

**From:** [Official Information](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Official Information](#)  
**Subject:** Final response - LGOIMA 444886 [REDACTED] - Zoos conservation  
**Date:** Monday, 20 January 2025 3:55:03 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)

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Kia ora,

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

**Your request:**

*As the Hamilton Zoo is one of the Hamilton City Councils sites, I would like to request the following information under the Local Government Information and Meetings Act:  
- Precisely what percentage of the zoo's total income is spent on conservation efforts, AND if there are multiple ways the zoo makes a monetary contribution to conservation efforts, exactly what each of these is and exactly what percentage of the zoo's total income is spent on each.  
I look forward to your full and accurate response within 20 days.*

**Our response:**

All income received by Te Kaaroro Nature Precinct (Hamilton Zoo and Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park) is spent on the conservation efforts. Conservation is the work that zoos do to protect, preserve, reintroduce, advocate and support species and their habitats. At Hamilton Zoo, our dedicated team exemplify a deep passion for animals and conservation. With their commitment and expertise, they ensure the well-being and enrichment of all the species under their care. From conducting regular health check-ups to designing innovative enrichment activities, our keepers work to provide the highest standard of care for our animal residents. Furthermore, their dedication extends beyond the zoo, as they actively engage in conservation efforts both locally and globally, promoting the protection of endangered species and their habitats.

To summarise, Hamilton Zoo conducts the following conservation activity:

- Operating costs to run Hamilton Zoo including all care of endangered animals
- Breed for release programmes
- Rehabilitation of wild native animals and participation in translocation projects
- Delivery of education programmes focusing on conservation learning opportunities
- Restoration of Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park

We do not capture our costs to deliver against these specific areas so we cannot provide a percentage breakdown.

However, in addition to the above conservation activity - Hamilton Zoo also holds a Conservation Fund, established to accumulate, and distribute funds raised. The fund has multiple revenue streams, including:

- Conservation fee deducted from paid admission (\$1 per entry, \$5 per family pass)
- 80% of Animal Encounter income
- Sale of conservation items in the retail shop
- Conservation donations from the public

Income received in the Conservation Fund for the year ended 30 June 2024 totalled \$92,376. This was made up 39% Conservation Fees, 36% Animal Encounter Income, 20% retail sales and 5% donations.

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 Advisor & Legal Support Officer

Legal services

Governance & Assurance Team | Partnerships, communication & Maaori

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.*

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, December 1, 2024 10:09 PM

**To:** Zoo Information Mailbox <[Zoo.Information@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:Zoo.Information@hcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Official Information Request

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Nga mihi,

