



11 December 2023



Dear Huck

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 13 November 2023 or:

Information on the grassy berms on Raroa Road.

Answer:

The roadside berms in Raroa Road are a transport asset. Council has a berm policy whereby residents or retailers are expected to mow the berms outside their properties/ businesses.

Please see Appendix 1 of the response which is the Council Policy on mowing of berms.

However, Council cannot force residents or retailers to mow berms outside their properties/ businesses. If residents/property owners are unable or unwilling to mow their berms, Council adds these berms to an infrequent berm mowing list. Berms on the infrequent mowing list are cut on an annual or twice per annum basis, totally at the discretion of the Council officer responsible.

Although long grass weeds growing on a berm maybe unsightly, this does not affect the growth of the protected Pohutukawa in this street. In fact, regular harsh mowing/turf weed control is more damaging to the trees than leaving the grass as is.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website. Please refer to the following link: www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make_an_official_information_act_request/proactive_releases

Yours sincerely

Lakna Siriwardena

Legal Operations Advisor

MOWING OF BERMS

POLICY

That Council continue its present practice of recognising that property owners/residents voluntarily mow their berm areas within the road reserve adjoining their property, and that this be applied throughout the City.

That, when property owners/residents are unable or unwilling to mow the berm areas, Council undertake the mowing on the basis of up to two “rough” cuts a year (this is totally at the discretion of the officer responsible) so they do not become a hazard to traffic or pedestrian movement.

That Council undertake the mowing of community amenity areas, as decided by the Road and Traffic Division, where clearly these are substantially in excess of property berms in the immediate vicinity.

That steep road bank areas unable to be mowed by hand are maintained by Council on an appropriate basis.

Notes:

- a) This policy makes no distinction between berm areas (ie. confined by some edging strip) and verge areas (ie. grass areas continuing into the carriageway edge). Any enquiry will be determined in relation to the above policy.
- b) Grass areas currently in a state unsuitable for mowing may be brought up to a suitable standard by Council, upon request. (where this is practical).
- c) Examples of community amenity areas are the corner splays at Wingate roundabout and the corner splay at London/Rakeiora Roads, Korokoro.

That, progressively in areas which warrant such treatment, verge areas be improved by way of providing a definition between berm and carriageway.

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