

26 May 2025

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-39522

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

#### **Request for information 2025-144**

I refer to your request for information dated 2 May 2025, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 2 May 2025. You have requested the following:

*“Dear Sir, in a recent email you sent by GWRC to public servants you claimed that wind event over the past few days is attributable to climate change. Wind speeds have been falling for the past 40 years (NIWA) and there are no IPCC projections for the period prior to 2030. What studies or climate projections are you using to determine this wind event is due to climate change? Please provide links to the studies you have referenced. [REDACTED]”*

#### **Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

The e-mail sent by Greater Wellington was a newsletter sent to email subscribers to the Tō Tātou Rohe newsletter.

In the newsletter there was a statement by our Chair saying *“I hope you were able to stay safe and sheltered during the wild weather this week, as the consequences of climate change come to the fore.”*

We note that you are correct that the average wind speed for Wellington has been decreasing over time for some seasons and to our knowledge there are no studies linking specific individual weather events to climate change for the Greater Wellington Region.


However, the commentary by the Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council is consistent with the available climate change information available on our website concerning changes to severe weather patterns due to climate change for the region.

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/environment/climate-change/impacts-on-our-region/>).

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Lian Butcher

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rōpū Taiao | Group Manager Environment

Proactive Release