

Date released: 12th February 2024



Request: OIA-1320

Original LGOIMA Request:

You requested the below information which for the sake of clarity, we re-numbered your questions to follow on your original request as per below:

Phone +64 3 433 0300

Web www.waitaki.govt.nz

Office 20 Thames Street
Private Bag 50058

1. An outline of the budget, or proposed budget and breakdown, of council's planned dispersal of the \$225,000 of Better-Off funding in Omarama, with the amounts allocated to the various projects put forward in the decision report by Cyndi Christensen which was passed by the council at its December 12 meeting.
2. How much of the \$225,000 has been allocated to the improvement of footpaths or "safe pathway connections", in Omarama?
3. According to the report the new traffic/parking signage is to be paid for from the Better Off Funding. How much was paid for the initial installation which went up within a week of the council's decision? Given one sign has already succumbed to damage from vehicles, where will the money come for its replacement and how much will that cost?
4. A copy of the presentation by Ms Christensen and made to the Ahuriri Community Board workshop in Otematata in October ahead of the Community Conversations to which Residents Association of Omarama chairman Lindsay Purvis was invited.
5. Who, in Omarama, was told that, in addition to discussing playground improvements, the three masterplan options would be discussed, that council roading staff would also be present at the "informal meeting" to discuss proposed implementation of traffic management and signage for the town centre, along with a six-month trial for parking improvements; where additional EV chargers might be installed, and the other topics that were introduced which were not relevant to playground improvements?

In the meeting notes (attached below) taken at the "informal meeting" by both the RAOI secretary and Cyndi Christensen, and in the RAOI chairman's report, no mention was made that the information gathered on any of the topics discussed at the November 20 meeting was to be presented as a "decision report" to the Board which was subsequently ratified by the Council.

6. Who, at that November 20 meeting, was told by council staff that this was to be used as a consultation exercise for this decision report?

Why were EV charging stations and the placement of Jump Charging Ltd's proposed hub discussed at this meeting when it is neither part of any of the Masterplan options nor a playground project, and those businesses affected by this decision were not present at the meeting?

7. Is this information to be used as part of Jump Charging Ltd's consent decision or other planning processes?

Given that this was an "informal meeting" according to the council officer's report, and using the same definition the council uses of 'informal meeting' – no decisions can be made – and as per the definitions of the ROAI's constitution -

8. Why was the feedback from this group of 11, who met informally – characterised as decisions of the ROAI in the report to the Board and council?
9. How can the Ahuriri Community Board recommend the council ratify this decision report when the RAOI has not discussed or voted on any of these topics at any formal committee meeting?
10. When – the date and time please - was Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King first shown the decision report?

Given the Ahuriri Community Board and the council has handed delegated authority to the Chief Executive and given there were only 11 ratepayers present at the 'informal meeting' in November if the remaining Omarama rate/taxpayers – estimated to be between 280 and 300 - wish to challenge decisions, and how and why these public monies have been allocated to specific projects, and the reasons why some projects might be prioritised over others ...

11. What recourse do they have to appeal?

Official LGOIMA Response:

Council Officers have reviewed your request and have prepared the answers to your questions below. An attached document is part of our response to your question 4. We note that we have re-numbered your questions to follow on your original request, and the answers are provided in red below each question.

1. An outline of the budget, or proposed budget and breakdown, of council's planned dispersal of the \$225,000 of Better-Off funding in Omarama, with the amounts allocated to the various projects put forward in the decision report by Cyndi Christensen which was passed by the council at its December 12 meeting.
Answer: No decision has yet been taken on how the Better Off Funding approved for Omarama will be allocated to specific projects.
2. How much of the \$225,000 has been allocated to the improvement of footpaths or "safe pathway connections", in Omarama?
Answer: Please refer to answer 1 above. No allocations have yet been made to specific projects.
3. According to the report the new traffic/parking signage is to be paid for from the Better Off Funding. How much was paid for the initial installation which went up within a week of the council's decision? Given one sign has already succumbed to damage from vehicles, where will the money come for its replacement and how much will that cost?
Answer: Payment for the initial signage in the Omarama carpark was made from Roding's Car Park Maintenance and Signage budget, at a cost of \$796.37 + GST. The Board and Council decisions in the report were about seeking approval to leverage a portion of Better Off Funding to proceed with a six-month parking improvement trial, not the initial installation of signage. The six-month trial will then help guide other options for a long-term solution on traffic congestion and parking.

4. A copy of the presentation by Ms Christensen and made to the Ahuriri Community Board workshop in Otematata in October ahead of the Community Conversations to which Residents Association of Omarama chairman Lindsay Purvis was invited.

Answer: A copy of the presentation is attached. Please note that names have been redacted to 'protect the privacy of natural person(s)' upheld by the Privacy Act 2020, as well as outdated figures that have been updated in subsequently published documents.

We also must protect information considered under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 in which to release documents will require thorough redaction.

As a further note, we highlight that this presentation contains what might be considered 'decision words'. These were not related to discussions and outcomes of this workshop. Rather, they relate to earlier Council officer discussion on existing scheduled projects, initiatives and programmes for Omarama, as well as any available funding from various teams across Council that had been budgeted for Omarama /Ahuriri Ward.

5. Who, in Omarama, was told that, in addition to discussing playground improvements, the three masterplan options would be discussed, that council roading staff would also be present at the "informal meeting" to discuss proposed implementation of traffic management and signage for the town centre, along with a six-month trial for parking improvements; where additional EV chargers might be installed, and the other topics that were introduced which were not relevant to playground improvements?

Answer: Council does not have details of who was told about the 20 November informal community meeting in Omarama, because it was organised and publicised by the Residents Association of Omarama Inc. They will have the details of the content of their public notice, when and where it was published, and to whom it was distributed.

In the meeting notes (attached below) taken at the "informal meeting" by both the RAOI secretary and Cyndi Christensen, and in the RAOI chairman's report, no mention was made that the information gathered on any of the topics discussed at the November 20 meeting was to be presented as a "decision report" to the Board which was subsequently ratified by the Council.

Answer: The informal community meeting was convened by the RAOO Inc Chair. Any discussion topics were at his discretion to raise or not to mention. On the other hand, the decision report was drafted as a separate activity by officers and was focused on seeking the relevant approval from Council for the use of Better Off Funding in Omarama through a recommendation from the Ahuriri Community Board.

6. Who, at that November 20 meeting, was told by council staff that this was to be used as a consultation exercise for this decision report?

Council staff did not tell anyone at the 20 November informal community meeting that it was a consultation exercise for the decision report because it was not a Council-organised meeting. The RAOO Inc Chair organised the meeting and wrote the contents of his Chairman's report.

Why were EV charging stations and the placement of Jump Charging Ltd's proposed hub discussed at this meeting when it is neither part of any of the Masterplan options nor a playground project, and those businesses affected by this decision were not present at the meeting?

Answer: The EV charging stations was a discussion topic that the RAOO Inc Chair put forward; he will have more details about why it was included. Council Roothing staff were invited to the informal community meeting by the RAOO Inc and answered questions there as they were raised by the RAOO Inc Chair.

7. Is this information to be used as part of Jump Charging Ltd's consent decision or other planning processes?

Answer: Council Roding Staff were invited to the meeting for the informal discussion. The Ratepayers Association raised questions to Council Roding Staff during the roundtable discussion on the Jump Charging EV Charger topic. No, this information was not used in any further decisions or processes related to their request.

Given that this was an "informal meeting" according to the council officer's report, and using the same definition the council uses of 'informal meeting' – no decisions can be made – and as per the definitions of the ROAI's constitution -

8. Why was the feedback from this group of 11, who met informally – characterised as decisions of the ROAI in the report to the Board and council?

Answer: We do not believe that the officer report characterises any content as decisions of the RAOO. The summary of the report discusses the projects that the survey respondents prioritised back in August 2023; and stated that the "community-led project team has now been established to help move agreed projects from the Masterplan forward (with "agreed" being a reference to the projects that were agreed and approved in the Masterplan when it was first developed back in 2020)". There is also a reference to: "The options in the Masterplan were discussed further [at the 20 November 2023 informal community meeting] and an action plan that could help facilitate progression of opportunities with them was outlined. Each option will be costed for budget approval."

9. How can the Ahuriri Community Board recommend the council ratify this decision report when the RAOI has not discussed or voted on any of these topics at any formal committee meeting?

Answer: RAOO has its own constitution and the right to run its meetings in accordance with that and as directed by its Chair. The ACB recommendation to Council was in relation to the use of the Better Off Funding which followed local government decision-making processes.

10. When – the date and time please - was Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King first shown the decision report?

Answer: The final agenda papers for the December ACB meeting were published to elected members (including ACB member Mike King) and on Council's website early on 1 December 2023.

Given the Ahuriri Community Board and the council has handed delegated authority to the Chief Executive and given there were only 11 ratepayers present at the 'informal meeting' in November if the remaining Omarama rate/taxpayers – estimated to be between 280 and 300 - wish to challenge decisions, and how and why these public monies have been allocated to specific projects, and the reasons why some projects might be prioritised over others ...

Answer: The allocation of Better Off Funding to certain areas within the Waitaki district has been determined by the criteria set for it by central government. That criteria included using an existing strategy document (in Omarama's case, that was the Masterplan which Council had previously approved and was in place) to help identify possible community projects (as listed in the Masterplan) AND could meet the criteria to be allocated from the Better Off Funding. As noted above, no individual allocation of funding has yet been made to specific projects in Omarama. The RAOO Chair's public notice of the 20 November informal community meeting would have provided an invitation to all Omarama rate/taxpayers to attend to contribute to the discussion there. If they were not able to attend the meeting and now want to share their views, it is suggested that they correspond directly with the Residents' Association of Omarama.

11. What recourse do they have to appeal?

Answer: It is unclear from the question what the subject of an appeal would be. The Better Off Funding has been allocated to Omarama in the amount of \$225,000 via a Council resolution and that is a legal decision, which can only be amended or reversed by Council itself. If the other rate/taxpayers of Omarama wish to appeal / challenge the Residents' Association of Omarama contributions or process that they have followed to date, then we would recommend communicating with them directly as a first step.

Petitions can be presented to the local authority or community board, as long as the subject matter falls within the terms of reference of the intended meeting. There are specific conditions that must be met for petitions, and they are covered under section 17 of Council's Standing Orders which are available on our website (at the bottom of the "Mayor and Councillors" page).

Ahuriri Community Board Meeting

19 October, 2023

Discussion on Ōmārama and Otematata Masterplan activation

Agenda

- **Purpose:**
 - Share recommended approach to Ōmārama masterplan activation
 - Agree optimum phasing to activation, priorities, budget allocation and community engagement
 - Formal endorsement Better off Funding of ████████ to complete Otematata CLDP projects
- **Outcomes**
 - Alignment on priorities and approach to move forward
 - Clarity on messaging for community conversation on October 21st
 - Agree approach to showcase the ORAI CLDP as a best practice model for other township projects.

3 locations identified for activation Ōmārama masterplan- Option 1

Location	Community Hall & Playground activation
What	Mural - funded Halfcourt/basketball - funded Shading and seating Trickle charge (other sites to be reviewed) Natural playground Adventure park
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancement projects underway and funding secured(mural/halfcourt)• Additional activation will increase usage & appeal to youth and families and reinforce its importance as a key gathering place/hub for the community



Community Hub area

Activation – Option 1: Community Hub Discussion

- Development opportunities
 - Mural/Half court – community led and funded
 - Shading and seating
 - Shade already in place around sandpit
 - Potential funding for seating through amenity budgets (instead of Better Off)
 - Trickle charge
 - Concerns re space availability and if EV charger aligns with usage guidelines
 - Natural Playground//Adventure Playground
 - Community led design and development. Potential opportunity to leverage local employer Numat in playground design process.
 - Play areas agreed as pivotal to support inclusivity and accessibility goals (eg disabilities/all ages).

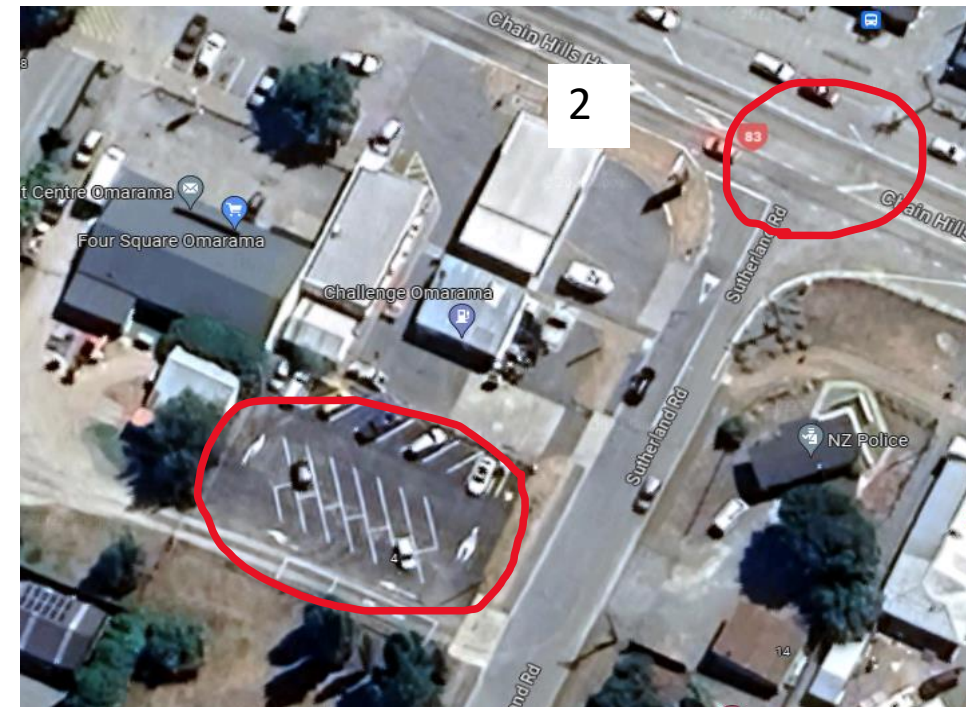
Actions Agreed- Option 1 - Community Hub

Option 1 –Community Hub	What	Who	When
Shading and Seating	Discuss with ██████ / Community Board if improvement funds can be used for seats	█████	By November
Natural playground	Ideas to be shared for community engagement	█████	By Monday
	ED team to assess Numat interest in project design	█████	Post Community Board discussion
EV charger(trickle chg)	Check compliance for recreation reserve zone	█████	Monday
Overall concept	Request updated concept designs from ██████	█████	Post Community Board discussion

3 locations identified for activation

Ōmārama masterplan- Option 2

Location	Sutherland Rd carpark enhancements
What	Road and way finding signage Parking layout optimisation Streetscape enhancements – seating/shades EV chargers
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EV charging already in place. Opportunity to increase charging capacity with additional charger. Funding in place.• EV charger poorly signposted and carpark underutilised.• Visitor overflow during peak season - optimise experience.



Sutherland Road

Activation Areas – Option 2 - Sutherland St Discussion

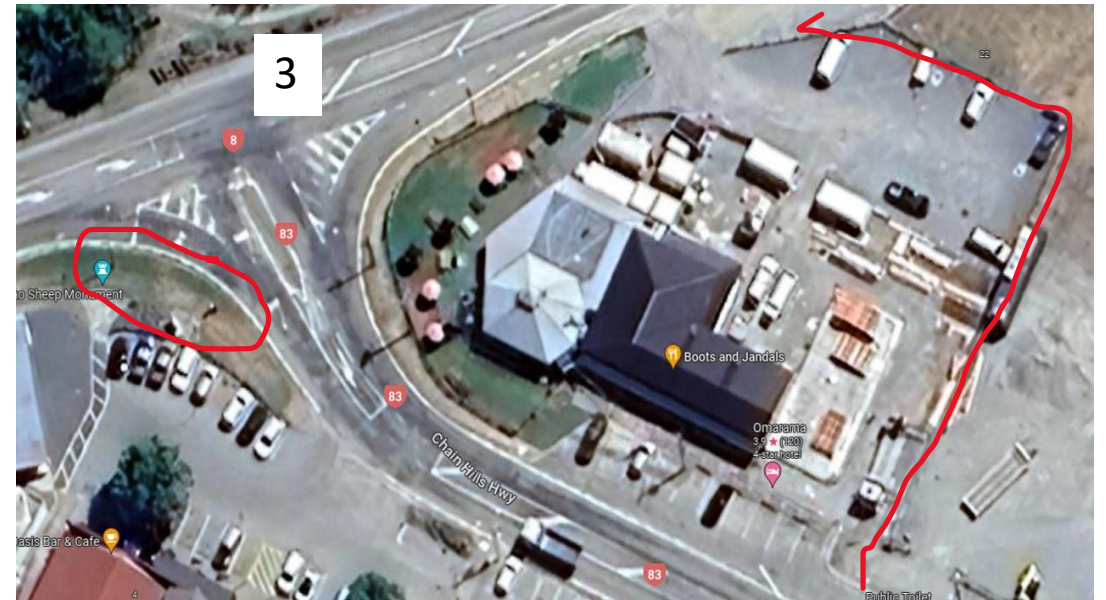
- Development opportunities
 - Road and way finding signage
 - New EV signage underway – Network Waitaki.
 - Parking layout optimisation
 - Additional charger will restrict space for improved parking options. On hold.
 - Amenities/street furniture
 - Opportunity to explore seating/tables on berm endorsed.
 - EV chargers
 - Second charger to be installed by Network Waitaki by end December 2023.
 - EV charger - Tesla – also installed at Ōmārama Hot Tubs. Jump Charging seeking high traffic location. Further discussion October 19th .

Action Agreed- Sutherland Rd – Option 2

Option 2	What	Who	When
Street furniture	Explore design concepts for car park/berm area with [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Post community board discussion

3 locations identified for activation Ōmārama masterplan- Option 3

Location	Cycle / pedestrian connections, parking
What	Cycle parking Pedestrian connection enhancements
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of suitable cycle parking for A20 users.• Free up car parking spaces for cars.• H&S for cyclists – dedicated space and facilities• H&S- visitor friendly pedestrian walkways. Encourage additional dwell time



SH 83 & SH 8

Activation Area – Cycle Park/Pedestrian - Option3 Discussion

- Pedestrian connections
 - Changes to recommendation discussed to reflect previous council/roading discussions with property owner.
 - Preference to redirect current A20 cycleway off Chain Hills Highway behind Boots & Jandals hotel with sufficient space for pedestrian usage
 - Development of property currently underway. Need to ascertain if scope includes cycle and pedestrian pathway. Preference for council to fund on-going maintenance vs build costs.
 - Front of property is road reserves. Currently licence to occupy enables outdoor furniture
- Cycle Parking
 - Changes to initial recommendation to support cyclist H&S and avoid high congestion areas.
 - Recommendation to navigate cyclists to Sutherland St parking area and install cycle racks.
 - Will require input from Waka Kotahi.
- Electricity infrastructure
 - Request by Network Waitaki for switch station space for underground cables at the ram statue. Will improve resilience and customer service.
 - Potential to add beautification to ram area.

Activation Areas Option 3 - Discussion

- Parking in front of retail
 - Suggestion to change flow and have one way egress for entering and exiting site
 - Further information required on car and cycle parking demands during peak season.
 - If Community board endorsed, develop plans with [REDACTED] for community engagement.

Actions Agreed- Option 3

Cycle Parks and Pedestrian Connections

Option 3	What	Who	When
	Set up initial meeting with [REDACTED] building owner	[REDACTED]	By end Oct
	Check on status of current Licence to Occupy	[REDACTED]	By Oct 20
	Brief road safety co-ordinator ([REDACTED]) on optimum crossing options as conduit to Waka Kotahi ([REDACTED])	[REDACTED]	Nov
	New entry/exit layout for parking discussion with community board	[REDACTED]	asap
	Discuss parking data requirements with community board	[REDACTED]	Community board meeting

Available budget – Annual Plan and LTP projections

	2023/2024 Annual Plan	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2031/2032
AVAILABLE FUNDING	\$339K	\$229K	\$278K	\$21K	\$22K	\$1.7M
Better off Fund*	\$225K			BoF projects and funds need to be completed and monies spent by 30/6/27		
Roading – **Amenity Reserves	\$114K	**	**	**		
Parks & Recreation-Accessible play***		\$21K	\$21K	\$21k	\$22K	
Parks & Recreation-Adventure Playground		\$208K	\$221K			
Parks & Recreation-Streetscaping			\$36K			
Parks & Recreation –Community sports pitch						\$1.7M

Just be mindful that these are still subject to current the current LTP plan. Just in case councillors decide to remove money in the future.

*Better off Funding is a limited 2-year funding programme ****To be confirmed

** Budgets to be confirmed with Systems Account Assets lead (18 Oct)

*** Accessible play budget is a district wide fund and priorities will need to be set, prior to the allocation of this. This year we will be allocating this to the Oamaru public gardens.

Funding & Budget by Project Option

Budget estimate	Option 1		Option 2		Option 3	
	Community Hub		Sutherland Road		Cycle parking, cycle/pedestrian path	
	Shading and Seating	\$50k	EV charger*		Pathway behind Boots & Jandals	\$120K
	Natural playground/ Adventure playground	\$20K- \$120K	EV and parking signage*			
	Mural	\$5K**	Seating	\$25K		
	Halfcourt	\$16K**				
Subtotal		\$211K				\$120K
Concept Design	Option 1-3	\$35k				
Total		\$226K		\$25K		\$140K

*Funding resources from external organisations, ei: Waka Kotahi, Network Waitaki, EECA

** Funding confirmed through Community Board

Estimated Timeline for Options

Option items	2023/2024		2024/2025	
	H1	H2	H1	H2
Community Hall				
Mural - funded	✓ .			
Halfcourt/basketball - funded	✓ .			
Shading and seating		✓ .		
Trickle charge (tbc)			✓ .	
Natural playground /adventure park		✓ .	✓ .	✓ .
Sutherland Rd carpark	H1	H2	H1	H2
Road and way finding signage	✓ .			
Parking layout optimisation	✓ .			
Streetscape enhancements –seating/shades	✓ .			
EV chargers	✓ .			
Cycle/Pedestrian connections, parking	H1	H2	H1	H2
Cycle Parking		✓ .		
Pedestrian connection enhancements			✓ .	
Concept design		✓ .		

Discussion

- Feedback on options
- Other options missed /to be considered
- Moving forward (next steps)
- Community led Project team
- Capturing ORAI learnings for Ōmārama and other townships
- Council/community board process and protocol and reporting

Appendix



New Zealand State Highway 8 Omarama Ave

te Highway 8 Omarama Ave

TASMAN FUELS SERVICE STATION

Oasis Bar & Cafe

Omarama Foodcentre

Four Square Omarama

Challenge Omarama

Boots and Jandals

Public Toilet

Chain Hills Hwy

Merino Country Cafe & Gifts

The Love Shack Kebabs Fast Food

Sutherland Rd Sutherland Rd

NZ Police

Trail Adventures

8

83

83

3

4

22

24

11

20 m



Draft: Entry-Only Omarama Car P
Chain Hills Highw



Potential EV charging station



oabs
Foot

Chain Hills Hwy

83

Chain Hills Hwy

Omarama
Recreation
Reserve

Omarama Playground

Omarama Hall

25

27

28

30



Omarama Foodcentre

NZ Post Centre Omarama

Four Square Omarama

Challenge Omarama

NZ Police

Trail Adv

Chain Hills Hwy

Sutherland Rd

Chain Hills Hwy

Sutherland Rd

Sutherland Rd

83

14

