

Reference Number: 2024/1121

30 July 2024

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for email of 8 July 2024 requesting under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), information relating to the boy racer event in Levin. Please see outlined below a response to your request.

Under the act can I please request any council reports about, and all internal communication, as well as communication with any emergency services about the boy racer event in Levin over King's Birthday Weekend?

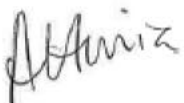
Please find attached the Mayors' report which mentions the boy racer event. Horowhenua District Council (the Council) became aware of the event and contacted the New Zealand Police who were already aware of the planned event. Attached are email communications relating to the event. In response of the material enclosed, names and contact details have been withheld under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA, to protect individual privacy.

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 Brent Harvey (Group Manager Community Experience and Services) on brenth@horowhenua.govt.nz, or LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Ashley Huria
Executive Sponsor

Raising of the Rainbow Flag
Coast Access Radio – interview
Mayor and Chief Executive Catch-up - II
Horowhenua Crime Camera Trust AGM
Mid-triennium Check-in - Cr Tamihana
Mid-triennium Check-in - Cr Tukapua
Council Workshop and Briefing - II
Mid-triennium Check-in - Cr Barker
Horowhenua Older Person's Network Meeting
Police Meeting – discussion on local issues
Electra Business After Five
Water Reform Planning - Advisory Oversight Group - Wellington regional water services delivery plan, workshop 2: Economics & funding
Te Ahurei o Horowhenua Kapahaka
Mayor and Chief Executive Catch-up - III
Horowhenua Lake Trust and HDC Hui
Te Putanga mai o Matariki (Muaūpoko karakia to acknowledge Matariki)
Council Meeting (26 June)
Public Catch up with Mayor Bernie session at Shannon Library
Lights over Te Awahou – Matariki celebrations in Foxton
Matariki ki Ōtauru – Matariki celebrations in Shannon

4. Boy Racer Activity and Anti-social Gatherings

The District received some unwanted attention following a 'Boy Racer' gathering over the Kings Birthday weekend.

Boy Racer events are not new for the district or the wider region but this was the first time that an event escalated into violence against Police and contained significant elements of anti-social and disorderly behaviour.

The activity resulted in two Police officers being injured, an arrest, six vehicles being impounded, injured bystanders and a large mess on some of our roads.

During and following the event Police at all times have kept myself and other Mayors in the region informed of their work to put in place measures that attempt to prevent these gatherings but also enforce the law more stringently.

Police have sent a clear message that the disorderly and anti-social behaviour elements of these events will not be tolerated and they will be taking a tougher line in issuing infringement notices and impounding vehicles.

From: [Sue Fifita-Tovo](#)
To: [Customer Experience Team](#)
Subject: FW: Boy racers / Graffiti - [REDACTED] - 12 June 2024
Date: Wednesday, 12 June 2024 11:02:15 am

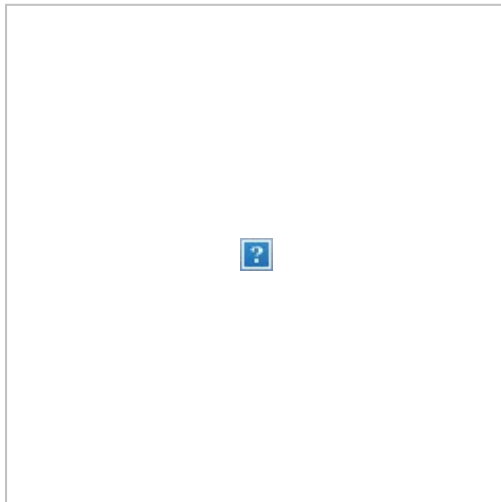
Hello, could the item highlighted in yellow be entered as a CRM and referred to NZTA, thanks.

Sue

Sue Fifita-Tovo | QSM, JP
Executive Officer | Kaiāwhina Mātāmua

Waea Mahi | (06) 366 0999
Waea Pukoro [REDACTED]

126 Oxford Street, Levin
Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2024 5:04 pm
To: Mayor Bernie Wanden [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Boy racers

Thank you for you response,you must have been inundated with comments such as mine.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tonight I notice as I was coming from levin an thd left hand side just before Kimberly gardens a road sign has been graffitied.

Time for us to all stand up against these little shits!!

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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From: Mayor Bernie Wanden [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2024 4:27:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Boy racers

Hello [REDACTED], thanks for your email and comments.

This sort of behaviour is not condoned or to be tolerated. It has created huge public outcry and support for our community and Police which has been reassuring.

Please be assured that we are working with neighbouring Councils and the Police on how best to manage this problem. We certainly do not want to see a repeat of Saturday night.

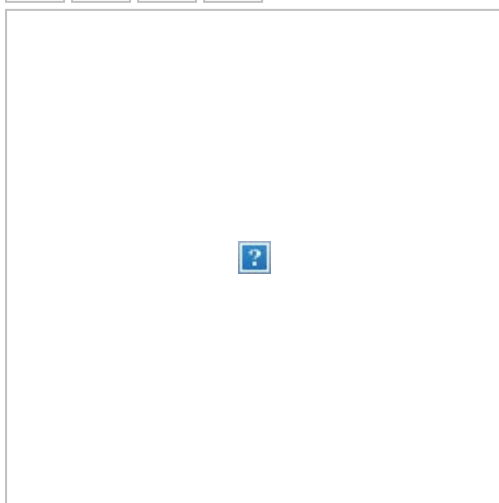
Note that the matter is before the Police and we will be doing everything we can to assist them with their investigations.

Bernie

Bernie Wanden JP
Mayor | Kahika

Waea Mahi | (06) 366 0999
Waea Pukoro | [REDACTED]

126 Oxford Street, Levin
Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540



From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, 3 June 2024 10:48 am
To: Mayor Bernie Wanden [REDACTED]
Subject: Boy racers

You must be awkward of the disgraceful behaviour of the boys racers here in our town on sat

and Sunday of kings birthday weekend.

Our roads have been scattered with debris and shocking black trails damaging roads in our area where many of said road have recently had massive amounts of money spent on them.

I am angry really really angry that these toe rags get away with this behaviour.

As the Mayor I expect you to take tough action to prevent a repeat of this and bring those little shits to account for the damage they have done.

People on Fb know who the brats are.

Round them up and make them pay big time.

I expect to hear exactly what steps are to be taken to prevent a repeat.

Yours faithfully

██████████

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From: [Monique Davidson](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Mayor Bernie Wanden](#); [Sam Jennings](#)
Subject: RE: Role played by by HCCT re recent boy-racer events in Horowhenua policing area:
Date: Tuesday, 11 June 2024 10:43:00 am

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Thank you for letting us know. HCCT's support in providing crucial information to the police is greatly appreciated.

The efforts of monitoring and providing footage are invaluable during these events.

Ngā mihi,

Monique

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 10 June 2024 8:57 pm
To: Monique Davidson [REDACTED]
Cc: Mayor Bernie Wanden [REDACTED] Sam Jennings
[REDACTED]
Subject: Role played by by HCCT re recent boy-racer events in Horowhenua policing area:

TO: CE Monique Davidson.

Kia ora Monique.

It seemed important to provide you some information about the role HCCT played supporting the Police response to this threat and events.
We request that you make it available as you see fit.

Liaison prior to the events of Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 June, resulted in our lead operator being on monitoring duty in the operations centre for 6 hours during these shocking events. He interacted with Police during this spell, and ensured maximum useful coverage was recorded.

Subsequently our lead operator spent 9 hours providing Police with selected footage and data to assist them with enquiries.
Police personnel have advised the service and footage has been helpful.

These events underscored the value of us improving the quality of safety-camera coverage in Levin.
Coverage extensions planned by the Trust look to be even more highly desirable - including in Otaki.

.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Boy Racers Disgraceful
Date: Monday, 10 June 2024 2:31:19 pm

From: [Tim Costley MP](#)
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 1:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Boy Racers Disgraceful

Hi [REDACTED]

Good to hear from you.

The burnouts and violence seen in Levin and Ōtaki on Saturday night demonstrate the need to restore law and order in our community. I was appalled by the dangerous driving, injuring of police officers, hitting bystanders, and a sea of people leaving a trail of vandalism in their wake.

I've spoken with Police, victims, the Mayor, and the Minister of Police. We are united in condemning this, and in wanting to see consequences for those involved to deter repeat offending. So far, I understand at least seven cars have been impounded and several people have been arrested.

Our budget last week provides \$651 million over four years to support frontline policing. This includes \$191 million over four years to deliver 500 extra police officers by 2025, as well as investment in vehicles, equipment and police station investment to back our police and keep our communities safer.

I take restoring law and order seriously, and that is why it is a top priority in our recent Budget. Alongside this, we are going to ban gang insignia in public places, give new powers for dispersal and non-consorting for gang members, restoring three strikes legislation, establishing youth military academies and a youth serious offender category.

I'll keep working hard to ensure we have a safer community, and ample opportunities to get young people into work and contributing to a safe and prosperous community to which we all aspire.

Kind regards,

Tim Costley
MP for Ōtaki

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2024 9:28 AM
To: ;
Subject: Boy Racers Disgraceful

The editor.

Watching TV1 news tonight I cant believe what I hear this idiot boy racer say with NO

respect and NO guts to show his face saying they will continue there burn outs but if we given our own area we would go there. Take my car off me and I will buy another so F..K you.

I say bullshit because they were given the chance in the early 2020s in Christchurch to go to Ruapuna race track. It started alright but didnt last long because these dick heads didnt have the public watching them so they ended up back in Moorhouse and Bealey Ave in the city.

Whatever you do Mark Mitchell do it quick. The general public have had enough and are right behind you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Virus-free www.avast.com

From: [Mayor Bernie Wanden](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Boy Racres Levin
Date: Monday, 10 June 2024 12:11:00 pm

Hello, thanks for your email and comments.

This sort of behaviour is not condoned or to be tolerated. It has created huge public outcry and support for our community and Police which has been reassuring.

Please be assured that we are working with neighbouring Councils and the Police on how best to manage this problem. We certainly do not want to see a repeat of Saturday night.

Note that the matter is before the Police and we will be doing everything we can to assist them with their investigations.

Bernie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 9 June 2024 9:47 am
To: [REDACTED] Mayor Bernie Wanden [REDACTED]
Subject: Boy Racres Levin

Greetings Hon. Mark Mitchell and Mayor Bernie Wanden,

It is most disturbing to hear what is going on with "boy racers" at Levin. Clearly the problem will not stop there unless a firm stand is taken and with and councils sharing and coordinating their actions..

The attachment above provides some actions that my staff and I have taken in this region to protect public reserves in the past.

Through searching through NZ legislation, it appears the most powerful action could be taken under Sec 81 of The Crimes Act 1961; offences relating to sedition. This to deal with anyone agitating against the authority of a State, performing illegal acts or promoting rebellion or breach of public order. Take the leaders of these boy racer "riots" out and motivation falls over.

My recommendation is that you instruct your lawyers to investigate the use of sedition laws and if agreed prepare papers for Cabinet Ministers to debate and sign off. Surely all parties can agree to this strategy.

Please feel free to distribute these ideas to other district authorities if it helps.

Effective actions will take determination to put in place.

Kind regards,



Greetings, Hon. Mark Mitchell: Minister of Police NZ [REDACTED]

Greetings, Mayor Bernie Wanden: Mayor of Horowhenua DC NZ [REDACTED]

Boy Racers

The Issue: The recent "boy racer" events reported at Levin describe a disregard and arrogance by youths for the rule of law. If this attitude is to be stopped spreading, it must be dealt to with ruthless effectiveness and efficiency.

- 1 Boy racers have weaponized vehicles in their mass car drifting gatherings.
- 2 They ignore, insult and assault police.
- 3 They are egged on by amused spectators.
- 4 Endanger spectator public.
- 5 Annoy and intimidate passing and local residents.
- 5 Damage roads, other public and private property.
- 6 Create pollution and fire ignition potentials.
- 6 Carry and present weapons. (Which could well justify house arms and ammo searches by police.)
- 7 Drug taking and excessive alcohol consumption is out of control.
- 8 Are a serious public endangerment.
- 9 Commit seditious offence. Investigate actions under Crimes Act 1961. To target organizers.

New law needs to specify offences:

- 1 Any one of the above offences should be sufficient to warrant police seizure of the vehicle.
- 2 That enable police to seize and impound cars in secure places.
- 3 After court proceedings, allows police to auction cars for sale.
- 4 Provides funds to repair of roads, public facilities, damaged private property.

Procedure: Vehicle forfeitures are likely only able to be authorized via a Magistrates Court Judge. Judge must be enabled to view recordings, hear police and witness statements. Our courts need to proceed with convictions speedily. Delays allow youth and sympathetic public, time to organize retaliation and demonstrations. Specific Legislation: We need create legislation specifically to deal with the boy racer issue. Such must allow court Judges to forfeit ownership of cars. The prime sentencing means. Crushing vehicles appears dramatic but does not have general public support. Seeing their vehicle lost at auction will be a much more emotionally effective sentence on any youth observing sentencing.

Precedents for authorized vehicle, vessel and instruments of crime seizure . To name a few.
Wildlife Act. Fisheries Act. Arms Act. Forfeiture Customs and Exercise Act 1996

Pre-emptive Actions: Be predictive of where an event may occur. Secure boundaries ASAP if possible. Next setup random barriers (immovable log barriers, boulders, drains, across vehicle drifters corridors, make it impossible to speed. If a gathering happens, get onto the problem fast. With modern telecommunications it's easy for boy racer organizers to attract support from boy racers elsewhere. Arrange police and vehicle transports and impoundments well in advance.

Attending drifting events, police are tasked to collect evidence. They observe events, video record offences, identify and book offenders. Issue instant fines to by-standers egging offenders on.

Please take this advice in the spirit given. I've had experience in practical law enforcement and court prosecution proceedings. On this particular topic have dealt with youth offences of drifting and vehicle damage on public reserves.

This issue needs to be dealt with determination. Because of issues of people and property endangerment, district councils would be most unwise to provide space for boy racing events. I hope my words help.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [Phil Jones - Omega](#)
To: [Mayor Bernie Wanden](#)
Cc: [Monique Davidson](#)
Subject: Private investigation services - Boy Racers
Date: Friday, 7 June 2024 9:41:50 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Horowhenua Council letter 070624.pdf](#)

Hi Bernie/Monique

Please see attached information re Investigation services and assistance with dealing with Boy Racer activity.

Regards

Description: efooter-logo



PHIL JONES | MANAGING DIRECTOR
INVESTIGATION AND SECURITY SERVICES
PO Box 33-273, Takapuna. Auckland
Mob: 021- 616 651
phil@omegainvestigations.co.nz | www.omegainvestigations.co.nz

7 June 2024

Mr Bernie Wanden
Mayor
Horowhenua District Council
Private Bag 4002
Levin 5540

Cc Ms Monique Davidson - Chief Executive

Dear Bernie and Monique

BOY RACER AND UNRULY ACTIVITY

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of our services that may assist you with the current unruly behaviour by boy racers in your region.

2. OMEGA AND PARAGON

Omega Investigations are associated with Paragon New Zealand, both investigation companies are highly regarded in New Zealand. We work for government agencies, councils, Auckland Transport, lawyers, insurance companies and commercial clients.

We have staff nationwide and in particular have a fully operational surveillance team based in Auckland who are highly skilled. Omega Investigations previously undertook a major operation of boy racers in Mount Maunganui a number of years ago. You would undoubtedly have seen the



footage on TV at the time which was obtained by our Investigators. We are adept at conducting major investigations.

In that operation we were able to covertly view boy racer activity, video and obtain evidence on vehicles which was then presented to the Police which culminated in 42 serious prosecutions.

Following these prosecutions the problem which was extreme at that time in Mount Maunganui displaced and the offenders separated to smaller venues outside Mount Maunganui/Tauranga and eventually the problem ceased.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/boy-racers-put-off-the-road-in-citys-undercover-sting/YKL3CY7RXC4VKQKQIHJ7OBVXXU/#google_vignette

As a result of that operation, Tauranga received a commendation from the World Health Organisation as being a 'safer city'.

3. PRESENT ACTIVITY

The present activity as we see from television footage is extreme. These offenders are determined, reckless with no concern for society, cause damage and potential injuries to themselves or other persons.

We see that the New Zealand Police have already been heavily involved in some areas and they are likely putting dossiers together on the main instigators and will eventually lead to some prosecutions.

However, the New Zealand Police have limited resources and may need support. Investigation of these large complex matters needs to be a collaborative approach:

We as Investigators can provide that support, in the following areas:

- Planning and execution.
- Internet scraping to identify how offenders use social media to congregate.



- Join those media outlets to allow us to obtain regular intelligence from the groups.
- Potentially identify social media handles for the instigators.
- Plan an operation in conjunction with the Police whereby our covert staff view activity, identify perpetrators, and provide evidential statements, photographs and video which can be used by the New Zealand Police for prosecution.
- Please note that if prosecutions do occur, our staff may be required to still give evidence on your behalf.
- Help Police prepare prosecution files if needed.

This activity has got to a critical situation so there is no easy fix. The solution is to painstakingly plan, gather evidence, identify the main protagonists, and provide all the evidence to the NZ Police for prosecution. We suspect it will not be an easy fix and will take many instances of unruly behaviour, gathering evidence. Any of these major operations take planning, we have to identify the risk for our staff as do the Police, there will be briefings and debriefings.

We have staff nationwide, but the majority of our surveillance staff are Auckland-based so any time and cost would have to include travel.

Our operation if required would be managed by Phil Jones who has over 40 years' experience of law enforcement and investigations.

4. COST

We can provide a cost when an initial plan is made, these operations are normally conducted in stages.

Stage 1 could be initial meetings and prepare a plan. Any plan has to be flexible depending on the information, intelligence and evidence received.

We can provide estimates for each stage.



We are happy to come and meet you in person but to ease costs we can undertake an online Teams or Zoom meeting at your convenience. We are happy to conduct the first meeting at no cost to you.

An example of our cost structure is shown below:

Investigations – Planning – Management	\$180.00 per hour
Surveillance	\$130.00 per hour
Mileage	95c kilometre which would include travel costs from Auckland and other centres if required
Disbursements at cost – this could include some minor search costs, motel expenses	

All costs exclusive of GST.

5. OTHER INVESTIGATION SERVICES

In addition to the above, we provide the following further services:

- **Investigations** – Statements, employment, incidents
- **Fraud**
- **Incident** investigation – Scene or event reconstruction
- **Security and Risk** – Security reviews – building – personnel risk assessments – Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)
- **Conflict/De-escalation training** – including situation training for “Lone workers”. Our training programme is restricted to 2 hours per session given time pressures of organisations.
- **Lockdown procedures and training** – Prepare documentation – training – scenarios
- **Background Inquiries** – Asset, due diligence, social media

Please advise if you require further information or costings on any of these services.



6. CLOSING

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Phil Jones, 021 616 651.

Yours faithfully

OMEGA INVESTIGATIONS LTD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Jones", located below the company name.

PHILIP JONES

Managing Director

MOB: 021 616 651