

22 November 2024

Official Information Request No.8140014771  
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Sam Warren - NZTU  
By email – [sam@taxpayers.org.nz](mailto:sam@taxpayers.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Sam

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

**Re: Karanga Plaza Harbour Pool**

Thank you for your request dated 23 October 2024, for information regarding Karanga Plaza Harbour Pool. The specific details of your request and our response are below.

- ***Please can a full cost breakdown of this project be provided, including for the platform, pontoon etc.***
  - ***Please also include costs around health and safety, materials, labour etc.***
- ***Details on the source of funding for this project***

The Karanga Plaza Tidal Steps, in the Viaduct Basin, is a popular place for people to swim and jump into the water.

After the tragic fatal fall of a young man in the Viaduct Basin in February 2020, Eke Panuku has been in the process of reviewing health and safety on the water's edge. This has been an extensive process that has considered the appropriate health and safety responses to areas where the public engage with the water.

One of the areas that has been identified as an area of concern is the area where people can currently jump into the water, next to the tidal steps. People are jumping off balustrades and the wharf edge and the sides of the steps. Some anti-social behaviour was occurring alongside this activity. As a response a risk assessment identified mitigation measures required to ensure that jumping and entering the water could be performed in a safer manner.

There are three components that cover the information request:

1. The jump platform. Through a safety in design process the jump platform was designed to manage and contain the areas where people can jump into the water. It provides height and separation from the tidal steps and the swimming lanes. As

noted above this has been designed with the consideration of safety and managing anti-social behaviour.

2. A safer and expanded swimming area with swim lanes. This is in response to the Mayor's proposal in the recent Long-term Plan 2024-2034 to progress a waterfront swimming pool. Pontoons and piles are being added to the location to create the pool with swim lanes and make the swim area safer by physically separating swimmers from the navigation channel. The swim lanes are being added to the existing area to enable harbour swimming alongside the more passive swimming that currently occurs.
3. The pool will operate initially as a pilot project to allow real-time testing of the concept, location, design, structure and operational requirements. The pilot is designed as a low-cost trial to test the idea and we'll be gathering feedback to inform our work in the future. The changes respond to both the pool pilot and the safety initiatives noted above.

This location is a unique one in that it is adjacent to an operating marina. Therefore, our responses and considerations were made in association with the Harbourmaster and our own and the adjoining marina operators. Our design responses and supporting operational responses were also informed by the safety advisors, including drowning prevention and surf lifesaving.

Together, these will create a free multi-purpose swimming pool, to encourage Aucklanders to safely connect with and enjoy the city centre waterfront. Collectively, this public facility also delivers on the Mayor's vision to continue to open up the waterfront. As a public waterfront this facility will be free to use.

### **Budget:**

Eke Panuku has an existing capital budget of \$1.7m to deliver the jump platform and associated health and safety improvements. Additional capital budget of approximately \$500k was approved by the Eke Panuku Board in May 2024, to extend the pontoons, add ladders, lane markers and simple changing room facilities to incorporate the expanded scope.

Capital cost estimate and breakdown for pool facility part of the overall project:

- Pontoons to separate swimmers from the navigation channel (part of our health and safety response) and piles (for the extended part of the facility and we are reusing/recycling pontoons from other locations) = \$220,000. This cost is shared across both safety improvements and the pool facility with swim lanes.
- Balustrading for health and safety (for the extended part of the facility due to pool facility) = \$40,000
- Changing rooms = \$170,000
- Ancillary water and health and safety infrastructure (lane ropes, ladders, grab rails, life rings, hydro-carbon booms) = \$70,000
- Total estimate = \$500,000

We estimate the additional ongoing operational cost at \$150k pa. This would include a higher level of oyster removal and cleaning the changing rooms, also a lifeguard service during the summer season.

This funding will be sourced from within Eke Panuku's existing budget allocation. Eke Panuku is ensuring that this project is a quick, low cost, lightweight, temporary structure that will provide a basic pool for people to swim in.

The decision by Auckland Council to release the information contained in this response was made by **Ian Wheeler, Chief Operating Officer, Eke Panuku Development Auckland.**

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

If you have any questions please contact me at [elaine.tunai-po@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:elaine.tunai-po@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or contact me on 09 301 0101, quoting LGOIMA No. 8140014771.

Ngā mihi



Elaine Tunai-Po  
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