

## Allie Dunn

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**Subject:** FW: Response to Request for Information re Herbertville River Bridge Slash and river bank

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**From:** Allie Dunn

**Sent:** Friday, 17 July 2026 11:26 am

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Response to Request for Information re Herbertville River Bridge Slash and river bank

Kia ora

Thank you for your request for official information dated 30 June 2026 seeking:

1. The total ratepayer funding spent over the past 15 years on the Wainui River/Herbertville area by Tararua District Council; and
2. The number of complaints received by Tararua District Council regarding slash in and around the Wainui River, Herbertville and Wimbledon since Cyclone Gabrielle.

### Complaints regarding slash

Tararua District Council has searched its customer request and complaint records for complaints relating to slash and debris accumulation in and around the Wainui River, Herbertville and Wimbledon since Cyclone Gabrielle.

We have identified three complaints / service requests as being clearly related to slash or river debris.

These are outlined in the table below:

| Date received    | Detail                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23 February 2023 | Refers to debris on pillars by Gollans Bridge and Cochrans Bridge, Wimbledon                                           |
| 27 March 2023    | Refers specifically to slash piled up on the bridge pillars on Herbertville Road and bridge A-75.                      |
| 21 April 2026    | Refers to a huge tree coming down the river and lodging against the bridge, with concern the river may become blocked. |

### Ratepayer funding spent by Tararua District Council

Council has not identified any readily available record that would allow it to accurately determine the total amount of ratepayer funding spent on the Wainui River/Herbertville area over the last 15 years. In addition, works undertaken in response to emergency events are often funded wholly or partly through external funding mechanisms, including assistance from the New Zealand Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi, rather than solely from district ratepayer funding.

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 17(e) of LGOIMA on the basis that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

For your information, matters relating to river management, flood protection, riverbank erosion and debris within a river channel generally fall within the statutory responsibilities of Horizons Regional Council. However, responsibility may vary depending on the nature and location of the issue concerned. For example, where debris is threatening a bridge structure, responsibility may also involve the owner of the bridge. In the case of a local road bridge, this is typically the relevant district council.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



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

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**From:** Allie Dunn

**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 July 2026 4:22 pm

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** CM: Acknowledgement - Request for Information re Herbertville River Bridge Slash and river bank

Kia ora

Thank you for your email. This is to acknowledge receipt of your request for information regarding:

- Total ratepayer funding spent over the past 15 years on the Wainui River/Herbertville by Horizons Regional Council and Tararua District Council; and
- The number of complaints received about slash since Cyclone Gabrielle (Wainui River, Herbertville, and Wimbledon).

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible, and no later than 29 July 2026, being 20 working days from the date your request was received. If we are unable to provide a response within this timeframe, we will advise you accordingly and notify you of an extension.

We note that you have also contacted Horizons Regional Council separately. Please note that our response will relate to Tararua District Council's expenditure and the complaints received by Tararua District Council.

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



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

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 June 2026 12:50 pm

**To:** Peter Wells <[Peter.Wells@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:Peter.Wells@horizons.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Sally Dryland <[Sally.Dryland@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:Sally.Dryland@horizons.govt.nz)>; Ben Fraser <[Ben.Fraser@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:Ben.Fraser@horizons.govt.nz)>; Scott Gilmore

<[Scott.Gilmore@Taranuadc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Gilmore@Taranuadc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** CM: Re: Herbertville River Bridge Slash and river bank

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

Good afternoon after another heavy rain and wind event over the weekend, in 48 hours we had over 75ml of rain in herbertville and not knowing how much water inland that also came down wainui river to herbertville, the river is now being diverted around the slash buildup( please note more slash has become caughtup in the pile of slash from the weekend) and is now starting to undermine the bridge and riverbank and trees by diverting the river and eroding away land ALSO the pine trees on riverbank are slipping falling into the river more and more.

Again i have heard nothing or seen nothing from either council regarding taking responsibility and actioning what is the basic core principle of both corporations in providing services you are responsible for and you also get ratepayers money to achieve this.

I would like to know how much ratepayers money has been spent on the wainui river and herbertville in the last 15 years from both Horizon and TDC.

We take care of our own water, sewage, rubbish at no cost to either corporation, we do not have council come and clean, clear the drains in the village, we dont have council come and mow the street berms, we dont have council come and fix/ replace pick up road signs when damaged / knocked down, we dont even legally have the right speed limit signs in the village street to protect us ( i know there has been numerous complaints and issues raised directly with both corporations from locals -

Please provide how many complaints both Organisations have received regarding slash in and around wainui river/herbetville and Wimbeldon since Cyclone Gabrielle

And for all of you to see the drone and helicopter videos / photos taken from after Cyclone Gabrielle and then see the drone and videos/ photos taken this year and look at what slash is still lying on riverbanks, in the river, on the hills half slid down, under all the bridges, in the dams in the hills after gabrielle - all waiting to come down Wainui River.

Please not we only flooded through Cyclone Gabrielle due to the river blocking up with slash approx a km or 2km up the river to Wimbeldon which then diverted the river over lots of paddocks which then came through the paddocks behind us and into Herbertville village to flood us.

Attached are photos i have taken this morning on lowtide.

Regards

  
Herbertville









