

From: [Allie Dunn](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to further information request re Pukaha Loan
Date: Friday, 23 January 2026 2:04:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your enquiry about the progress on options to recover the portion of funds relating to the foregone interest on the Pūkaha loan, as discussed at the Council meeting on 30 July 2025.

These options will be considered as part of Council's work on the Annual Plan for the 2026–27 financial year. The Annual Plan workshops will be open to the public and will also be livestreamed for anyone who would like to follow the discussions.

You also asked about the Contestable Fund, which was mentioned as one possible avenue to look into, to recover some of the cost. The District-wide Contestable Fund was created by Council to support local groups and individuals who want to make a positive difference in the Tararua District.

The fund provides \$100,000 each year and is open to not-for-profit groups, organisations, and individuals within the district. It supports projects that contribute to:

- A thriving district
- Local culture and traditions
- Improvements to the local environment
- Improvements to local infrastructure
- Community wellbeing
- Stronger collaboration

Applications are invited twice a year.

Regarding the repayment of the loan itself, the minutes from the 30 July 2025 Council meeting (which you have a copy of) explain that repayment is guaranteed through a Deed of Guarantee and Indemnity. This arrangement addresses the risk of financial default under the loan and reduces the risk of any loss to Council. All documents were legally reviewed, key clauses were discussed with the parties involved, and everyone agreed to the terms. The Guarantee and Indemnity protects Council in the event of any default. Progress on repayment of the loan would also be reported through Council's Annual report, ensuring transparency to the community.

I hope this explanation makes things clearer. If you need anything further, I'm happy to help.

Ngā mihi



Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer

Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

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Allie.Dunn@Tararuadc.govt.nz

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 19 January 2026 3:01 pm

To: Allie Dunn <Allie.Dunn@Tararuadc.govt.nz>

Subject: CM: Re: Response to request for information re Million dollars to bird sanctuary at Eketahuna

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Caution advised. This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender's identity and use caution with attachments and links.

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On 19 Nov 2025, at 2:39 PM, Allie Dunn <Allie.Dunn@tararuadc.govt.nz>

wrote:

Attention Allie Dunn.

Further to my contact with you regarding information about the payment of interest we are on the million dollar loan taken out to prop up Pukaha Mt Bruce. I do not imagine Tu Mai Ra investments will be in any hurry to repay a loan on which they do not have any interest whatsoever to pay.

I would like to hear what progress has been made Chief Executive for recovering interest through the Contestable Fund. Also who or what is the Contestable Fund?

If this does not happen we would expect no rise - and perhaps a reduction - in next years rates. Thank you in anticipation. [REDACTED]

Kia ora

I refer to your official information request dated 28 October 2025 for information about the million dollars loan to Pukaha Mt Bruce.

At its meeting on 30 July 2025, the Tararua District Council agreed to transfer the loan to Tū Mai Rā Investments Limited Partnership. The partnership will take care of repaying the loan principal, though the interest isn't part of their responsibility.

To make sure the interest is still addressed, Council asked the Chief Executive to prepare a report with options for recovering it through the contestable fund. You'll find a copy of the meeting minutes attached.

Ngā mihi



**Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy
Electoral Officer
Democracy Services | Tararua District Council**

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From: Simone Anthony

Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2025 9:49 am

Subject: RE: Million dollars to bird sanctuary at Eketahuna..

Kia ora [REDACTED]

This email is to acknowledge receipt of your request for information regarding the million dollars to bird sanctuary at Eketāhuna.

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 25 November 2025, being 20 working days after the day your request was received. If we are unable to respond to your request by then, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.

As part of our commitment to openness and accountability, we are now proactively publishing copies of requests for information and the responses provided to these requests, on our website. In doing so, we will ensure we comply with the provisions of the Privacy Act 2020 and redact any personal / identifying information from any response published.

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Ngā mihi,



Simone Anthony | Democracy Support Officer

Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2025 4:36 pm
To: Info - Tararua District Council <Info-Tararua.DistrictCouncil@Tararuadc.govt.nz>
Subject: Million dollars to bird sanctuary at Eketahuna..

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To Whom it may Concern.

I wish to have some information about the \$1,000,000 loan the Tararua District Council took out and gave to the Bird Sanctuary at Eketahuna and for which the Council now pays \$149,000 pa in interest. Which was done with little or no public discussion.

This money could have been spent on much more needed infrastructure/projects.

Now that Rangitane have taken over the Sanctuary will they now be taking over the loan and interest payments?

The Tararua Councils area houses many retired pensioners and every year rates go up, like everything else we have to pay, and this year the hike was high and appears we, along with all ratepayers, appear, once again, to be paying ridiculous spending.

Please don't give the speech that the birds are important, as I realise to some extent they are, but as a Council, this spending should be much further down the list of need.

I also wish that the people who continually complain about this matter, would complain to you people instead of every person they speak to daily.

I would appreciate a reply to this email asap. Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

<minutes - tararua district council - 30 july 2025(d25_32625).pdf>