

**From:** [Official Information](#)  
**To:** Section 7 (2) (a)  
**Cc:** [Official Information](#)  
**Subject:** Final response - LGOIMA 391447 - Section 7 (2) (a) - cost of Hamilton Gardens entrance  
**Date:** Tuesday, 9 April 2024 9:37:38 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.ipq](#)  
[image003.ipq](#)

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Kia ora,

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

**Your request:**

*Dear Mayor, I went to the Hamilton Gardens today and saw all the new work around the entrance being done. Can I please know as a rate payer how much this has cost. I hear that the rates are going up and wonder why this expenditure was allowed to be passed at such a difficult time. Yours* **Section 7 (2) (a)**

**Our response:**

Funding for the Hamilton Gardens Visitor Entry Precinct project was approved several years ago via the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. This included approval for a new Visitor Centre and enhancements to the Hamilton Gardens Café. The Visitor Entry Precinct Project is part of an overall \$12 million Development Programme which also includes new gardens: the Ancient Egyptian Garden which opened in May 2022 and the Medieval, Pasifika and Baroque Gardens which are currently under development. Council is also seeking \$5 million in external funding towards this programme.

The opening of the new Visitor Arrival Centre will coincide with Hamilton Gardens charging non-Hamiltonians over the age of 16 a fee to enter the Enclosed (themed) Gardens. Starting from Spring 2024, paid entry will provide a more self-sufficient model for Hamilton Gardens and enable sustainable reinvestment in the Gardens' development and operations and improved services for visitors.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

**Ngaa mihi**

**Keeley Faulkner**

**Official Information Coordinator**

Legal services

Governance & Assurance Team | Business Services

Email: [officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)



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*I support flexibility at work. While it suits me to send this email now, I don't expect a response outside of your own working hours.*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** **Section 7 (2) (a)**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 March 2024 4:49:44 pm

**To:** "hcc" <[info@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Hamilton City Rate payer.

Dear Mayor, I went to the Hamilton Gardens today and saw all the new work around the entrance being done. Can I please know as a rate payer how much this has cost. I hear that the rates are going up and wonder why this expenditure was allowed to be passed at such a difficult time. Yours Margaret Allen **Section 7 (2) (a)**  
