

1 March 2023



New Zealand Taxpayers' Union  
By email: [eve@taxpayers.org.nz](mailto:eve@taxpayers.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Eve

## **INFORMATION REQUEST – Information for NZ Taxpayers' Union Annual Report - Financial Year 2021/22**

We write in response to your email dated 31 January 2023 which requested information for your Annual Report for the 2021/22 financial year.

We considered your request in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 ("LGOIMA").

Your specific requests, and our responses are set out below. All information provided relates to the 2021/22 financial year. Our response includes information for two of our council-controlled organisations (CCOs) – Bay Venues Limited and Tourism Bay of Plenty. Our other two CCOs, Tauranga Art Gallery and BOPLASS will respond directly to you.

### **Tauranga City Council**

#### **1. Average residential rates**

**a. The average residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average residential costs =  $(X + Y) / Z$ .**

- **Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:**
  - **X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;**
  - **Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to residential rating units (for example charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.); and**
  - **Z is the number of residential rating units (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council**

does not have a classification for residential, please use the closest definition (such as urban).

- Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

The average residential costs of rates and other council charges is \$3,481.76

$$(X = \$162,495,527 + \$26,202,150) / 54,196$$

- X = \$162,495,527
- Y = \$26,202,150
- Z = 54,196

## 2. Average non-residential rates

- a. The average non-residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average non-residential costs =  $(X + Y) / Z$ .

- Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:
  - X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential\*;
  - Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to rating units except those defined as residential\* (for example, charges related to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc); and
  - Z is the number of rating units except those defined as residential\* (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for non-residential, please use the closest definition (such as commercial).

The average non-residential costs of rates and other council charges is \$13,119.52

$$(\$67,557,365 + \$11,828,865) / 6,051$$

- X = \$67,557,365
- Y = \$11,828,865
- Z = 6,051

- Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example, retail sales of Council rubbish bags).
- Please ensure that this definition matches that used to calculate average residential rates so that the respective X values of both requests add up to total rates income for the 2021/2022 Financial Year.

## 3. Personnel

Information provided under this part of the response is for Tauranga City Council only  
Information about Bay Venues Limited and Tourism Bay of Plenty is provided after information for Tauranga City Council.

- a. The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.

The number of Tauranga City Council staff dismissed for poor performance was zero.

- b. If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.**

Information about CCOs is provided separately.

- c. If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed, including those employed by council-controlled organisations.**

The total number of FTE staff employed by Tauranga City Council is 897.

Information about CCOs is provided separately.

- d. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.**

280 Tauranga City Council employees receive remuneration in excess of \$100,000.

Information about CCOs is provided separately.

- e. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.**

12 Tauranga City Council employees receive remuneration in excess of \$200,000.

Information about CCOs is provided separately.

### **3.1. Management**

- 1. The FTE number of managers employed. Please confirm the ratio of management to staff.**

The FTE number of managers employed is 190.5.

The ratio is one manager to 5 employees.

- 2. The average and median salary of a manager.**

The average salary of a manager based on FTE is \$128,129. The median is \$263,700<sup>1</sup>. Please note that this is based on Full Time Equivalent and is not pro-rata.

### **3.2. Communications**

- 1. The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed.**

The FTE number of staff employed in communications & marketing is 20.5.

- 2. The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff.**

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<sup>1</sup> This includes our executive management team.

The average salary of communications & marketing staff is \$89,664, and the median is \$112,291. Please note that this is based on Full Time Equivalent and is not pro-rata.

### **3. Total expenditure on communications & marketing.**

\$3,370,545

#### **3.3. Consultants & contractors**

##### **1. Total expenditure on consultants and contractors.**

\$15,095,517

##### **2. Total number of consultants and contractors paid.**

246

#### **3.4. Core services**

##### **a. The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure.**

The FTE number of staff employed in roles that work on infrastructure delivery and/or maintenance is 194.5.

##### **b. The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions.**

The FTE number of staff employed in roles that provide regulatory functions is 152.5.

##### **c. The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles.**

The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles is 186.5.

#### **4. Audit and Risk Oversight**

##### **a. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?**

Our Strategy Finance and Risk Committee (SFRC) was established on 27 April 2021. There are nine members on SFRC. Those members are:

- Chairperson: Commission Chair Anne Tolley
- Deputy Chair: Dr Wayne Bielby (Tangata Whenua representative)
- Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston
- Commissioner Stephen Selwood
- Commissioner Bill Wasley
- Matire Duncan (Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Chairperson)
- Te Pio Kawe (Tangata Whenua representative)
- Rohario Murray (Tangata Whenua representative)
- Bruce Robertson (External appointee with finance and risk experience)

**b. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?**

There are five independent members – see our answer to #4.a. above.

**c. Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?**

The Chair of the SFRC is Anne Tolley, Chair of the Commission appointed by the Minister for Local Government.

**d. Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?**

Rohario Murray, is a lawyer with a current practising certificate.

**e. Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?**

Bruce Robertson is a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA) but does not have a current practising certificate. As a FCA he is subject to the same full professional standards of the Institute that a chartered accountant with a current practising certificate is.

**f. Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?**

Tauranga City Council has a Code of Conduct. There is no specific wording requiring staff to act in a politically neutral manner. However, during elections, Council implements a protocol for the conduct of staff during elections.

We attach a copy of the staff Code of Conduct. Please refer to sections 4.1 and 4.3 which sets out employee obligations/ethical and professional standards which relates to honesty, fairness and impartiality.

We also attach the Council's 'Conflicts of Interest' policy.

**5. Payments to third parties**

**a. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.**

\$63,000

**b. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.**

\$95,028

**c. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST.**

\$50,159

## 6. Debt

### a. Net debt as a percent of rates income

321%

### b. The dollar amount of debt per rating unit

\$12,494

### c. The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit

\$355

## Bay Venues Limited

### 3. Personnel

#### a. The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.

The number of staff dismissed for poor performance at Bay Venues Ltd was three.

#### b. If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.

The number of FTE staff employed by Bay Venues Ltd is 189.

#### c. If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed, including those employed by council-controlled organisations.

Not applicable.

#### d. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.

The number of staff who receive remuneration in excess of \$100,000 is 23.

#### e. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.

The number of staff who receive remuneration in excess of \$200,000 is two.

### 5. Payments to third parties

#### a. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.

\$1,254

#### b. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.

No payments made.

- c. **The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST.**

No payments made.

## **Tourism Bay of Plenty**

### **3. Personnel**

- a. **The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.**

The number of staff dismissed for poor performance at Tourism Bay of Plenty was zero.

- b. **If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.**

The number of FTE staff employed by Tourism Bay of Plenty is 17.

- c. **If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed, including those employed by council-controlled organisations.**

Not applicable.

- d. **The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.**

The number of staff who receive remuneration in excess of \$100,000 is five.

- e. **The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.**

The number of staff who receive remuneration in excess of \$100,000 is zero.

### **5. Payments to third parties**

- a. **The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.**

\$288

- b. **The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.**

No payments made.

- c. **The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST.**

No payments made.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

We may publish this response on our website as your request may be of interest to others. All personal information will be removed and only the question and answers will be seen.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the writer.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kath Norris', written in a cursive style.

Kath Norris  
**Team Leader**  
**Democracy Services**