

Laura Bowman

From: Official Information
Sent: Monday, 14 November 2022 4:18 pm
To: 7(2)(a)
Cc: Official Information
Subject: Final Response: LGOIMA 291163 - 7(2)(a) - info re government funding agreement and evidence of costs that would be incurred re Shaws Bird Park.

Kia Ora,

I refer to your **information request below**, Hamilton City Council is able to provide the following response.

Your Request

On 17 October, 2020, Richard Briggs stated in a Stuff article that he had been asked to throw away millions of dollars of ratepayers money, break a \$290M funding agreement with Government and ignore years of consultation with landowners and iwi. He stated he had been asked to expose ratepayers to millions of dollars of new costs.

Please release all the information relating to how the funding agreement was reached with government and the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement to get said \$290M.

Please provide evidence of the millions of dollars of new costs that would be incurred by moving the road from going through Shaws Bird Park.

Our Response

Funding agreement:

The decision to enter into the Housing Infrastructure Fund agreement with Government was reported at the Hamilton City Council 28 June 2018 Council Meeting. The report and links to the timeline of the application and associated documents is available [here](#).

Costs of moving the road

The statements made by Mr Briggs in the Stuff article of 17 October 2020 summarise additional costs which would likely fall to Hamilton ratepayers if Council attempted to change the existing designation for the East-West Road. Mr Briggs does not refer to a specific document.

The designation and Council's work in Peacocke has been confirmed by multiple processes. Council has had no need or requirement to develop a comprehensive assessment of the total costs of changing the designation.

However, it is clear costs from a change in the designation would be significant. The Southern Links process started in 2011 and took more than four years and \$4.5M jointly funded by the Council and NZ Transport Agency. There would be significant costs and time in any new designation process and for new property requirements. The consequential construction delays would impact agreed timelines with Government (referenced in the HIF agreement).

There would be direct costs of any additional land purchases, and the sunk costs already expended on the programme. It would also impact other landowners in the area who have made plans based on the approved designation, including some with construction underway. The exposure to Hamilton ratepayers from the above costs would be in the millions of dollars.

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.

Kind Regards,

Tatiana
Official Information Team



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