

1 August 2025

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-40537

By email: [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2025-228

I refer to your request for information dated 16 July 2025, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 16 July 2025. You have requested the following:

“Any planned increases, or current increases, to public transport fares since the direction from Waka Kotahi to increase farebox recovery

Any correspondence you have had with Waka Kotahi or the Minister of Transport’s office regarding the increased private share targets for public transport farebox recovery

A list or details of any services, either existing or planned, that have been cut due to the increased private share targets for public transport farebox recovery”

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

Any planned increases, or current increases, to public transport fares since the direction from Waka Kotahi to increase farebox recovery.

The proposed farebox targets were communicated to Greater Wellington from the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) on 18 November 2025. Since this date there has been a 2.2% increase to public transport fares, and a reduction from 50% to 30% to the off-peak Snapper discount in the Wellington region. These changes came into effect on 1 July 2025.

Information about the fare changes can be found on our Metlink website at:

<https://www.metlink.org.nz/news-and-updates/news/metlink-fares-increasing-as-public-transport-funding-squeezed>

Fare levels are reviewed annually through our annual fares review and the Annual Plan or Long-Term Plan processes. At this time, we have no future plans to increase public transport fares as a direct response to the farebox recovery targets.

We note decisions to increase fares may result from a combination of factors including but not limited to farebox recovery.

Any correspondence you have had with Waka Kotahi or the Minister of Transport's office regarding the increased private share targets for public transport farebox recovery.

Greater Wellington has published their correspondence with NZTA and the Minister of Transport regarding this topic on our website at:

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-council/council-and-councillors/council-advocacy/>

A list or details of any services, either existing or planned, that have been cut due to the increased private share targets for public transport farebox recovery.

Greater Wellington has not cut any services, either existing or planned, in response to the increased private share targets of public transport farebox recovery.

Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request under section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), wherein "the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist".

When refusing under this section of the Act, we are required to consider consulting the requester. We have considered this and do not believe consulting you would change our decision to refuse this aspect of your request under this section.

We do note that the Tawa On-Demand Trial did conclude on 31 December 2024, however, this was not cut in response to farebox recovery targets, and the service has since been replaced with a fixed bus route. The decision to conclude this service was made on 24 October 2024 and more information on the closure can be found at: <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/news/electric-articulated-buses-for-karori-hail-and-ride-bus-service-for-tawa/>

While future changes to the network may occur, we do not currently foresee these being in response to the private share targets increase.

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 Act.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'sugar', followed by a small dash.

Samantha Gain

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | Group Manager Metlink