

03 May 2023

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 01 April 2023 in which you asked for:

“Can you please provide a contact in DOC that we can liaise with and who can provide annual figures from 2018 to the present (for March or December years) estimates of the following:

- 1. Operating expenditure by broad category for onsite and offsite activities, including contractors and third parties*
- 2. Expenditure on compliance, planning and policy*
- 3. Expenditure on any studies/reports*
- 4. Any other relevant expenditure*

On Friday 14 April, during a telephone call with Nigel Miller (Senior Ranger Whangarei), you clarified your request to include costs associated with the recent tara- iti (New Zealand fairy tern) captive rearing facility at Te Arai, and agreed that we frame our reply around our primary work at the site which is operational delivery and planning, both in the Resource Management Act (RMA) and technical advice to tara-iti decision making, and operations. You also accepted that some of the staff expenditure would be presented as hours and that you could apply an hourly rate should you wish to convert these to a dollar amount.

The Department of Conservation operates within a 1 July- 30 June financial year, and so the figures presented are from 1 July 2018 until 30 March 2023. You will appreciate that some of the figures, particularly hours, have had to be estimated as our time recording system does not always require the location of the activity to be recorded.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. Operating expenditure by broad category for onsite and offsite activities, including contractors and third parties*

The majority of costs associated with this question have been for operational delivery- the Departments primary activity at the site. The primary function of our operational delivery work is either focused on ecosystem restoration or the recovery of the endangered tara-iti. The inclusion of the personnel costs associated with the tara-iti captive facility at Te Arai (but not



the costs of the facility itself) are included as some tara-iti chicks from Mangawhai were sourced for the programme, and Mangawhai is the single largest breeding site for the species.

2. *Expenditure on compliance, planning and policy*

This question is addressed by costs associated with RMA and Tara-iti Recovery Group work provided in the attached spreadsheet.

3. *Expenditure on any studies/reports*

Expenditure associated with the annual tara-iti breeding season report is included in the operational delivery expenses as it is comprised of wages and salary and cannot easily be separated out from other delivery work. The only other activity which may fit this question is related to the “structure decision making process”, which is a social process, intended to engage all stakeholders in the development of a new Tara-iti Recovery Plan. A student was contracted to lead this process and that expenditure is included in the Tara-iti Recovery Group costs in 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years.

4. **Any other relevant expenditure**

All relevant expenditure is covered by the information in the summary of costs spreadsheet.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	April 2023	Summary of costs spreadsheet dme://DOC-7321609	Released in full

For the purposes of clarity, information from individuals and our financial management system has been summarised in the Excel spreadsheet attached. No information has been withheld.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Department’s website.

[Redacted signature area]

Nāku noa, nā

[Redacted signature area]

Sue Reed-Thomas
Regional Operations Director, Northern North Island
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai