

4 November 2022

File Ref: OIAP-7-26190

South Wairarapa Whenua Advisory Group  
By email: [swwagcontact@gmail.com](mailto:swwagcontact@gmail.com)

Tēnā koe

### **Request for information 2022-185**

I refer to your request for information dated 18 October 2022 which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 18 October 2022. You have requested the following:

*“In light of the two proposed solar projects in Greytown, from Far North and Helios/Kempton please provide the following information as a LGOIMA request:*

- 1. Full disclosure of any communications between central government and GWRC regarding solar energy requirements, rules, considerations and recommendations.*
- 2. Full disclosure of any communications between Helios/Kempton and GWRC and Far North and GWRC regarding solar projects, proposals, rules or process requests including the lodgement of a land use consent application. Please include all relevant details with respect to meetings and participants as well.*
- 3. Full disclosure of any communications with Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) and GWRC regarding solar panel projects in the Wairarapa.*
- 4. Will the Far North plan and any future plans/applications in the Wairarapa be considered within the requirements of the Combined District Plan and the Resource Management Act? Is it likely that applications/plans will be publicly notified?*
- 5. Any regulations for highly productive land use (national and regional) you have received from Ministry for the Environment (soil that is classed in categories 1-3).*

6. *Full disclosure of any communications regarding the solar proposals (Helios on Kempton land and Far North on Field land) with community organisations.*
7. *Full disclosure of any communications between GWRC and SWDC and other local or regional councils in regard to solar panel projects in the last year.*
8. *Full disclosure of any communication between GWRC and the national Grid operator, Transpower and local distribution company Power Co regarding proposed solar projects.*
9. *In regard to the low lying nature of the land designated for these projects, the shallow water table, and the stock watering races, we request notification of communications with specialist government agencies in the sphere of soil conservation and associated environmental effects.*
10. *In the context of the above we also request such information as you may have received on the safe capacity of the substation should the substation have to accommodate both installations. Namely the Helios scheme and the Far North scheme.”*

**Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

A search of our records and discussions with Greater Wellington officers has confirmed that Greater Wellington has not had any involvement to date with the two proposed solar projects in Greytown with Helios/Kempton.

We therefore have no correspondence within the scope of part 1 – 3 and parts 6 -10 of your request. Accordingly, these parts of your request are refused under section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), as the documents alleged to contain the information do not exist.

When refusing a request under section 17(e) of the Act, we are required to consider consulting you before refusing. In this instance, we do not consider that consulting you would change the outcome of our decision.

We suggest that you contact the Wairarapa based Territorial Authorities on this matter.

4. *Will the Far North plan and any future plans/applications in the Wairarapa be considered within the requirements of the Combined District Plan and the Resource Management Act? Is it likely that applications/plans will be publicly notified?*

Any application would need to comply with the rules in our Regional Plan and the Wairarapa Combined District Plan. If resource consent were required then any decision on notification would be made under the relevant Resource Management Act 1991 tests.

5. *Any regulations for highly productive land use (national and regional) you have received from Ministry for the Environment (soil that is classed in categories 1-3).*

The [National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land](#) outlines these requirements and regulations which Greater Wellington will implement as directed.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Al Cross

Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao | General Manager Environment Management