

Date released: 10th August 2023



Request: OIA-1263

Original LGOIMA Request:

Please see the following article for reference:

<https://www.odt.co.nz/regions/north-otago/council-firm-retaining-colony>

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We request the following information:

- What have Waitaki District Council's annual revenues driven specifically by the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony through such sources as tourism been in each of the last 5 years?
- What have Waitaki District Council's annual costs been of continuing to own the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony in each of the last 5 years?
- Any economic assessment of the continued ownership of the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony produced within the last 3 years.
- Any assessment of future revenue and/or costs associated with the continued ownership of the Oamaru Blue Penguin colony produced within the last 3 years.
- Any economic assessment associated with plans to transfer the Oamaru Blue Penguin colony to a CCO, and economic assessments associated with plans to bring in a partner to help the CCO grow (produced within the last 3 years).
- Any economic assessment of the possibility of selling/privatising the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony (produced within the last 3 years).
- Total costs & staffing hours associated with the planning and investigation process into whether to transfer the Oamaru Blue Penguin colony over the last 18 months.
- If any of the above economic assessments have not been produced within the time periods listed, when was the last time that they were and when are they planned to next be produced?

Official LGOIMA Response:

Council Officers have reviewed your request and have collated the answers in red below and attached link in response.

What have Waitaki District Council's annual revenues driven specifically by the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony through such sources as tourism been in each of the last 5 years?

Zero. Council does not receive revenue from the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony (OBPC)

What have Waitaki District Council's annual costs been of continuing to own the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony in each of the last 5 years?

Council owns the land and building used by the OBPC and these are leased at a commercial rate so all costs are covered.

Any economic assessment of the continued ownership of the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony produced within the last 3 years.

No assessment undertaken.

Any assessment of future revenue and/or costs associated with the continued ownership of the Oamaru Blue Penguin colony produced within the last 3 years.

No assessment undertaken.

Any economic assessment associated with plans to transfer the Oamaru Blue Penguin colony to a CCO, and economic assessments associated with plans to bring in a partner to help the CCO grow (produced within the last 3 years). OBPC already sits inside a CCO, Tourism Waitaki Limited. The idea of bringing in a partner was raised in Councils economic development strategy which is available here:

<https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/About-Waitaki/Securing-our-future/Uplifting-Waitaki/Waitaki-Economic-Development-Strategy>

Any economic assessment of the possibility of selling/privatising the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony (produced within the last 3 years).

No assessment proposed or undertaken.

Total costs & staffing hours associated with the planning and investigation process into whether to transfer the Oamaru Blue Penguin colony over the last 18 months.

No work specific to this type of proposal has been undertaken.