

Venus Sood

From: Mary Birch
Sent: Thursday, 7 March 2019 12:51 PM
To: requests@taxpayers.org.nz
Subject: LGOIMA Response - Nelson City Council - Contracts and Members Interests

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5 February 2019, requesting information relating to council contracts and members interests. As explained in my email of 6 March 2019, Council is providing the information you requested.

You requested:

1. *“The total number of Council contracts awarded to any company that an elected official has a pecuniary or any other interest in.”*

Nelson City Council is aware of contracts being awarded to two organisations that an elected official has a pecuniary or any other interest in.

2. *“A list of companies that were awarded the contracts in (1). Please ensure to include the company name, the name of the elected official with the interest in each company, and a description of each contract, including its dollar value.”*

Councillor Rutledge

- Council entered into a funding agreement with Natureland Wildlife Trust Limited (the Trust).
- The Trust is a registered charitable trust.
- Councillor Rutledge was formerly a Trustee during this triennium.
- The contract was to provide capital and operational funding for Natureland zoo.
- The level of funding to date this triennium is \$764,000.

Councillor Barker

- The company that was awarded the contacts is Network Tasman Limited.
- Councillor Ian Barker an elected Trustee of Network Tasman Trust, which on behalf of consumers, is the owner of Network Tasman Limited. He is a nominated shareholder on behalf of consumers.
- The contracts relate to the provision of CCTV operation and fibre, computer and property maintenance.
- Total value for these contracts to date this triennium is \$229,800.

3. *“The total number of Council contracts awarded to any company that an elected official’s spouse has a pecuniary or any other interest in.”*

Nelson City Council is aware of a contract being awarded to one organisation that an elected official’s spouse has a pecuniary or any other interest in.

4. *“A list of companies that were awarded the contracts in (3). Please ensure to include the company name, the name of the elected official whose spouse has the interest in each company, and a description of each contract, including its dollar value.”*

Councillor Rutledge

As detailed in our response to question 2 above:

- Council entered into a funding agreement with Natureland Wildlife Trust Limited (the Trust). The Trust is a registered charitable trust.
- The contract was to provide capital and operational funding for Natureland zoo.
- The level of funding to date this triennium is \$764,000.

Councillor Rutledge's wife is a Director of the Trust and was formerly a Trustee

To provide further context, Council entered into the contract with the Trust in 2013, prior to Councillor Rutledge becoming a councillor. The Office of the Auditor General gave permission under the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (the Act) for Mr Rutledge (as he was then) to stand for election as councillor and subsequently for Council to renew the contract with Natureland Wildlife Trust in 2018. This approval is in substitution for the statutory limit of \$25,000 in the Act, for the duration of the contract.

Councillor Rutledge has declared an interest, since his election as Councillor in 2016, in all matters relating to the Trust and Natureland and does not participate in discussions or voting on any decision to allocate funding to the Trust, as required under Section 6 of the Act.

5. *"Whether the above contracts were put up for tender."*

Regarding the contracts relating to Network Tasman Limited, the contracts were put up for tender.

Regarding the contract for Natureland, other contractors were given the opportunity through an Expression of Interest process in 2013. Council has not identified any other potential contractors since then.

A copy of the Elected Members' Interest Register can be found at the following link:

<http://www.nelson.govt.nz/assets/Our-council/Downloads/Mayor-and-Councillors/interests-register/Members-Interests-Register-2016-2019-public-as-at-17Jan2019.pdf>

Ngā mihi,

Mary

Mary Birch

Manager Governance and Support Services

Kāwanatanga Kaiwhakahaere me ngā Ratonga Tautoko

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

nelson.govt.nz