

Monday 18 September 2023

OIA IRO-478

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Official information request regarding the delivery of kilometres of pipes.

Thank you for your official information request dated Thursday 17 August 2023.

We have considered your request in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) and determined that we are able to grant your request in full.

Answers to your questions are in the Appendix of this letter.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

Acting Group Manger, Network Strategy and Planning

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Appendix

Question 1: Is it true that Wellington Water needs to replace 100km of water pipes a year, and that last year it only did 18 and the year before 14km? Is that for Wellington city alone or for all its clients?

Answer...

The need to replace 100km of pipes per year is a theoretical number based on our knowledge of pipe age and material and expected remaining life of all three waters' pipes (wastewater, stormwater and drinking water) within our owner council's networks.

If 100km of pipe was laid every year this would mean that it would take approximately 30 years before the three waters networks are being replaced at a rate that matches our knowledge of network deterioration. The "100km" figure reflects, in part, the historical underinvestment in renewals – such that councils have a portion of their networks in operation that have gone past their theoretical life. A potential consequence of this situation is greater maintenance costs caused by service failure of networks.

Wellington City's component is approximately 40km per year out of the 100km.

It is important to note that 100km per year is not a current target for Wellington Water. Our targets are heavily influenced by what capability is available to design and construct replacement pipes as well as the financial constraints that our owner councils are operating under. Therefore, we are forced to prioritise pipe renewals to where our knowledge of the greatest risk of service failure is. We are currently establishing targets by working with councils for the 2024-34 planning period.

The delivery of 18km of pipes was for all councils in the 2022/23 financial year, as was the 14km of pipes in 2021/22.

Question Two: Assuming that 100km is unrealistic for this year, what is this year's target and what do you expect to do?

Answer...

For the 2023/24 Financial year, we plan to deliver 3.587km of pipes, at a cost of \$25.155 million.

Council	Total Meters	Funding
WCC	3587	\$ 25,155,000

Question Three: How much have you been funded for?

Answer...

See answer to Question Three above.