

6 January 2026

[REDACTED] on behalf of the Sullivan Lake Care Group

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – 15 DECEMBER 2025

Thank you for your email requesting information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). A decision has now been made on your request pursuant to section 13 of the LGOIMA, and to provide the information requested.

In your request, you asked for further information about the Sullivan Lake budget, specifically the following questions.

1. *If the project costs more than originally planned (because no accurate costing completed or methodology confirmed):*

- *will the planned scope work be completed as originally agreed even if the cost is higher; or*
- *will the scope be reduced to fit the budget?*

While final estimates have not been received, we will endeavour to meet any shortfall through other existing operational budgets, however, if we are unable to meet the full cost through the project and other budgets, we may have to reduce the scope accordingly.

2. *In the email from Keith Hamill dated 29 September 2023, the cheapest and most effective intervention was increase flow augmentation, yet this was not included in the annual plan. Can you explain why the WDC did not take the cheapest and most effective option into the annual plan, as the Keith Hamill report recommended this as the good option in his report, and again in this email.*

When Keith Hamill compiled the report, he was not aware of the amount of flow currently provided to the lake. His report recommended increasing flow augmentation to 1000m³ per day during summer dry periods which would have a moderate effect, however we are currently exceeding his recommendation by pumping approximately 1200m³ per day, year-round, which is the maximum we can achieve. The only time this is not achieved is when the river is in fresh following heavy rains. This is to prevent silt from being pumped into the lake. Pumping during summer does continue however fluctuates or ceases when the river level at the treatment plant decreases, and salinity increases and the emergency upstream water intake has to be commissioned to provide water for the town. This emergency intake cannot provide sufficient flow for both the town and the lake simultaneously.

Currently, water is pumped into the existing stormwater gravity network from the water treatment plant, however the flow is restricted due to the pipe size of the stormwater reticulation. Any increase in flow results in popping of the manhole lids. Upsizing the stormwater gravity network would cost approximately \$2.5million, if this was achievable due to grade and existing services. Extending the dedicated rising main from the treatment plant would cost approximately \$750,000, if this was achievable. The Council could not justify these costs due to other critical essential water and wastewater renewals required.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you are entitled to request a review by the Ombudsman. Further information can be obtained from the following website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that this response may be published on our website. All personal information will be removed.

Nāku noa, nā

Hone Patrick

Hone Patrick
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE