

05 October 2022

Connor Molloy
Connor@taxpayers.org.nz

Kia ora Connor,

Promotion of Election Candidates

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 09 September. You requested the following information:

The advertisement we refer to is one posted on Facebook by Waka Kotahi promoting their 'Streets for People' initiative

We request the following information:

- *What role did the Council play in this advertisement?*
- *Did the Council contribute any money to this advertisement? If so, how much?*
- *Were any concerns raised with this advertisement appearing to promote local election candidates? If so, please provide a copy of correspondence raising those concerns.*
- *Why was council branding displayed on the advertisement?*

Wellington City Council has granted your request for information. Please see the below responses:

1. What role did the Council play in this advertisement?

We were approached by Waka Kotahi to provide comment on our experience of the Brooklyn Hill transitional cycleway which could then be shared with other councils and cities. To clarify, this video is not an advertisement.

2. Did the Council contribute any money to this advertisement? If so, how much?

We did not contribute any money towards the video.

3. Were any concerns raised with this advertisement appearing to promote local election candidates? If so, please provide a copy of correspondence raising those concerns.

No concerns were raised when the video was released, as it was filmed in September 2021, more than a year out from the local body elections. Neither Councillor was an election candidate at the time. City Council was alerted that the video was still available online on 5 September 2022, a copy of the email is attached.

4. Why was council branding displayed on the advertisement?

The video is not an advertisement, and the logo was not provided via our creative or brand team, therefore we are unable to comment on this. You may need to direct this question to Waka Kotahi.

Right of review

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Claudia Holgate

Senior Advisor, Official Information

From: Jem Traylen <jem@businessdesk.co.nz>
Sent: 05 September 2022 13:33
To: Media <Media@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Ads featuring politicians

Kia ora

NZTA has been running an ad, as recently as last week, which has WCC logo on it (at the end), featuring Crs Paul and Freer who are both candidates in the current council election.

<https://fb.watch/fl2NGzfPv0/>

I am filing a story this evening for the morning - appreciate that is a tight deadline, but even some kind of "holding" comment pending your further inquiries would be appreciated.

Ngā mihi

Jem Traylen

Reporter

call: +64 [REDACTED]

email: jem@businessdesk.co.nz

tweet: [@jemtraylen](https://twitter.com/jemtraylen)

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