

09 February 2023

Kia ora

Costs associated with occupation of parliament grounds

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 07 February 2023. You requested the following information:

- Can I get, under the LGOIMA, a breakdown of all council costs associated with the Feb-March 2022 occupation of parliament grounds, including the subsequent clean-up?

Wellington City Council has granted your request for information. The total estimated cost to WCC is approximately \$321,260.59. While we can advise the final costs associated with contractors, the direct cost to WCC is an estimate only.

Some of the required work was carried out by WCC Officers. For other work, companies were contracted in relation to road maintenance, street lighting and street cleaning. The costs to for these areas of work is \$221,260.59. The cost accounts for:

- Concrete block transportation - transportation of concrete blocks from Upper Hutt and Happy Valley Landfill to various locations around the parliamentary precinct, and placement of blocks as requested by Police.
- Repairs to footpath assets - repairs to various footpath surfaces damaged during the protest, for example - pavers.
- Repairs to road assets - repairs to various road surfaces damaged during the protest.
- Repairs to signage - repair and replacement of signs damaged or removed during the protest, including the removal of graffiti.
- Repairs to street furniture - repair and replacement of street furniture damaged or removed during the protest including the removal of graffiti.
- Street light pole replacement - two poles were damaged beyond repair during the protest after being hit by vehicles and required replacement.
- Response to hazards; sump top replacement; refitting manholes etc. - replacement of dislodged sump tops, manhole covers and other ancillary works that were deemed of an urgent nature.
- Rubbish removal - a large scale rubbish removal was required throughout the duration of the protest, not only to clear litter bins but also from the surrounding streets and areas. At the conclusion of the protest, a large rubbish removal operation was required.
- Street cleaning; pavement washing; channel cleaning – general cleaning of road and footpath after the protest
- Sump cleaning - cleaning and flushing of all sumps was required within the area

- Graffiti removal (excluding the cenotaph)
- Line marking replacement - remarking of traffic control lines on pavements
- Traffic management - an extensive use of road cones was required and the deployment of various traffic management to assist with the containment of the protest including the prevention of parking.

The direct costs to WCC are estimated to be \$100,000 for work at the following sites:

- Parks and Gardens - the reinstatement of various areas was required because of damage caused by the protest.
- Lambton interchange -management of security of the Lambton Interchange and repairs to damage caused by the protest.
- Traffic signals - repairs to traffic signals; removal of graffiti from poles and cabinets.
- Cenotaph - graffiti removal was required on the cenotaph itself. There was also staining on the stonework. The Cenotaph is scheduled to be cleaned every April prior to ANZAC Day as a matter of course, so this cleaning was bought forward and carried out earlier than usual. On this occasion the team had to make up poultices to draw out the greasy substance from the stonework. The gardens around the cenotaph were trampled flat.

In addition to these costs, we have estimated that the total amount of WCC staff hours dedicated specifically to the clean-up and aftermath of the protest to be approximately 1,500 hours.

Approximately 100 staff members were assigned to this project at various stages with varying degrees of involvement.

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

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