

22 September 2025

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Tēnā koe ██████████

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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 information about the potential sale of 1a Muriwai Drive, specifically:

- **Why it was selected for potential sale?**

In October 2023, the Whakatāne District Council started a project to identify Council owned or managed properties with potential for disposal. Under the Council's Property Policy, properties should be considered for disposal when:

"...on the balance of probabilities there is no current or future identified public benefit to be gained from retaining the property, no benefit in transferring it to another property category and/or that the cost of retaining the property outweighs the benefit. Where the property was acquired under the Public Works Act, then Council must be satisfied that there is no longer a public works requirement for the property."

Staff assessed the Council's property portfolio and identified properties that may meet the definition above and could be considered by the Council for disposal. This process involved each activity manager meeting with the project team to run through each property in their portfolio. A long list of properties was developed and then each General Manager reviewed

the properties identified that were managed by their team. The long list then was presented to the Executive Team for consideration as to whether it met the definition in the Property Policy to be considered for disposal.

This process identified 17 properties (covering 39 parcels) that could be considered for future disposal, including the Harbourmaster's House.

Each property underwent initial research, including acquisition checks. This work is required due to the statutory processes that apply to Council owned property, including under the Public Works Act and Reserves Act (where applicable).

The list of properties was presented to the Council on 12 December 2024, and staff were instructed to continue considering these properties for disposal, noting that no decision on sale was made or has been made to date.

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 8 May 2025, staff provided an update on the process. This update noted that a number of properties had been eliminated from consideration, and across the remaining properties there is a range of complexity and potential financial returns.

Staff recommended that, based on work completed to date, three properties be taken to consultation. These properties were:

- Harbourmaster's House - 1a Muriwai Drive, Whakatāne
- 21 Hodges Road, Waimana
- 42 Te Tahi Street, Whakatāne

The Council received the report. The purpose of the consultation was to gather community views on whether the properties should be retained by the Council or not.

- **What were the reasons advanced for its sale?**

No decision on a sale has been made. The property has been assessed against the Property Policy as meeting the definition to be considered for potential sale. We have carried out consultation to obtain the public's view to help inform our elected members' decisions.

- **Why it was not advertised in the Whakatane Beacon?**

An advertisement was placed in the Whakatāne Beacon on 5 September 2025 promoting the consultation process underway. The property has not been advertised for sale as no decision on a sale has been made.

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



Steven Perdia
CHIEF EXECUTIVE