

8 April 2026

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Kia ora Grenville,

RE: LGOIMA 2026/20 re Central Hawke's Bay District Council Discussions and Potential Funding for the Tukituki Water Security Project (16 Oct 2025 – 9 Mar 2026)

We respond to your request for information received on 9 March 2026 regarding the above-mentioned.

It is my understanding that Central Hawkes Bay District Council has met Mike Petersen and Mike Scott at a public excluded meeting on 29 January 2026. Please respond to the following questions:

1. Question: Did CHBDC have any discussions supporting (either at Councillor level or amongst staff) the Tukituki Water Security Project [TTWSP]? If so please provide a record of these discussions.

Answer:

On 29th January 2026, Mike Scott and Mike Petersen from Tukituki Water Security Ltd (TWSL) briefed Elected Members and key staff on progress with the feasibility study for the Tukituki Water Security Project (TWSP).

At this meeting TWSL discussed the four different phases of the TWSP, including how each phase of the project was to be funded. The first phase of the project – the feasibility study – is co-funded by the Crown (\$3m from Kanoa, the Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit), with the balance to be funded through fundraising and private investment.

TWSL indicated that they would appreciate any support Council could provide for the feasibility study, noting that this support could take different forms, such as political advocacy, letters of support, and/or a financial contribution.

On the latter point, as one option TWSL outlined a commercial investment proposition for Council which would provide a potential financial contribution to the feasibility study. This would be by entering into a Limited Partnership agreement as a limited partner with TWSL as the General Partner, investing funds in the Partnership with commercial incentives provided in return. The commercial incentives discussed were commercially sensitive and withheld from release under Section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 – *the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information* – which was also the reason for the meeting being publicly excluded.

The options for Council to potentially support the feasibility study were left on the table for Elected Members and Officers to further consider. No decision has been made.

2. **Question: Has Mike Petersen or any other person or un-named parties asked CHBDC for more funding in relation to water security projects?**

Answer:

As per the above, Council was invited to consider providing funding for the feasibility study for the TWSP.

3. **Question: Have CHBDC or are the CHBDC going to investigate a Council source of funding to support the TTWSP?**

Answer:

Options to provide support for the feasibility study were investigated, but no funding has been committed. The Council is committed to making any such decision in a public forum.

4. **Question: Has funding been promised by the CHBDC to support the TTWSP? Please note that there can be no commercial rationale why this question can not be answered**

Answer:

No.

5. **Question: If so please provide a record of these discussions?**

Answer:

Not applicable.

6. **Question: Given that commercial information is the justification for a public excluded meeting what are the commercial activities that the council are involved in that are connected to Mike Petersen, Mike Scott or any other party linked to the Tukituki Water Security Project?**

Answer:

As mentioned in the answer to question 1, TWSL outlined a commercial investment proposition for Council to provide a potential financial contribution to the feasibility study, details of which were commercially sensitive at the time.

There are no other commercial activities that Council is involved in that are connected to Mike Petersen, Mike Scott or any other party (to the best of our knowledge) linked to the Tukituki Water Security Project – noting that Council is not privy to the list of other investors in the project.

7. **Question:** Please explain why these meetings were public excluded given we have been told repeatedly this a community-led project.

Answer:

Council was being presented with a commercial investment proposition for Council to contribute to the feasibility study. This involved TWSL sharing commercial information with Council.

Section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 – *the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information* – was therefore applied.

If you are not satisfied with my response, please contact me. You also 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.

Publication of responses to LGOIMA requests

Please note: Our LGOIMA responses are proactively published on the Central Hawke's Bay District Council website after they have been responded to, with requesters' name and the information supplied, this may include an address if relevant. Other personal details will be withheld on a case-by-case basis. If you have any concerns about this, please contact the Council on governance@chbdc.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Ross McLeod
Interim Chief Executive