tanya Rowling; Neil Sinclair; Nicky Coats; Michelle Hamilton; Laurel Turnbull; Steve Dixon; Senior Leadership Team; s 7\(2\)a Privacy](#)
Subject: Re: Community Engagement - Seeking your availability
Date: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 9:10:34 pm

I can do Monday, Friday and possibly Saturday.
Will we get info later this week on what we will be talking about?
Is it being advertised in Ensign tomorrow?
Thanks Mel

Sent from my iPhone

Out of scope

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His 7(2)a Privacy

Out of scope

[illegible]

From: [Paul McPhail](#)
To: [Robert McKenzie](#); [Joe Stringer](#); [s 7\(2\)\(a\) Privacy](#); [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#); [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#)
Subject: RE: Community Engagement - Seeking your availability
Date: Thursday, 14 May 2026 10:40:06 am

Hi Robert

I do understand your situation at the moment; however, I think at the it is important to put a united front of all councillors doing their bit in this consultation process.

Regards Paul

From: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 14 May 2026 9:25 am
To: Joe Stringer <JStringer@goredc.govt.nz>; Amanda Drew <adrew@goredc.govt.nz>; [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <diascelles@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Community Engagement - Seeking your availability

Hi All,

It may be best that I do not attend the public engagement at the moment [s 7\(2\)\(a\) Privacy](#)

In my coms roll Im doing the best I can for our town and district.

Cheers for Now

Robert John Murray McKenzie

From: Joe Stringer <JStringer@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 14 May 2026 7:57 am
To: [s 7\(2\)\(a\) Privacy](#); [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; Tanya Rowling <trowling@goredc.govt.nz>; Neil Sinclair <nsinclair@goredc.govt.nz>; Nicky Coats <NCoats@goredc.govt.nz>; Michelle Hamilton <mhamilton@goredc.govt.nz>; Laurel Turnbull <LTurnbull@goredc.govt.nz>; Steve Dixon <SDixon@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: [.Senior Leadership Team](#) <SeniorLeadershipTeam@goredc.govt.nz>; [s 7\(2\)\(a\) Privacy](#)
Subject: Re: Community Engagement - Seeking your availability

I can do Monday, and the Friday

Regards

Joe

Out of scope

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under LGIMA

From: [Andy Fraser](#)
To: [Mel Cupit](#); s 7(2)a Privacy
Cc: [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#); [Tanya Rowling](#); [Neil Sinclair](#); [Nicky Coats](#); [Michelle Hamilton](#); [Laurel Turnbull](#); [Steve Dixon](#); [.Senior Leadership Team](#); s 7(2)a Privacy
Subject: RE: Community Engagement - Seeking your availability
Date: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 6:06:20 pm

Afternoon

I can do Monday Thursday and maybe Saturday

Andy

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 9:11 pm
To: s 7(2)a Privacy
Cc: .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; Tanya Rowling <tr Rowling@goredc.govt.nz>; Neil Sinclair <nsinclair@goredc.govt.nz>; Nicky Coats <NCoats@goredc.govt.nz>; Michelle Hamilton <mhamilton@goredc.govt.nz>; Laurel Turnbull <LTurnbull@goredc.govt.nz>; Steve Dixon <SDixon@goredc.govt.nz>; .Senior Leadership Team <SeniorLeadershipTeam@goredc.govt.nz>; s 7(2)a Privacy
Subject: Re: Community Engagement - Seeking your availability

I can do Monday, Friday and possibly Saturday.

Will we get info later this week on what we will be talking about?

Is it being advertised in Ensign tomorrow?

Thanks Mel

Sent from my iPhone

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Torrone Smith](#)
To: [Mel Cupit](#)
Cc: [§ 7\(2\)\(a\) Privacy](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#); Tanya Rowling; Neil Sinclair; Nicky Coats; Michelle Hamilton; Laurel Turnbull; Steve Dixon; [Senior Leadership Team](#); [§ 7\(2\)\(a\) Privacy](#)
Subject: Re: Community Engagement - Seeking your availability
Date: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 1:13:28 pm

Hi
I could do Monday, Thursday or Friday. Thursday would be my preference

Thanks
Torrone
Sent from my iPhone

On 12 May 2026, at 9:10 PM, Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz> wrote:

I can do Monday, Friday and possibly Saturday.
Will we get info later this week on what we will be talking about?
Is it being advertised in Ensign tomorrow?
Thanks Mel

Sent from my iPhone

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Morning

I'm available for Wednesday and Friday

Nicky

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§ 7(2)(a) Privac

Category	Sub-category	Value
Category 1	Sub-category 1.1	10
	Sub-category 1.2	20
	Sub-category 1.3	30
	Sub-category 1.4	40
	Sub-category 1.5	50
	Sub-category 1.6	60
	Sub-category 1.7	70
	Sub-category 1.8	80
Category 2	Sub-category 2.1	90
	Sub-category 2.2	100
	Sub-category 2.3	110
	Sub-category 2.4	120

■■■■■

From: [Nicky Coats](#)
To: s 7(2)a Privacy [Joe Stringer](#); [Ben Bell](#)
Subject: Re: Coster Fund - Seeking approval to advertise a funding round
Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 10:47:36 am
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Hiya

Thursday suits me too

Nga mihi

Nicky

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Out of scope

[Redacted content]

Out of scope

GO RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL
RE CITY
LIVING

**Forgot to
put your
bin out?**

Download Antenna
for bin collection
reminders straight
to your phone!



 **Antenna**
by Infront, Garmisch

 GET IT ON
Google Play

 Download on the
App Store

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#)
Cc: [Donna Bruce](#)
Subject: Re: Council chambers seating
Date: Monday, 4 May 2026 10:18:45 am

OK thank you Ben

Definitely a good idea to have seating change as part of resolution; and I hope you're right that this will be cleared up before our next full meeting.

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

Thanks Mel

Sent from my iPhone

Out of scope

[Redacted content]

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2026 6:08 PM

To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>

Subject: Council chambers seating

Hi Ben - this email is from myself and Donna.

We would like to request a change to our seating arrangements at the council table ... being that I swap with Cr McKenzie.

As you're aware, Donna and I both have current allegations against us from half of our team of councillors.

Although we are happy to follow the process that is now underway - s 7(2)a Privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please consider this, and let us know if it's possible.

Thank you for understanding, Mel & Donna

Sent from my iPhone

Released under LGIOIMA

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Mel Cupit](#); [Ben Bell](#)
Subject: Re: Council chambers seating
Date: Monday, 4 May 2026 10:29:49 am

Hi Ben

Thanks for the update. 2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

s 7(2)a Privacy

Cheers

Donna Bruce

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 10:18 AM
To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Council chambers seating

OK thank you Ben

Definitely a good idea to have seating change as part of resolution; and I hope you're right that this will be cleared up before our next full meeting.

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

Thanks Mel

Sent from my iPhone

Out of scope

Good evening

27 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

27 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence .

Kind regards

Donna Bruce

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under LGOMA

From: [Nicky Coats](#)
To: [s 7\(2\)a Privacy](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#); [Tanya Rowling](#); [Laurel Turnbull](#); [Neil Sinclair](#); [Michelle Hamilton](#); [Steve Dixon](#)
Subject: Re: Housing Survey Report
Date: Thursday, 21 May 2026 1:54:17 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi [s 7\(2\)a Privacy](#)

Hope you have warmed up from last night!

Was such a great result from the Mataura Community right

Not sure if you are on the previous chain of emails, but can you confirm that this is public information and is something we are able to share within our networks

Its a great piece of work

Thanks

Nicky

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Out of scope

[Redacted content]

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks

Question for GDC, is this something that we are able to share within our networks?

Nga mihi

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Out of scope

Figure 10: Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents who reported that their company's revenue had increased, decreased, or remained the same in the last year. The chart shows that 65% of respondents reported an increase in revenue, 25% reported a decrease, and 10% reported no change.

Responsibility	Percentage
Current government	85%
Previous government	10%
Both governments	3%
Neither government	2%

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under E.O. 13526

From: [Neville Phillips](#)
To: [s 7\(2\)\(a\) Privacy](#)
Cc: [Paul McPhail](#)
Subject: RE: Info in Support of the Science Report on Climate Change
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 3:19:43 pm

Hi [s 7\(2\)\(a\) Privacy](#)

Thank you we have been out with the public today so only just catching up with your email.

Paul and I will catch up in the morning and thank you for passing on this great information.

Thanks Neville.

Out of scope

[Redacted content]

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under LGOMMA

From: Nicky Coats
To: Tanya Rowling; Steve Dixon; Neville Phillips; Michelle Hamilton; Laurel Turnbull; Neil Sinclair
Cc: s 7(2)a Privacy
Subject: Re: McKelvie Heights Play Fort
Date: Friday, 8 May 2026 8:54:56 am
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

Morning all,

Is this a potential project that we could get the community involved with.

27 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

Thanks

Nicky

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[Large redacted text block]

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Mel Cupit](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Ben Bell](#); [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: RE: Mel's code of conduct
Date: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 8:14:37 am

Hi Mel,

[REDACTED] 7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

So I genuinely wish you all the best in the future as a GDC member with plenty to offer.

7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank

[REDACTED]

This is my opinion only not that of any others. This is the only comment I will make on this matter.

Please take this message as intended as one of support

Cheers Robert (Caveman)

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 11 May 2025 3:19 pm

To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>

Subject: Mel's code of conduct

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under LGOMA

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: [Debbie Lascelles](#)
Cc: [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: Re: Photos for marketing
Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 6:13:53 pm

I do - will email to you Deb
Sent from my iPhone

Out of scope

The email body contains several lines of redacted text, represented by solid black bars. The first redaction is a single line. The second is a single line. The third is a block of three lines. The fourth is a block of two lines. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Released under LGOIMA" is overlaid on the entire page.

From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Mel Cupit](#)
Subject: RE: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 10:10:35 am

Hi Mel

Nice to have some positive feedback. 2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

The idea about the test is just a way to show our stance against hard drugs as a group?

I think induvial saliva tests are around \$60.00 dollars. I may do one my: elf but as stated this would be on a purely voluntary basis.

Cheers Caveman

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 17 May 2026 1:57 pm
To: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>; Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; Lornae Straith <LStraith@goredc.govt.nz>; David Bainbridge-Zafar <dbainbridge-zafar@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; s 7(2)a Privacy
Subject: Re: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea

I actually heard the interview, and thought it was very good. In another agri podcast he said up to 800 jobs for two years of construction.

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

Not sure on the drug testing, and how that would help the work already being done in the community to educate against drug use?
Will wait Ben's advice on this.

Me

From: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2026 12:06 PM
To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; Lornae Straith <LStraith@goredc.govt.nz>; David

Bainbridge-Zafar <dbainbridge-zafar@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail)

<Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; s 7(2)a Privacy

Subject: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea

Hello Everyone,

Most of you will now know I have been in regular coms with Allan Blood (CEO Victorian Hydrogen) and had a beer together.

As you will also know some of my coms with Allan are commercially sensitive so must be kept confidential and private. I have given him my word on this. It was fantastic Allan was on grumpy old men show for over 30 minutes with us on Saturday morning. Im proud of the grumps as they asked some very pertinent questions. Allan was happy to answer on air. This was his second time on Cave FM.

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

Cheers CM.

OK another Idea I have under my coms role is Lets all get Tested for P/Drug use. This could be done in conjunction with local Police in a united show of our distaste towards this crap That is ruining the lives of our young (and some older) people in this wonderful place I have called home for over 66 years.

Obviously this would be on a voluntary basis but a great PR exercise that could be shown as a united council against P and other hard drugs.

If there are no objections I will look into the cost per test (I would

pay for my own)

Any Objections ? please do a reply to all right here.. Cheers Caveman

Robert John Murray McKenzie

Released under LGIMA

From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Donna Bruce](#); [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Lornae Straith](#); [David Bainbridge-Zafar](#); [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea
Date: Sunday, 17 May 2026 1:10:11 pm

Donna I do not understand how you can think a company looking at spending 3BILLION dollars in our district is not GDC Business? Really?

But at your request I will not include you in any of my emails.

No further correspondence will be entered with you at Your request (please note Donnas request everyone)

Have a Great Day All

From: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 17 May 2026 12:31 pm
To: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>; Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; Lornae Straith <LStraith@goredc.govt.nz>; David Bainbridge-Zafar <dbainbridge-zafar@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; s 7(2)a Privacy [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea

Hi Cr McKenzie

This sounds a lot like s 7(2)a Privacy behaviour. As per previous emails please dont not email unless its strictly council business.

Cheers

Dinna

From: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2026 12:06 PM
To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; Lornae Straith <LStraith@goredc.govt.nz>; David Bainbridge-Zafar <dbainbridge-zafar@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; s 7(2)a Privacy [REDACTED]
Subject: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea

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2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

Cheers CM.

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Obviously this would be on a voluntary basis but a great PR exercise that could be shown as a united council against P and other hard drugs.

If there are no objections I will look into the cost per test (I would pay for my own)

Any Objections ? please do a reply to all right here.. Cheers Caveman Robert John Murray McKenzie

From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Donna Bruce](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Ben Bell](#); [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: RE: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 11:27:11 pm

Apology Donna one last email from me to you (as requested by you there will be no more) Who is [s 7\(2\)a Privacy](#) please? Sorry but I don't know her.

Cheers Caveman

From: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 17 May 2026 12:31 pm
To: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>; Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; Lornae Straith <LStraith@goredc.govt.nz>; David Bainbridge-Zafar <dbainbridge-zafar@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; [s 7\(2\)a Privacy](#)
Subject: Re: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea

Hi Cr McKenzie

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Cheers

Dinna

From: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2026 12:06 PM
To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; Lornae Straith <LStraith@goredc.govt.nz>; David Bainbridge-Zafar <dbainbridge-zafar@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; [s 7\(2\)a Privacy](#)
Subject: Positive news .under my Coms duties etc and a PR Idea

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2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

Cheers CM.

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If there are no objections I will look into the cost per test (I would pay for my own)

Any Objections ? please do a reply to all right here.. Cheers Caveman Robert John Murray McKenzie

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Robert McKenzie](#); [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: Re: Private and confidential what does it actually mean?
Date: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 6:12:24 am

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Donna

From: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 11:46 PM
To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Private and confidential what does it actually mean?

7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lets move on and do what we are supposed to do look after the interests of our rate payers and not cost them money ?

We all need to understand what Private and confidential actually means

Just a thought all of my own construction.

Cheers For Now

Robert John Murray McKenzie

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: [Robert McKenzie](#)
Cc: [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: Re: Private and confidential what does it actually mean?
Date: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 7:21:17 am

Morning Cr McKenzie - 2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[REDACTED]

Kind regards Mel

Sent from my iPhone

On 18 May 2026, at 11:46 PM, Robert McKenzie
<RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz> wrote:

7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank

[REDACTED]

Lets move on and do what we are supposed to do look after the
interests of our rate payers and not cost them money ?

We all need to understand what Private and confidential actually means

Just a thought all of my own construction.

Cheers For Now

Robert John Murray McKenzie

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Donna Bruce](#)
Subject: Re: Private and confidential: code of conduct complaint 23 April
Date: Thursday, 23 April 2026 9:56:53 pm

Gd evening

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

[Redacted]

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Donna Bruce

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under E.O. 13526

Hi **57(2)a Privacy**

Torrone Smith
0278194996
tsmith@goredc.govt.nz

Out of scope

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[REDACTED].jpg>

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Released under E.O. 13526

From: [Nicky Coats](#)
To: s 7(2)a Privacy [Neville Phillips](#); [Tanya Rowling](#); [Michelle Hamilton](#); [Neil Sinclair](#); [Laurel Turnbull](#)
Subject: Re: Public notification for antenno
Date: Friday, 22 May 2026 9:30:17 am

Thanks for the update.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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Out of scope

Released under LGOMA

From: [Neville Phillips](#)
To: [Donna Bruce](#)
Subject: RE: Security funded security
Date: Sunday, 17 May 2026 3:43:41 pm

Hi Donna,

Check in tomorrow and yes, it still needs raised at the meeting as all reports should be made public if there is one unless it is in committee

Cheers

Neville.

From: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 17 May 2026 3:27 pm
To: Neville Phillips <NPhillips@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Security funded security

Hi Neville

Thank you. No have not received anything. I think this needs to be tabled at a public meeting as rate payers are watching this one.

Appreciate your response

Cheers

Donna

From: Neville Phillips <NPhillips@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2026 12:50 PM
To: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Security funded security

Hi Donna,

Thank you for raising this as I also have it listed in my notebook as a question as it should be there for Councillors who were not in attendance or sent the reports for decision I was going to ask in the morning and please let me know if you do not receive it as I am hoping it is just an over site.

Thanks Neville.

From: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 16 May 2026 12:53 pm
To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Security funded security

Good morning team

Just reading the minutes for the Risk and Assurance. Was there a report to be tabled first on whether councillors approve of ratepayer funded security before any policies are amended regarding it?

Thank you

Donna

Released under LGOMA

From: [Mel Cupit](#)
To: [Donna Bruce](#)
Cc: [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: Re: Security funded security
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 10:09:27 am

Checking on this one from minutes of RAC - I also thought like Donna that the item was to be discussed for decision at full council meeting.

Thanks Mel

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 May 2026, at 12:53 PM, Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz> wrote:

Good morning team

Just reading the minutes for the Risk and Assurance. Was there a report to be tabled first on whether councillors approve of ratepayer funded security before any policies are amended regarding it?

Thank you

Donna

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Neville Phillips](#)
Subject: Re: Security funded security
Date: Sunday, 17 May 2026 3:26:40 pm

Hi Neville

Thank you. No have not received anything. I think this needs to be tabled at a public meeting as rate payers are watching this one.

Appreciate your response

Cheers

Donna

From: Neville Phillips <NPhillips@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2026 12:50 PM
To: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Security funded security

Hi Donna,

Thank you noting this as I also have it listed in my notebook as a question as it should be there for Councillors who were not in attendance or sent the reports for decision I was going to ask in the morning and please let me know if you do not receive it as I am hopping it is just an over site.

Thanks Neville.

From: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 16 May 2026 12:53 pm
To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: .Councillors (with email) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Security funded security

Good morning team

Just reading the minutes for the Risk and Assurance. Was there a report to be tabled first on whether councillors approve of ratepayer funded security before any policies are amended regarding it?

Thank you

Donna

From: [Paul McPhail](#)
To: [Mel Cupit](#); [Donna Bruce](#)
Cc: [Ben Bell](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: RE: Security funded security
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 10:32:25 am

Hi Mel

I agree we were to get a report go back to the full council re cost and who has the expertise to decide on who is eligible etc.

Regards Paul

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 10:09 am
To: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Security funded security

Checking on this one from minutes of RAC - I also thought like Donna that the item was to be discussed for decision at full council meeting.

Thanks Mel

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 May 2026, at 12:53 PM, Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz> wrote:

Good morning team

Just reading the minutes for the Risk and Assurance. Was there a report to be tabled on whether councillors approve of ratepayer funded security before any policies are amended regarding it?

Thank you

Donna

Don't worry Andy I got a call yesterday just after 4 and used No Comment as soon as Gerrit announced his name and hung up. Private and confidential is three words btw but will let you away with it on this occasion :p

Joe

From: Andy Fraser <afraser@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 11:01 PM
To: Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Joe Stringer <JStringer@goredc.govt.nz>; Paul McPhail <PMcPhail@goredc.govt.nz>; Torrone Smith <tsmith@goredc.govt.nz>; Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>; Neville Phillips <NPhillips@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Southland times article

Evening

I was contacted and only used those two words, private and confidential .

Andy

Out of scope

Released under the provisions of the Access to Information Act /
Divulgué en vertu de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information

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Released under E.O. 13526

Same here CM
Andy that's 3 words
Cheers CM

Andy

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Released under LGOMA

From: [Nicky Coats](#)
To: s 7(2)a Privacy [Neville Phillips](#); [Tanya Rowling](#); [Steve Dixon](#); [Laurel Turnbull](#); [Michelle Hamilton](#); [Neil Sinclair](#)
Cc: s 7(2)a Privacy
Subject: Re: Splash Pad Closure for 25/26 Season
Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 2:50:45 pm

Thanks s 7(2)a Privacy

There has been fantastic usage over this poor summer we have had! I've seen so many kids and adults down there. Picnics and party's all sorts. So good for the community to see it being used.

Potentially could we do a bit of a promo video, explaining the when and what that you have included in this email for the ratepayers. I'm sure someone from the MCB would been keen to get wet for one last time this season

Let me know if this is doable please

Nga mihi

Nicky

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Out of scope

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Released under LGOIMA

From: [Nicky Coats](#)
To: [Neville Phillips](#); [Tanya Rowling](#); [Steve Dixon](#); [Laurel Turnbull](#); [Michelle Hamilton](#); [Neil Sinclair](#)
Cc: s 7(2)a Privacy
Subject: Re: Splash Pad Closure for 25/26 Season
Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 2:54:45 pm

Perfect, thanks

Have a great rest of your week

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Out of scope

From: Nicky Coats <NCoats@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 2:51 pm
To: s 7(2)a Privacy; Neville Phillips <NPhillips@goredc.govt.nz>; Tanya Rowling <tr Rowling@goredc.govt.nz>; Steve Dixon <SDixon@goredc.govt.nz>; Laurel Turnbull <LTurnbull@goredc.govt.nz>; Michelle Hamilton <mhamilton@goredc.govt.nz>; Neil Sinclair <nsinclair@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: s 7(2)a Privacy
Subject: Re: Splash Pad Closure for 25/26 Season

Thanks s 7(2)a Privacy

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From: [Robert McKenzie](#)
To: [Debbie Lascelles](#); [Ben Bell](#); [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#); [Lornae Straith](#)
Subject: RE: Strategy & Engagement
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 11:59:08 am

Hello All,

A bit of support for our overworked staff please? I understand we all have questions that need answered (in a timely manner). I think it imperative

If the information required is available to us through a little research of our own so be it. If unable we can ask for direction where to look. My personal thoughts are

a massive amount of staff time is being wasted on sometimes (but not always) frivolous matters. s 7(2)(a) Privacy

[REDACTED]

RE the poll a little patience goes a long way (Please) Recent media distractions are taking our focus off getting the job done as best we can?

Have a Fantastic Day Everyone

See Ya all Tuesday

Cheers Robert

-----Original Message-----

Out of scope

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>

Sent: Saturday, 16 May 2026 9:47 am

To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Strategy & Engagement

Morning all

I am just emailing to document my concern with the community pre-engagement.

I will happily take part and do my bit ... but I am confused (and I am new remember, so please bear with me).

1. We had a 30 year vision strategy day

2. We passed motion at 21 April meeting that a pre engagement strategy could be prepared by CE alongside Elected Members, and noting that we were putting 'cart before horse' because we hadn't discussed as a team yet.

3. Final meeting of the day on 21 April was "SLT will bring you all together to discuss your Strategy Day outcomes" we looked at the vision/outcomes taken from the 30 year Strategy Day; we looked at new branding ideas and new taglines, slogans and graphics. We talked about getting out in community, and mentioned best to do it when and where crowds would already be present but I don't believe we talked about or confirmed the questions to take to the community for pre-engagement??

4. At the end of that day (21 April) I had assumed we would be getting together again to confirm the pre-engagement questions and plan.

5. I appreciate this is early days, but every interaction with the public should be meaningful. My thoughts are the questions are not reflective of the realities our community is facing nor what the community would expect council to be gathering feedback on at this time. I understand this is LTP direction, but believe we could learn from what is happening now and how that can inform and better shape the future of Gore District.

Also, the survey was supposed to be live on 14 May but it doesn't appear to be?

Regards, Mel

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Nicky Coats](#); [Mel Cupit](#); [Ben Bell](#); [.Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#); [Debbie Lascelles](#)
Cc: [s 7\(2\)a Privacy](#)
Subject: Re: Strategy & Engagement
Date: Saturday, 16 May 2026 10:39:18 am

Hi team

As above. Theres a lot of confusion here. I also think a supermarket car park would be a better option for a high foot traffic area to engage.

Im also feeling like now's not the right time. Amalgamation is high on peoples radars and I feel conversations on LTP won't be the focus of conversation.

Thanks

Donna

From: Nicky Coats <NCoats@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, May 16, 2026 10:05 AM
To: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>; Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>
Cc: [s 7\(2\)a Privacy](#)
Subject: Re: Strategy & Engagement

Morning all,

I'm also wondering the same as Mel, and wondering why I've been left off the roster?

Nga mihi

Nicky

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Mel Cupit <mcupit@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, May 16, 2026 9:47:18 AM
To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Strategy & Engagement

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Also, the survey was supposed to be live on 14 May but it appears still not to be?

Regards, Mel

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: s 7(2)a Privacy, [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Todays engagement location
Date: Monday, 18 May 2026 9:01:37 pm

Hi [REDACTED] s 7(2)a Privacy

I'm sorry I can't attend caravan duty Friday [REDACTED] s 7(2)a Privacy

Apologies

Donna

Out of scope [REDACTED]

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Released under LGOIMA

From: [Nicky Coats](#)
To: [Laurel Turnbull](#); [Michelle Hamilton](#); [Neville Phillips](#); [Neil Sinclair](#); [Tanya Rowling](#)
Subject: Re: Updated letter
Date: Thursday, 30 April 2026 1:16:11 pm

Hi all

Definitely helps to have the SLT available at meetings to speak to the items on the agenda.

Nicky

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Released under LGIMA

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Robert McKenzie](#)
Subject: Re: Victorian Hydrogen Chat Allan Blood on Cave FM
Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 11:16:35 am

7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank

Cheers

Donna

From: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 9:43 PM
To: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Victorian Hydrogen Chat Allan Blood on Cave FM

7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank

From: Donna Bruce <dbruce@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 27 April 2026 9:23 pm
To: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Victorian Hydrogen Chat Allan Blood on Cave FM

Fantastic news.

7(2)(f)(i) Free & Frank

Please remove me from your email list moving forward unless emails are strictly council business.

Thank you

Regards

Donna Bruce

From: Robert McKenzie <RMcKenzie@goredc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 3:29 PM
To: Ben Bell <bbell@goredc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lascelles <dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz>; David Bainbridge-Zafar <dbainbridge-zafar@goredc.govt.nz>; Lornae Straith <LStraith@goredc.govt.nz>; .Councillors (with e-mail) <Councillors@goredc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Victorian Hydrogen Chat Allan Blood on Cave FM

Here it is folks.

My interview with Allan went really well I must admit being a little

nervous talking to a guy whose company is considering spending
3 Billion dollars in the southern region. 2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence

Im proud of my work today as a radio host and GDC member.

PS I did manage to stay awake through the whole process.

Cheers CR Caveman

Out of scope

Released under LGIOIMA

From: [Donna Bruce](#)
To: [Ben Bell](#); [Mel Cupit](#)
Subject: Seating
Date: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 10:48:22 am

Hi Ben,

2 7 (2)(c)(i) obligation of confidence, s 7(2)a Privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cheers

Donna

Released under LGOMA

From: [Nicky Coats](#)
To: [Debbie Lascelles](#)
Cc: [Councillors \(with e-mail\)](#)
Subject: Slides from last night
Date: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 7:43:44 am

Morning Deb

Hopefully wasn't too icy on your way to work this morning It's frosty at my place, my poor sheep have just been shorn and I'm sure they will be looking forward to the sunrise

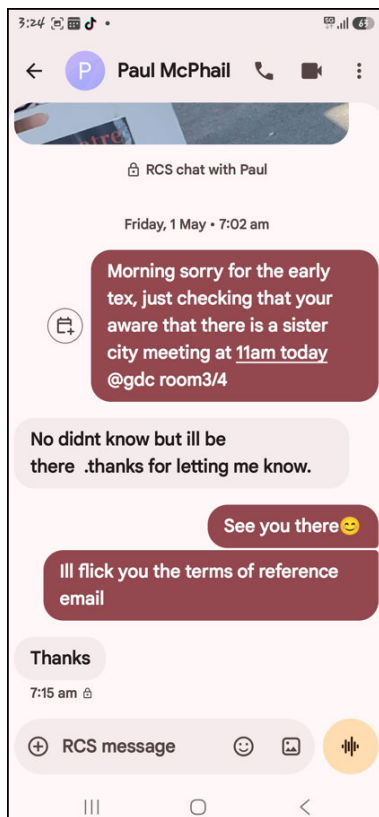
Can you please flick through those slides from your presentation yesterday arvo 
 Also there was
mention of an old report that was done last term that Donna mentioned that I
appreciate a look through that too please.

Nga mihi

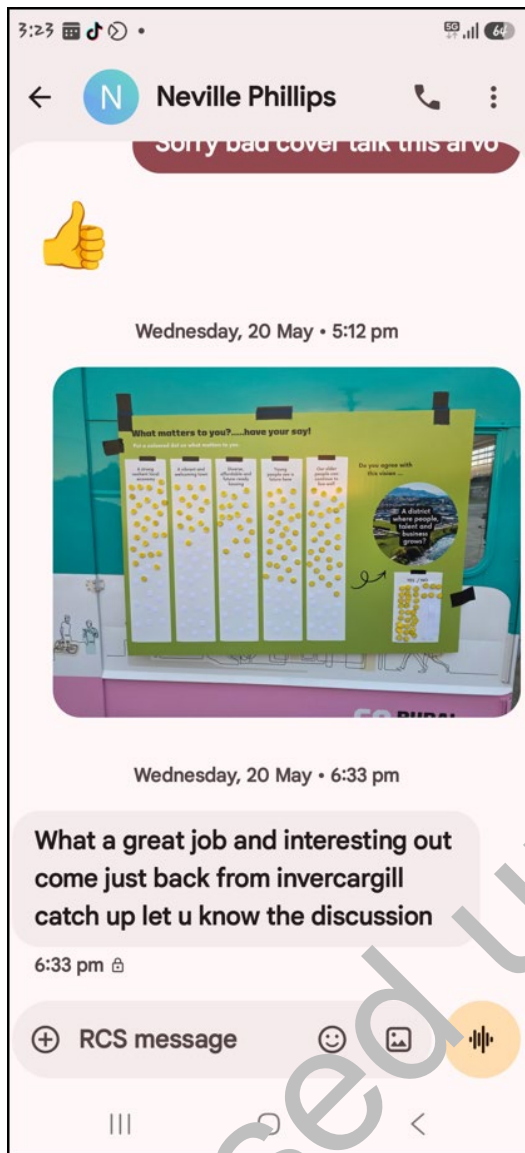
Nicky

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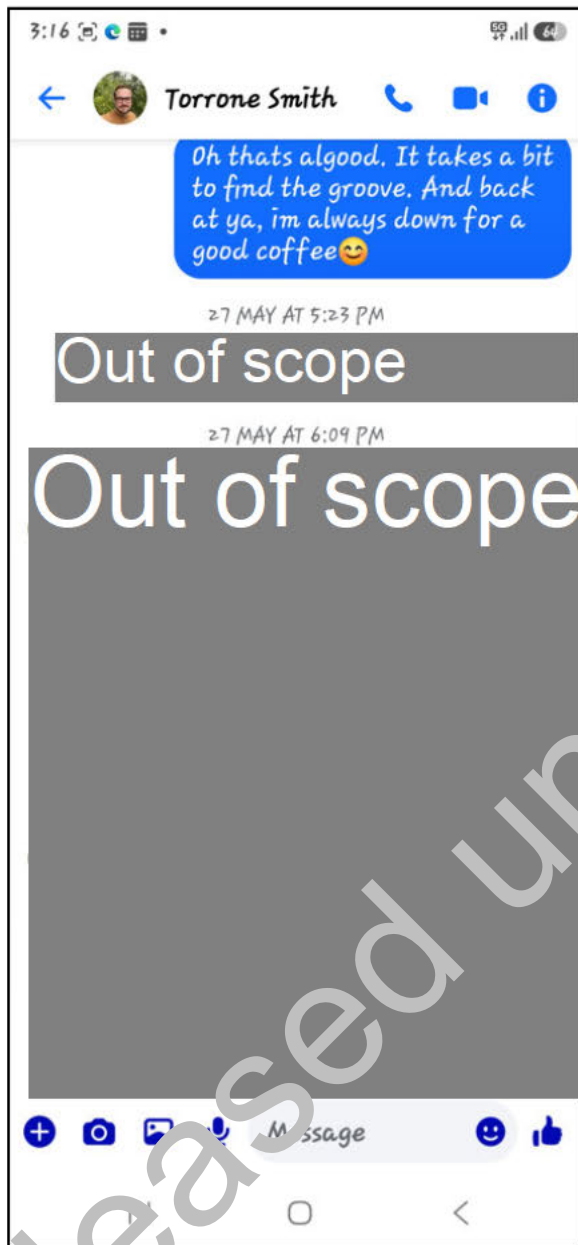
Text messages between Cr Coats and Cr McPhail



Text messages between Cr Coats and Cr Phillips



Text messages between Cr Coats and Cr Smith



3:16 [icons]

5G [signal bars] 64



Torrone Smith



s 7(2)a Privacy



4 MAY AT 9:57 AM

Oh thats algood. It takes a bit
to find the groove. And back
at ya, im always down for a
good coffee ☺

27 MAY AT 1:22 PM

Released Under LGOIMA



3:16

5G 65



Torrone Smith



4 MAY AT 9:28 AM

Morning, hope you had a good weekend.

Can you please pass on my apologies for tonight's meeting if I don't make it in time. I have an appointment booked before that I'm sure won't be done in time to make it to the meeting



Morning, yep no worries 😊

Thank you. How you doing with everything? Feel free to shout out if you need coffee and a chance to vent



Thanks.

s 7(2)a Privacy



Message

