

Response to information request from [REDACTED]

25 October 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

On Monday 16 October we received two requests for information from you. We have dealt with these as one request and have provided our responses below.

LGOIMA re: Trees

Your questions to the Council were:

1. How many trees do we, the people of Gore District, own on our streets, reserves, parks and etc?
2. What is their value as recorded in District accounts?
3. What is their total leaf surface area?
4. What is their annual, recorded income to the people of Gore District?
5. Why did the petition of Mr Woods not receive the same intense scrutiny by Council staff as the petition received a few months earlier with its detailed pie chart and etc?
6. Are there multiple standards of treatment applied to petitions depending on the outcome staff wish to nudge Councillors towards?

Our Parks and Recreation Manager Keith McRobie provides the following information for the remaining questions:

1. The number of park and street trees in District sits around 3350 trees. This excludes the native trees in the Hamilton Park revegetation area.
2. The Council has not conducted a valuation of its tree stock. Tree stock valuation is common in forestry, not so much for amenity situations.
3. The total leaf area calculation is complex. A presentation on this subject earlier this year by the Parliamentary Commission for the Environment, which I attended, outlined the work being done trying to determine tree cover for Auckland, Wellington and Hamilton. The team of scientists had to make a number of assumptions to even come up with the figures they did.
4. We have not started to look at the trees annual income in terms of carbon sequestration. Again this is a complex calculation and isn't as straightforward as it is in commercial forests.

With regard to the remaining questions, the Council's Chief Executive Stephen Parry says:

5. The petition presented by Mr Woods was the subject of a report from a member of the senior leadership team. It had considerably less signatures than the petition the requester has referred to, therefore did not require staff analysis.

6. No.

LGOIMA re: Parking

Your questions to the Council were:

1. What is the total number of marked vehicle parks in Gore District broken down by Gore, Mataura, other?
2. How many of those parks are metered?
3. What time/vehicle class/purpose limits/restrictions are there on other parks?
4. How many parks are designated for disabled persons?

The Council's Regulatory Manager Frances Shepherd has provided the following answers:

1. Unfortunately the Council does not have this information. To obtain the information would require a manual count, which will take quite some time. It can be arranged, but would attract a fee for Council time.
2. There are approximately 160 metered spaces in the Gore CBD area. There are approximately 640 parking spaces in the CBD and over 330 with no restrictions on them.
3. The metered spaces have a maximum 2 hour limit and are enforceable Monday to Saturday. We have a range of time zones within the Gore CBD ranging from P5 to P120s, also enforceable Monday to Saturday. We have two bus parks in town and there are also bus parks around schools. We have one taxi stand.
4. There are 17 mobility parking spaces on the street (excluding carparks such as supermarkets, warehouse etc.) Please note that anyone displaying a current mobility parking card can park free of charge in any metered space for up to two hours.

We consider this answers your questions. 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 <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>

Kind regards



Sonia Gerken
GM Communications & Customer Support