



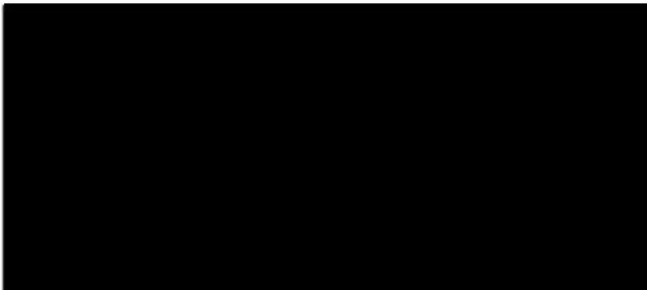
Ref: [REDACTED]

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29 January 2025



OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF COUNCIL'S WEED SPRAYING CONTRACTS

I refer to your official information request dated 13 January 2025 for:

'I wish to request details of the weed spraying contract for the council owned footpaths in Russell Street on the Haven Road side. [REDACTED] and am aware there is a contract for spraying the weeds on the council owned footpath. I am also aware they never get sprayed unless I complain.

Last time I complained five Nelmac workers were sent to weed the non existent weeds in the traffic islands in the middle of the road. This involved one person looking for non existent weeds, one person with a leaf blower blowing non existent leaves and three traffic management staff to ensure the safety of the workers who were achieving nothing. No spraying of weeds was done and there hasn't been any spraying since.

I understand there is a contract for the spraying and that NCC pays the spraying contractor without bothering to check if the work has ever been done. Since these payments are made with ratepayers money I would like to know who is being paid, how much they are being paid and how often the contractor is supposed to spray the weeds. I am not in commercial competition, I just object to someone being paid my rates for doing nothing and council failing to follow up on the fulfilment of the contract.'

The information you requested is enclosed.

Contract details:

The street gardens facet of this work is managed under the Nelson City Council Open Spaces and Maintenance Contract.

Internal Document ID: [REDACTED]

The footpath/roadside spraying is managed under the Nelson City Council Roadside Vegetation Contract.

The current contractor for both contracts is Nelmac Kūmānu.

Work is checked by both internal and external auditors on a regular basis. The area covered by these contracts is too large for every piece of work to be checked by Council, we rely on regular reporting and meetings with the contractor as well as auditing by members of the community via our SR process.

We do not stipulate how this work for each site is completed but rather that the site is maintained to the relevant contract specifications.

This year, extended spring conditions have meant that weed growth has been difficult to control and numerous wet days have limited the time which can be spent spraying weeds.

Our records show that Nelmac maintained the street garden in early December 2024 and again in mid-January 2025

This work also has an element of Traffic Management which contractors need to adhere to, to ensure they are complying with national and local traffic management guidelines.

Cost:

This work is currently managed under a 'lump sum' contract model, whereby budgets are allocated to large bodies of work, for example spraying of roadside vegetation over the entirety of Nelson City Council's transport network.

We do not have a cost breakdown for the specific area you are enquiring after.

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 Hannah Curwood.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Curwood

Manager Parks and Facilities

Kaiwhakahaere papa rehia me whakaurunga