

From: Allie Dunn
Sent: Tuesday, 1 September 2026 2:40 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: Response to Request for Information re Flooding Notification Halls Road Pahiatua Draining and Culvert Capacity

Kia ora

I am writing in response to your official information request dated 14 August 2026 regarding the capacity and performance of the culvert and stormwater infrastructure in Pahiatua.

1. **Culvert Flow Capacity:** What is the specific designed flow capacity (in liters per second or cubic meters per second) of the small culvert located under Halls Road, Pahiatua (situated after the bridge and after the turn-off leading to Carnival Park, providing immediate drainage for the properties on the left side of the road when heading towards the river)?

The Council does not hold information on the specific designed flow capacity for the specified culvert. However, although Council is not obliged to create information in order to answer a request for information, our team were happy to provide Manning's equation for a circular pipe 225mm diameter flowing full ($n=0.013$). For highway and rural drainage, a 225mm culvert is typically used for flows in the range of about 30 to 70 L/s, depending on the gradient and headwater conditions.

Pipe Slope	Approximate Flow Capacity
0.5% (1:200)	~35 L/s
1.0% (1:100)	~49 L/s
2.0% (1:50)	~70 L/s

2. **Rainfall and Water Volume Data:** What are the typical volumes of water—expressed via rainfall intensity/accumulation metrics (e.g., mm per hour/day) and historical flow data—recorded or estimated during peak flood conditions in the heaviest rain seasons for Pahiatua?

Historical rainfall and flood flow data for the Pahiatua area are typically sourced from regional rainfall gauges, river monitoring stations, and flood studies maintained by Horizons Regional Council.

Peak flood conditions in Pahiatua can vary significantly depending on the duration, intensity, and spatial extent of rainfall events. To accurately quantify the volumes of water associated with major flood events, information such as:

- Rainfall intensity (mm/hour),
- Total rainfall accumulation (mm/day or over the storm duration),
- Stream or river flow records (L/s or m^3/s),
- Flood frequency assessments (for example, 10-year, 50-year, or 100-year rainfall events),

Would need to be obtained from historical monitoring records and applicable flood studies.

Council does not currently hold a consolidated summary of these values for the specific location referenced. Historical rainfall and flow information may be available from Horizons Regional Council's hydrological records and flood monitoring datasets. Where detailed site-specific flood analysis is required, a hydrological assessment would need to be undertaken using the relevant rainfall and catchment data.

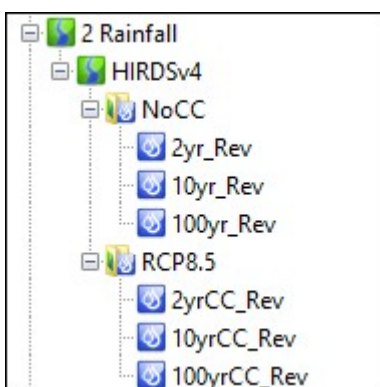
At this stage, we are unable to provide a single representative rainfall intensity or peak flow value, as these vary between storm events and locations within the catchment. As the Council does not hold this information, this part of the request is refused under Section 17G) of LGOIMA.

The Tararua District Council (TDC) stormwater model utilised NIWA HIRDS V4 rainfall data, with rainfall intensities derived from Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) curves. These curves provide estimated rainfall depths and intensities for a range of storm durations and annual exceedance probabilities (AEPs), allowing stormwater infrastructure to be assessed against defined design storm events. Rainfall intensities and total rainfall depths vary depending on the storm duration and return period being considered (for example, 10%, 5%, 2%, or 1% AEP events). The modelling therefore does not rely on a single rainfall intensity value, but rather a range of design rainfall inputs obtained from the NIWA HIRDS V4 database. Historical flood conditions in Pahiatua are influenced by a combination of rainfall intensity, antecedent ground conditions, catchment response, and receiving water levels. The TDC stormwater model assessed network performance using the adopted HIRDS V4 design rainfall data rather than relying solely on historical flood records.

Here are two previous responses we've provided to questions in your earlier LGOIMA requests about rainfall and water volume – we trust these assist with answering your question about rainfall and water volume data:

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.

What is the maximum amount of rain fall that happen in a single day last year in Pahiatua?

Publicly available information through Horizons

envirodata: <https://envirodata.horizons.govt.nz/?siteName=Mangatainoka%20at%20Pahiatua%20Dairy%20Factory&collectionName=Rainfall>

Note model run is based on 1:100 (10% AEP) as opposed to a specific rainfall event, models are run on AEP frequency

3. *Catchment Area:* What is the total surface area (in hectares or square meters) of the catchment zone that this specific drainage network and culvert serve?

Based on its function and location, the culvert appears to primarily convey road drainage and local surface runoff rather than runoff from a large upstream urban catchment. As a result, Council is unable to provide a verified catchment area (hectares or square metres) for this culvert without undertaking further investigation. As the Council does not hold this information, this part of the request is refused under Section 17G) of LGOIMA.

4. *Calculated Capacity Requirement:* Based on the total catchment area and local hydrological data, what is the calculated drainage and flow capacity requirement necessary to adequately service this area during the typical rainy season without causing back-ups or property flooding?

The required drainage capacity is dependent on several factors, including the contributing catchment area, runoff characteristics, rainfall intensity, culvert geometry, and downstream drainage conditions. Rainfall inputs used within the Tararua District Council stormwater model are based on NIWA HIRDS V4 Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) data and are assessed against defined design storm events rather than typical seasonal rainfall conditions.

5. *Maintenance History:* Please supply the complete maintenance, inspection, and clearing history for this specific drainage stretch and the Halls Road culvert over the past five (5) years. (Note: Physical inspection indicates that the council-managed culvert currently lacks any identification signage, and the surrounding drainage channel appears to have had no recent maintenance. Photographs illustrating the current state of the culvert and drainage are attached to this correspondence).

Please find below an image showing Council's drainage assets in this area. The culvert referred to is not listed in Council's Asset Database. We note that sometimes assets are disestablished, but not removed. The side drain is relatively deep and may now convey water away from the area. There were two dispatches to the area from a 2017 storm event. One was for flooding, one for jetting of the culvert.



6. **Legislative Responsibility and Liability:** According to local government legislation and statutory frameworks (including the Local Government Act 2002 and related civil obligations), who is legally responsible and liable when this specific area of Pahiatua floods after the Council has been formally notified through this LGOIMA and notification process of known, inadequate infrastructure causing regular inundation?

Please refer to our responses to your previous requests dated 23 July 2026 and 11 August 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.”

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

- Phone: +64 6 3744080 | Mobile: +64 27 3331626
- Allie.Dunn@Tararuaadc.govt.nz
- 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke 4930, PO Box 115
- www.tararuaadc.govt.nz
- www.facebook.com/tararuaadc

From: Allie Dunn

Sent: Monday, 17 August 2026 8:01 am

Subject: CM: Acknowledgement: OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST (LGOIMA) & FORMAL FLOODING NOTIFICATION: HALLS ROAD, PAHIATUA DRAINING & CULVERT CAPACITY

Kia ora

Thank you for your request for official information regarding the capacity and performance of the culvert and stormwater infrastructure in Pahiatua.

We acknowledge your ongoing concerns regarding the potential impacts of flooding and the performance of the stormwater network during significant rainfall events. We understand that these matters are important to you and to the wider community.

Your request is currently being reviewed and has been referred to the relevant staff for consideration. We will endeavour to provide a response as soon as reasonably practicable and, in any event, no later than 11 September 2026, being the statutory timeframe prescribed by the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

We also note that many of your recent requests relate to Pahiatua's stormwater and drainage infrastructure. The technical information required to respond to these requests is generally held by Council's engineering staff, including those who are currently involved in the investigation, design, and planning of improvements to the district's stormwater systems. Considerable time is required to locate, review, and compile information in response to requests of this nature.

We also wish to advise that the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act permits local authorities to recover certain reasonable costs associated with processing requests. While Council does not routinely charge for requests, where a request requires a significant amount of staff time to locate, research, review, and compile information, particularly where specialist technical staff are required to divert time away from operational and project work, Council may consider imposing a charge in accordance with the applicable guidance issued by the Ombudsman. Should this become necessary in relation to your request, you would be advised in advance and given the opportunity to refine or amend the scope of your request before any charge is confirmed.

While Council remains committed to meeting its obligations under LGOIMA and supporting public access to information, we encourage requests to be as focused and specific as possible. This assists us to provide timely responses while enabling specialist staff to continue progressing operational and infrastructure improvement work, including projects intended to improve the resilience and performance of the stormwater network.

If we require any clarification to assist with processing your request, we will contact you.

Ngā mihi

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



Phone: +64 6 3744080 | Mobile: +64 27 3331626
Allie.Dunn@Taranuadc.govt.nz
26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke 4930, PO Box 115
www.taranuadc.govt.nz
www.facebook.com/taranuadc

From: Info - Taranua District Council <Info@TaranuaDC.Govt.NZ>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2026 5:51 pm

To: Info - Taranua District Council <Info@TaranuaDC.Govt.NZ>; Governance <Governance@Taranuadc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST (LGOIMA) & FORMAL FLOODING NOTIFICATION: HALLS ROAD, PAHIATUA DRAINING & CULVERT CAPACITY

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

Tēnā koutou Taranua District Council,

This is a formal request made pursuant to the **Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)**, combined with a formal notification regarding ongoing infrastructure and flood mitigation concerns in Pahiatua.

This communication is submitted on behalf of **Te Aroha Hira Tapui Limited (trading as Hira)**, a community and political enterprise.

PART A: FORMAL FLOODING NOTIFICATION

Please accept this letter as formal notification to the Taranua District Council that a residential and surrounding area on the outer town boundary of Pahiatua is **constantly flooding during heavy rain seasons each year**.

Specifically, properties located on the left-hand side of **Halls Road** when going towards the river (after passing the bridge and the access road leading to Carnival Park) experience significant backing up of water and subsequent flooding. This persistent issue is directly caused by an insufficient council-managed culvert running beneath Halls Road, which acts as the main drainage outlet for this stretch and severely restricts outflow capacity during heavy rainfall events (picture of culvert and drainage attached).

Given that the Council is now formally notified through this official process, we draw your attention to the statutory and civil implications regarding ongoing, preventable property inundation where authorities have been explicitly made aware of structural drainage failures.

PART B: LGOIMA INFORMATION REQUEST

Under the provisions of the LGOIMA, please provide the following official information regarding the drainage network and infrastructure described above:

1. **Culvert Flow Capacity:** What is the specific designed flow capacity (in liters per second or cubic meters per second) of the small culvert located under Halls Road, Pahiatua (situated after the bridge and after the turn-off leading to Carnival Park, providing immediate drainage for the properties on the left side of the road when heading towards the river)?
2. **Rainfall and Water Volume Data:** What are the typical volumes of water—expressed via rainfall intensity/accumulation metrics (e.g., mm per hour/day) and historical flow data—recorded or estimated during peak flood conditions in the heaviest rain seasons for Pahiatua?
3. **Catchment Area:** What is the total surface area (in hectares or square meters) of the catchment zone that this specific drainage network and culvert serve?
4. **Calculated Capacity Requirement:** Based on the total catchment area and local hydrological data, what is the calculated drainage and flow capacity requirement necessary to adequately service this area during the typical rainy season without causing back-ups or property flooding?
5. **Maintenance History:** Please supply the complete maintenance, inspection, and clearing history for this specific drainage stretch and the Halls Road culvert over the past five (5) years. *(Note: Physical inspection indicates that the council-managed culvert currently lacks any identification signage, and the surrounding drainage channel appears to have had no recent maintenance. Photographs illustrating the current state of the culvert and drainage are attached to this correspondence).*
6. **Legislative Responsibility and Liability:** According to local government legislation and statutory frameworks (including the Local Government Act 2002 and related civil obligations), who is legally responsible and liable when this specific area of Pahiatua floods after the Council has been formally notified through this LGOIMA and notification process of known, inadequate infrastructure causing regular inundation?

CLOSING & STATUTORY TIMEFRAMES

As per the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, we look forward to receiving your response within **20 working days** of receipt of this request.

Please direct all correspondence regarding this matter to the contact details provided.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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