

4 July 2025

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-39981

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2025-195

I refer to your request for information dated 24 June 2025, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 24 June 2025. You have requested the following:

- “1. We require all information on all approved drinking water (consumable water) self-delivery and self-capture (wells, tanks) systems and methods.*
- 2. We require all information on all approved washing water (storm water) self-delivery and self-capture (tanks, hot water cylinders) systems and methods.*
- 3. We require all information on all approved liquid waste with water (grey water) composting systems and methods.*
- 4. We require all information on all approved solid waste with water (black water) composting systems and methods.*
- 5. We require all information on all approved liquid and solid waste (both naturally formed waste and unnaturally/chemically formed waste) composting systems and methods.”*

On 1 July we received the additional request:

“I require all currently existing council information about all of its current water and waste management options for all of its current land zones that it currently requires a consent for.

Explanation/Reasoning: This request is to clarify what water and waste management options in correlation to land zoning the Council currently requires a consent for. A significant portion of all those within the District and Regional Council land zones are extremely frustrated about the lack of clarity in regards to what water and waste management options currently require a consent.”

Greater Wellington's response follows:

- 1. We require all information on all approved drinking water (consumable water) self-delivery and self-capture (wells, tanks) systems and methods and*
- 2. We require all information on all approved washing water (storm water) self-delivery and self-capture (tanks, hot water cylinders) systems and methods.*

Greater Wellington has assumed that self-delivery and self-capture systems and methods are individual on-site drinking water and washing water systems.

Under section 14(3)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991, the taking and use of freshwater for an individual's reasonable domestic needs is permitted and does not require approval or resource consent.

Also, under section 14(3)(a) of the Resource Management Act 1991, if the taking and use of water is expressly allowed in a regional plan rule, an approval or resource consent is not required. Under Rule 152 of our Natural Resources Plan, the taking of up to 10m³/day (for properties less than 20 hectares) or 20m³/day (for properties greater than 20 hectares) is permitted (subject to conditions) and therefore does not require approval or resource consent. As the amount of water taken for self-delivery and self-capture systems is significantly less than the amount permitted in our Natural Resources Plan, I can confirm that no resource consents have been approved in relation to individual on-site drinking water and washing water systems.

- 3. We require all information on all approved liquid waste with water (grey water) composting systems and methods. and*
- 4. We require all information on all approved solid waste with water (black water) composting systems and methods. and*
- 5. We require all information on all approved liquid and solid waste (both naturally formed waste and unnaturally/chemically formed waste) composting systems and methods."*

Under Rule 60 of our Natural Resources Plan, the discharge of domestic wastewater from a composting toilet is permitted (subject to conditions) and therefore does not require approval or resource consent. Also, under Rule 61 of our Natural Resources Plan, the discharge of greywater is permitted (subject to conditions) and therefore does not require approval or resource consent.

A review of our consents database has been undertaken in relation to the above. No resource consents have been issued for liquid and solid waste for composting systems and methods.

I require all currently existing council information about all of its current water and waste management options for all of its current land zones that it currently requires a consent for.

Explanation/Reasoning: This request is to clarify what water and waste management options in correlation to land zoning the Council currently requires a consent for. A significant portion of all those within the District and Regional Council land zones are extremely frustrated about the lack of clarity in regards to what water and waste management options currently require a consent.

The response to 1 and 2 above clarifies the regulatory requirements for all individual onsite drinking water systems.

The response to 3, 4 and 5 above clarifies the regulatory requirements for composting wastewater systems (as requested). In addition to composting wastewater systems, individual on-site wastewater systems (non-composting) are permitted (subject to conditions) under Rule 63 of our Natural Resources Plan. One of those conditions is that any discharge is not located within a community drinking water supply protection area. All on-site wastewater systems in these areas require a resource consent.

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 appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Lian Butcher

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rōpū Taiao | Group Manager Environment