

From: [Official Information](#)
To: [S 7\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Cc: [Official Information](#)
Subject: Final response - LGOIMA 339172 - [S 7\(2\)\(a\)](#) - Cost of previous 2 byelections and estimate of current term
Date: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 2:50:31 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia ora,

We refer to your information request below. Hamilton City Council provides the following response.

Your request:

Please provide the cost of the council's two most recent byelections, and an estimate, if any is available, of what one would cost if required in the current term.

Our response:

A by-election is not something that any Council plans for, but they do happen. Hamilton City Council has had one during each of the last two terms due to the passing of Councillors. It runs the same as triennial local elections, the same rules apply.

If an Elected Member resigns or passes away or is removed from office the vacancy is known as an extraordinary vacancy and a by-election would be called at that point.

If an extraordinary vacancy occurs more than 12 months before the next triennial election, the Council is legislatively required to hold a by-election. This must be done normally within 89 days of the Electoral Officer receiving notice of the extraordinary vacancy. However, if an extraordinary vacancy occurs in the period 28 September to 20 November 2023, a by-election cannot occur any earlier than 17 February 2024.

The 2017 by-election for the East Ward cost approximately \$92,000.00 and the 2020 by-election for the West ward cost approximately \$122,500.00. An estimated cost for a 2023/24 East or West Ward by-election is \$140,000 (note this estimate was received earlier this year and may be impacted by NZ Post price increases to bulk mail delivery that took effect from 1 July 2023). These costs do not include communication and engagement spend (which is a budget that would need to be established at the time a by-election is held by Council) or staff time.

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.

Ngaa mihi
Keeley
Official Information Coordinator

Governance & Assurance Team | People and Organisational Performance
Email: officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz

Hamilton City Council supports flexible working. Although you may receive this email outside of your normal working hours, these hours are what work for me.

There is no expectation for you to respond outside of your own working hours.



Hamilton City Council | Private Bag 3010 | Hamilton 3240 | [Hamilton City Council](#)

This email and any attachments are strictly confidential and may contain privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient please delete the message and notify the sender. You should not read, copy, use, change, alter, disclose or deal in any manner whatsoever with this email or its attachments without written authorisation from the originating sender. Hamilton City Council does not accept any liability whatsoever in connection with this email and any attachments including in connection with computer viruses, data corruption, delay, interruption, unauthorised access or unauthorised amendment. Unless expressly stated to the contrary the content of this email, or any attachment, shall not be considered as creating any binding legal obligation upon Hamilton City Council. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of Hamilton City Council.

From: S 7(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 24 July 2023 4:05 pm
To: Governance <HCC.Governance@hcc.govt.nz>
Subject: byelection costs

Kia ora team,
have to say this is a
disappointing way to handle a
very basic question from a
resident. Please provide the
cost of the council's two most
recent byelections, and an

estimate, if any is available, of what one would cost if required in the current term.

Also, my verbal request qualifies as an official information request.

Ngā mihi nui

S 7(2)(a)

