

From: [Allie Dunn](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: Response to LGOIMA Request and Notice of Recurring Town Flooding: Council Culvert PC22 0.13 (Pahiatua-Pongaroa Road)
Date: Monday, 17 August 2026 7:44:00 am
Attachments: [image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)

Kia ora

I am writing in response to your official information request dated 11 August 2026 regarding a culvert in Pahiatua.

Our response to your questions is outlined below.

- 1. Who is explicitly held responsible and liable for property damage, infrastructure failure, and community impact if the town of Pahiatua floods after all authorities have been formally and comprehensively notified of this structural defect?**

Please refer to our response to your request dated 23 July 2026, where we advised “It is not possible to determine responsibility for any future flooding event in advance. Any assessment of responsibility would depend on the particular facts and circumstances of the event.”

- 2. Flow Capacity: What is the exact design and current operational water flow capacity (expressed in litres per second or cubic metres per second) of the Council-managed culvert PC22 0.13 on the Pahiatua-Pongaroa Road?**

The culvert described is a 2.3m x 1.2m box culvert built in 1974. The Council does not hold any documents regarding the design and current operational water flow capacity of the culvert described. Therefore we are unable to provide the information requested, and decline this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

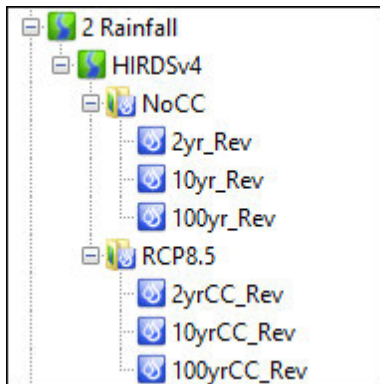
- 3. Comparative Data: What engineering assessments, data, or modeling does the Council hold regarding the capacity disparity between culvert PC22 0.13 and the adjacent downstream NZTA culvert (Culvert 8143)?**

The Council does not hold any documents containing engineering assessments, data or modelling regarding the capacity disparity between the culvert you have described and the adjacent downstream NZTA culvert. Therefore we are unable to provide the information requested, and decline this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

- 4. Rainfall & Water Volume Statistics: What are the typical amounts of water (in terms of peak rainfall volumes, rainfall intensities, and catchment runoff estimates) that occur during flood conditions in the heaviest rain seasons each year for Pahiatua, specifically utilized for**

drainage and stormwater planning in this catchment?

The TDC stormwater model used NIWA HIRDS V4 rainfall data with rainfall intensities derived from Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) curves.



The modelling assessed a range of design events, including:

- Frequent storm events: typically 2 to 10-year ARI.
- Infrastructure design events: typically 10-year ARI, used for stormwater network and drainage system design.
- Major flood events: typically the 100-year ARI event, used to assess flood risk, overland flow paths, and flood hazards.

Peak flows and runoff volumes were generated through hydrologic and hydraulic modelling using catchment characteristics such as land use, soils, imperviousness, and drainage configuration.

5. **Remediation Plans: What plans, budgets, or timelines does the Tararua District Council have to upgrade or upsize culvert PC22 0.13 to match the downstream capacity of NZTA's Culvert 8143 and alleviate the constant flooding of Pahiatua?**

The Council has not approved any specific programme of works to upgrade or upsize the culvert described to match the downstream capacity of NZTA's culvert. Therefore we are unable to provide the information requested, and decline this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

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 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: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 2:07 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: CM: Acknowledgement of LGOIMA Request and Notice of Recurring Town Flooding: Council Culvert PC22 0.13 (Pahiatua-Pongaroa Road)

Kia ora

This email is to acknowledge receipt of your request for information, regarding a Council Culvert in Pahiatua.

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 8 September 2026, 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



Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer

Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 1:23 pm
To: Info - Tararua District Council <Info@TararuaDC.Govt.NZ>; Governance <Governance@Tararuadc.govt.nz>; info@nzta.govt.nz; Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: Formal LGOIMA Request and Notice of Recurring Town Flooding: Council Culvert PC22 0.13 (Pahiatua-Pongaroa Road)

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

To the Tararua District Council Chief Executive and Democracy Services Team,

Formal Notification of Flooding and Drainage Bottleneck

Please accept this correspondence as formal notification that one side of the town of Pahiatua experiences constant and recurring flooding during peak heavy rain seasons each year. This flooding is directly caused by main drainage outlet constraints where water flow backs up.

Specifically, the infrastructure configuration creates a severe bottleneck: the council-managed culvert **PC22 0.13** on the Pahiatua-Pongaroa Road is significantly undersized. It feeds directly into the downstream central government (NZTA) managed **Culvert 8143** (located nearby on State Highway 2). While the downstream NZTA culvert has sufficient capacity to handle large volumes of water, the upstream council culvert (PC22 0.13) lacks equivalent capacity, heavily restricting flow, causing water to back up, and directly driving the regular flooding of residential and urban areas in Pahiatua.

Given that both the Council and NZTA are now formally notified through this joint process, we require clarification on legal and operational liability: **Who is explicitly held responsible and liable for property damage, infrastructure failure, and community impact if the town of Pahiatua floods after all authorities have been formally and comprehensively notified of this structural defect?**

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) Request

Pursuant to the LGOIMA, please provide information on the following specific matters:

1. **Flow Capacity:** What is the exact design and current operational water flow capacity (expressed in litres per second or cubic metres per second) of the Council-managed culvert **PC22 0.13** on the Pahiatua-Pongaroa Road?
2. **Comparative Data:** What engineering assessments, data, or modeling does the Council hold regarding the capacity disparity between culvert PC22 0.13 and the adjacent downstream NZTA culvert (**Culvert 8143**)?
3. **Rainfall & Water Volume Statistics:** What are the typical amounts of water (in

terms of peak rainfall volumes, rainfall intensities, and catchment runoff estimates) that occur during flood conditions in the heaviest rain seasons each year for Pahiatua, specifically utilized for drainage and stormwater planning in this catchment?

4. **Remediation Plans:** What plans, budgets, or timelines does the Tararua District Council have to upgrade or upsize culvert PC22 0.13 to match the downstream capacity of NZTA's Culvert 8143 and alleviate the constant flooding of Pahiatua?

I look forward to your response within the statutory timeframe of 20 working days.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for Android.