


Reference Number: 2024/1040

16 January 2024



Tēnā Koe 

Thank you for email of 7 January 2024 requesting under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), information relating to Council debt. Please see outlined below a response to each part of your request.

How much debt has the Council had at the end of the last financial year?

Council's gross debt as at 30 June 2023 was \$168,000,000.

What is the Council's current maximum limit for debt?

Council's current borrowing limits, in accordance with Council's Liability Management policy, are:

- Net annual interest costs will not exceed 20% of total annual operating revenue
- Net annual interest costs will not exceed 25% of total annual rates revenue
- Net debt shall not exceed 250% of total operating revenue

Does the Council has intentions (for example plans, drafts, resolutions, discussions) to increase the amount of debt in the future? And if yes, by how much in what timeframe?

This is being decided by the Council as part of the Long Term Plan 2024-2044. Indications are that the debt limit will stay at 250% of operating income.

How many people live in the area that the Council manages?

The population of the Horowhenua district at the 2018 Census was 33,261, and is estimated to be around 37,500 in 2023 according to Infometrics.

From how many rating units does the Council collect rates?

Number of rateable rating units within the Horowhenua district is around 19,000 at the time of this response being provided.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact Jacinta Straker (Group Manager Organisation Performance) on jacintas@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Brent Harvey
Acting Chief Executive