



Ref: [REDACTED]

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10 July 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR EXTERNAL CONSULTANT FUNDING

I refer to your official information request dated 11 June 2024 for:

1. Does the council fund external bodies, such as iwi, to provide policy expertise, cultural expertise, engagement, or similar?
2. If so, how much does it pay per hour for these services?
3. What was the total cost of these services in each of the last three financial years?
4. What was the policy or issue that this work occurred in relation to?

The information you requested is enclosed.

1. Does the Council fund external bodies, such as iwi, to provide policy expertise, cultural expertise, engagement, or similar?

Yes. Council, as a large organisation, funds and contracts numerous external bodies including iwi to provide a wide range of services.

2. If so, how much does it pay per hour for these services?

Payment of services varies depending on the size, scope and nature of the task. Council pays a mix of negotiated or funding rates and these rates may depend on the commercial nature of the arrangements. As can be appreciated some highly technical advice within limited markets will attract higher rates.

Under the Local Government Act 2002, Councils have duties to facilitate participation by Māori in its decision-making processes. Council also has statutory obligations in relation to Treaty principles under other statutes such as the Resource Management Act (1991). Council recognises Treaty settlements in the Whakatū region with eight Te Taihū iwi: Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngā Rārua, Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Rangitāne and Rangitāne.

Council is committed to strengthening our partnerships with the iwi in a meaningful way and provides some resource to support engagement at an operational level, that enables Council to deliver on its legislative responsibilities.

We engage eight iwi partners through two operational engagement forums Te Ohu Taiao (Environmental forum) and Te Ohu Toi Ahurea (Arts & Heritage Forum) where approximately 40 projects are discussed in each forum per year.

Other significant forums of engagement include iwi review of resource consents received by Council; the Iwi working Group to review the Nelson plan, and Te Puna Kōrero (Joint Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council) engagement forum on freshwater planning.

3. What was the total cost of these services in each of the last three financial years?

Below is an approximate breakdown of total cost to engage eight Te Tauihu of services to support Council deliver against its legislative requirements on projects.

Iwi Service	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Te Ohu Taiao	6400	7900	5710
Te Ohu Toi Ahurea	8554	8300	7046
Resource consents	29750	24350	22750
Iwi Working Group	20758	10828	-
Te Puna Kōrero	-	-	5692
Total	\$65,464	51,378	41,198

Other external services provided to support iwi monitoring for 90 infrastructure projects is approximately \$95,000 per year (\$3,000 per project).

Iwi cultural monitoring is an important practice for the protection and management of natural and cultural resources. The primary purpose of iwi cultural monitoring include protecting cultural heritage during activities like construction, excavation and land development; monitoring environmental impacts to ensure that ecosystems, waterways and natural habitats are protected are managed in ways that align with traditional Māori values and knowledge; ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; facilitating communication between developers, government agencies, whānau, hapū and iwi; providing education and raising awareness among developers and the wider community about the significance of cultural sites and the importance of preserving Māori heritage and environmental values and supporting the revitalisation of Māori culture by maintaining a connection to traditional lands, practices, and knowledge.

4. What was the policy or issue that this work occurred in relation to?

As referred to in question 2. Under the Local Government Act 2002, Councils have duties to facilitate participation by Māori in its decision-making processes. Council also has statutory obligations in relation to Treaty principles under other statutes such as the Resource Management Act (1991). Council recognises Treaty settlements in the Whakatū region with eight Te Taihū iwi: Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngā Rāua, Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Rangitāne and Rangitāne.

In December 2023, Ngā iwi o Te Taihū and the mayors of Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council and Marlborough District Council signed a Kia Kotahi Te Taihū, Together Te Taihū Partnership Agreement. The Agreement represents an opportunity for iwi and council partners to work collaboratively on matters of mutual interest in a way that addresses some of the broader strategic and regional challenges. The agreement recognises the important and unique roles that both iwi and councils play in social, cultural, environmental, and economic wellbeing of Te Taihū. It seeks to weave these aspirations more closely together to strengthen Te Taihū as a region and deliver shared aspirations more effectively.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Pania Lee on pania.lee@ncc.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Pania Lee

Kaihautū | Manager, Māori Partnerships

Te Kāhui Whiria | Māori Partnerships Team

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū
nelson.govt.nz