

1 October 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

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

Your request to the Honourable Simon Watts for official information was transferred to us in part from his office. We accepted the transfer on 17 September 2025 and processed your request (part two of your letter) 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 the part of your request that was transferred to us, you advised that as of 9 September 2025, you hadn't received your voting papers. You consequently asked for information about who was responsible for ensuring that you were provided with voting papers.

Voting documents for the Whakatāne District Council elections were delivered by post between 9 and 22 September 2025, in line with standard practice for postal voting across local authorities.

Eligible voters, who believe they have correctly registered and enrolled with the electoral commissions, who have not received their papers by 22 September can request a special vote by contacting the electoral office on 0800 922 822. This ensures all registered voters have the opportunity to participate.

Responsibility for issuing voting documents lies with the appointed Electoral Officer, Dale Ofoske of Independent Election Services Ltd. The Deputy Electoral Officer is Chirese Viljoen, Manager Governance Services at the Whakatāne District Council.

The Council remains committed to enabling voting access across the district and has implemented outreach strategies including mobile voting tours, special vote support, and community engagement to promote inclusive participation.

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