

03 August 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Local Government Official Information Request – SR.111335 – Avian Influenza

I refer to your official information request received by the Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Council) on 11 July 2026 where you have requested copies of, or references to, any agendas, minutes, reports, memos, or other documents from Council committee, subcommittee, or community board meetings held this year, 2026 that discuss, mention, or relate to avian influenza (bird flu).

Council do not hold records of any agendas, minutes, memos or other documents from Council, Committee, Sub Committee or Community Board meeting where Bird Flu has been mentioned.

The only additional documentation on Council file is a copy of correspondence to and from our elected members regarding this matter. Please see attached, a copy of this correspondence.

Please note, personal information in the information provided has been withheld under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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.

Ngā mihi nui



Matt Potton
Chief Executive Officer

**Service Request
Summary**

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am



Request ID: 110885 **Assigned to:** CEO Group EA (ds_team)
Priority: Routine **Location:** [REDACTED]
Sub Type: Corp Solutions – Elected Members **Contact:** Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge
[REDACTED]

Request: 6/07/2026 8:57:24 am
28/07/2026 8:58:00 am
Closed: 6/07/2026 4:51:15 pm

Default Phone: 0064 027 2210388 **Other Phone:** 0064 027 2210388
Email: Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz

Description

Culling wild and domestic birds
For Contact [REDACTED]
Charlene,
I assume the preparations for the arrival of bird flu is the responsibility of the regional Council or central Government. Are we involved?
Thanks,
Margaret
Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray-Benge
Kaimai Ward
From: Margaret Murray-Benge Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz
Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 8:05 pm
To: Charlene Page Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz
Subject: FW: Culling wild and domestic birds
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 6:44 pm
To: Margaret Murray-Benge Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz
Subject: Culling wild and domestic birds
You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important
An important listen to understand
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BSFbThLEP/>

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

We wish you the best day today.

Interactions

Date: 6/07/2026 8:59:01 am **Created by:** **Type:** Email

Subject: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Benge - For Contact [REDACTED]

All done as requested

Happy Monday!

From: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2026 8:28 am
To: Carolyn Bennett-Ouellet <Carolyn.Bennett-Ouellet@westernbay.govt.nz>
Subject: SR. Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Benge

Morning CBO

Can we get a SR for MMB under our Corp Solutions profile **and a response back to us please.**

Many thanks Charlene

From: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 8:05 pm
To: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Culling wild and domestic birds

Charlene,

I assume the preparations for the arrival of bird flu is the responsibility of the regional Council or central Government. Are we involved?

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Thanks,

Margaret

Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray-Benge

Kaimai Ward



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 6:44 pm

To: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>

Subject: Culling wild and domestic birds

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

An important listen to understand

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BSFbThLEP/>

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

We wish you the best day today.

Date: 6/07/2026 9:15:17 am **Created by:** **Type:** Email
Subject: SR.I10885 – Culling wild and domestic birds – Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Bengé

Morning Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your email. We have raised a Service Request and will advise as soon as the team can update us.

SR.I10885 – Culling wild and domestic birds – Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Bengé

Many thanks

Charlene Page

Corporate Solutions and Business Improvement Lead
Kaiārahi Hua Rangatōpū, Pua Pakihi

E Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz

M 027 268 4643 | P 07 571 8008 | FP 0800 926 732

1484 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga 3112

From: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 8:05 pm

To: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Culling wild and domestic birds

Charlene,

I assume the preparations for the arrival of bird flu is the responsibility of the regional Council or central Government. Are we involved?

Thanks,

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Margaret

Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray-Benge

Kaimai Ward



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 6:44 pm
To: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>
Subject: Culling wild and domestic birds

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

An important listen to understand

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BSFbThLEP/>

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

We wish you the best day today.

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Date: 6/07/2026 10:07:11 am **Created by:** **Type:** Email

Subject: RE: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Bengé - For Contact [REDACTED]

Hi All,

Jo should review and answer this.

My understanding is that MPI is the lead agency for this and therefore are providing the key public messaging about it.
(<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/pest-and-disease-threats-to-new-zealand/animal-disease-threats-to-new-zealand/high-pathogenicity-avian-influenza/surveillance-and-planning-for-avian-influenza>)

DOC, Regional, City and District Councils all have a part to play in the response – when it arrives. WBOPDC is developing it's plans in alignment with BOPRC – and the Reserves Operations Team under Eva are involved.

Cheers,

Scott

From: Carolyn Bennett-Ouellet <Carolyn.Bennett-Ouellet@westernbay.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 6 July 2026 8:59 am

To: Scott Parker <Scott.Parker@westernbay.govt.nz>; Eva Mayor <Eva.Mayor@westernbay.govt.nz>

Cc: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>

Subject: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Bengé - For Contact [REDACTED]

All done as requested

Happy Monday!

From: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 6 July 2026 8:28 am

To: Carolyn Bennett-Ouellet <Carolyn.Bennett-Ouellet@westernbay.govt.nz>

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Subject: SR. Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Benge

Morning CBO

Can we get a SR for MMB under our Corp Solutions profile **and a response back to us please.**

Many thanks Charlene

From: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 8:05 pm

To: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Culling wild and domestic birds

Charlene,

I assume the preparations for the arrival of bird flu is the responsibility of the regional Council or central Government. Are we involved?

Thanks,

Margaret

Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray-Benge

Kaimai Ward



Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 6:44 pm
To: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>
Subject: Culling wild and domestic birds

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

An important listen to understand

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BSFbThLEP/>

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

We wish you the best day today.

Date: 6/07/2026 10:20:03 am **Created by:**
Subject: SR.II0885: HPAI Bird Flu Response Planning (fA723763)

Type: Email

FYI

From: Jo Lynskey
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2026 10:15 am
To: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>
Cc: Scott Parker <Scott.Parker@westernbay.govt.nz>
Subject: HPAI Bird Flu Response Planning (fA723763)

Good morning Charlene,

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Further to the email from Scott, I wanted to touch base regarding our ongoing efforts as part of the regional working group. Over the past 10 months our team has been engaged in preparing for HPA1 Bird Flu Response, gathering a wealth of documentation to support us as we navigate this challenge when it inevitably reaches our shores. Regional Council have facilitated this planning and I have a meeting with the working group on Monday 13 July.

We also have a raft of documentation which has been tailored for us from Auckland who were leading the national planning.

Our Council working group consisted of team members from Waste, Parks and myself.

Thanks

Jo

To make things easier, Jo Lynskey has sent you a link to the "HPA1 Bird Flu Response Planning" document (fA723763) via Objective. Open in Objective ECM Navigator. You can double-click the attachment, or simply follow the link below to open it directly in Objective IQ:

<https://dms.wbopdc.govt.nz/documents/fA723763/details>

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to reach out. We're here to support each other as we move forward.

Have a great day!

Date: 6/07/2026 4:52:12 pm **Created by:** Carolyn Bennett-Ouellet **Type:** Note
Subject: Selected Outcome (Completed)

Email response sent to DM MMB - linked to this SR.

Date: 6/07/2026 4:50:20 pm **Created by:** **Type:** Email
Subject: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Bengé

Afternoon Deputy Mayor,

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Thank you for your email please see response below from Team Lead Emergency Management.

Yes, the primary lead agencies for any Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI, or bird flu) response are Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI), the Department of Conservation, and the regional emergency management framework. However, Western Bay of Plenty District Council is also involved in preparedness planning and regional coordination.

Over the past 10 months Council staff have participated in a Bay of Plenty regional working group facilitated by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. This work has focused on preparing for the potential arrival of HPAI in New Zealand, including the development of response planning, operational procedures, and communications material. The working group includes representatives from Waste, Parks and Emergency Management functions across councils, and our staff continue to contribute to this work.

Council has also adapted a range of planning documents developed through national and Auckland-based preparedness initiatives to ensure they are relevant to our local context. A further regional working group meeting is scheduled for 13 July to continue this planning.

At present New Zealand remains free of HPAI, and Council's current approach is focused on preparedness and maintaining a watching brief. Should the disease reach New Zealand, central government agencies would lead the response, with councils supporting local implementation, public information, management of affected public spaces and other operational activities as required.

We trust that provides some assurance that planning is well underway both nationally and regionally.

Many thanks

Charlene Page

Corporate Solutions and Business Improvement Lead
Kaiārahi Hua Rangatōpū, Pua Pakihi

E Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz

M 027 268 4643 | **P** 07 571 8008 | **FP** 0800 926 732

1484 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga 3112

From: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 8:05 pm

To: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Subject: FW: Culling wild and domestic birds

Charlene,

I assume the preparations for the arrival of bird flu is the responsibility of the regional Council or central Government. Are we involved?

Thanks,

Margaret

Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray-Benge

Kaimai Ward



Date: 7/07/2026 7:53:32 am

Created by:

Type: Email

Subject: FW: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Benge

Morning

Please see below.

Many thanks Charlene

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

From: Tracey Coxhead <Tracey.Coxhead@westernbay.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2026 7:14 pm
To: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>; Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>
Cc: Councillors Group <CouncillorsGroup@westernbay.govt.nz>; Matthew Potton <Matt.Potton@westernbay.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Benge

Hi Charlene

Could we please get an update on this from the team involved? Also, can we please be sent the material provided to the team within our Council? Where can we find the notes from meetings already held and to be held 13 July and beyond.

I have to say I am somewhat alarmed that Councillors knew nothing of this planning.

Regards,

Tracey

From: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2026 4:50 pm
To: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>
Cc: Councillors Group <CouncillorsGroup@westernbay.govt.nz>
Subject: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Benge

Afternoon Deputy Mayor,

Thank you for your email please see response below from Team Lead Emergency Management.

Yes, the primary lead agencies for any Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI, or bird flu) response are Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI), the Department of Conservation, and the regional emergency management framework. However, Western Bay of Plenty District Council is also involved in preparedness planning and regional coordination.

Over the past 10 months Council staff have participated in a Bay of Plenty regional working group facilitated by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. This work has focused on preparing for the potential arrival of HPAI in New Zealand, including the development of response planning, operational procedures, and communications material. The working group includes representatives from Waste, Parks and Emergency Management functions

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

across councils, and our staff continue to contribute to this work.

Council has also adapted a range of planning documents developed through national and Auckland-based preparedness initiatives to ensure they are relevant to our local context. A further regional working group meeting is scheduled for 13 July to continue this planning.

At present New Zealand remains free of HPAI, and Council's current approach is focused on preparedness and maintaining a watching brief. Should the disease reach New Zealand, central government agencies would lead the response, with councils supporting local implementation, public information, management of affected public spaces and other operational activities as required.

We trust that provides some assurance that planning is well underway both nationally and regionally.

Many thanks

Charlene Page

Corporate Solutions and Business Improvement Lead
Kaiārahi Hua Rangatōpū, Pua Pakihi

E Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz

M 027 268 4643 | P 07 571 8008 | FP 0800 926 732

1484 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga 3112

From: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 8:05 pm

To: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Culling wild and domestic birds

Charlene,

I assume the preparations for the arrival of bird flu is the responsibility of the regional Council or central Government. Are we involved?

Thanks,

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Margaret

Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray-Benge

Kaimai Ward



Date: 8/07/2026 11:19:21 am **Created by:** **Type:** Email
Subject: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Benge + Cllr Tracey Coxhead

Morning Cllr Coxhead,

Thank you for your email and for raising your concerns.

At this stage, New Zealand remains free of HPAI and no response activities are currently underway. The focus remains on preparedness planning and ensuring appropriate protocols are in place should the situation change. This approach aligns with guidance from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and national preparedness planning.

Given the level of interest from Elected Members, staff consider it appropriate to provide a coordinated update through the Executive Forum at the next Council meeting. This will allow time for the regional working group to confirm several operational processes and provide Elected Members with the opportunity to discuss the matter directly with staff and ask any questions.

In the meantime, we are not proposing wider internal or public communications, as planning work is still being refined and there is currently no immediate risk to the district.

Brad Singh will lead the discussion with Elected Members at the next Executive Forum and provide an overview of Council's preparedness activities, roles

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

and responsibilities, and the current national context.

Many thanks,

Charlene Page

Corporate Solutions and Business Improvement Lead

Kaiārahi Hua Rangatōpū, Pua Pakihi

E Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz

M 027 268 4643 | P 07 571 8008 | FP 0800 926 732

1484 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga 3112

From: Tracey Coxhead <Tracey.Coxhead@westernbay.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 6 July 2026 7:14 pm

To: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>; Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>

Cc: Councillors Group <CouncillorsGroup@westernbay.govt.nz>; Matthew Potton <Matt.Potton@westernbay.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Benge

Hi Charlene

Could we please get an update on this from the team involved? Also, can we please be sent the material provided to the team within our Council? Where can we find the notes from meetings already held and to be held 13 July and beyond.

I have to say I am somewhat alarmed that Councillors knew nothing of this planning.

Regards,

Tracey

From: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 6 July 2026 4:50 pm

To: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>

Cc: Councillors Group <CouncillorsGroup@westernbay.govt.nz>

Subject: SR.110885 - Culling wild and domestic birds - Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray Benge

Service Request Summary

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

Afternoon Deputy Mayor,

Thank you for your email please see response below from Team Lead Emergency Management.

Yes, the primary lead agencies for any Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI, or bird flu) response are Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI), the Department of Conservation, and the regional emergency management framework. However, Western Bay of Plenty District Council is also involved in preparedness planning and regional coordination.

Over the past 10 months Council staff have participated in a Bay of Plenty regional working group facilitated by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. This work has focused on preparing for the potential arrival of HPAI in New Zealand, including the development of response planning, operational procedures, and communications material. The working group includes representatives from Waste, Parks and Emergency Management functions across councils, and our staff continue to contribute to this work.

Council has also adapted a range of planning documents developed through national and Auckland-based preparedness initiatives to ensure they are relevant to our local context. A further regional working group meeting is scheduled for 13 July to continue this planning.

At present New Zealand remains free of HPAI, and Council's current approach is focused on preparedness and maintaining a watching brief. Should the disease reach New Zealand, central government agencies would lead the response, with councils supporting local implementation, public information, management of affected public spaces and other operational activities as required.

We trust that provides some assurance that planning is well underway both nationally and regionally.

Many thanks

Charlene Page

Corporate Solutions and Business Improvement Lead
Kaiārahi Hua Rangatōpū, Pua Pakihi

E Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz

M 027 268 4643 | **P** 07 571 8008 | **FP** 0800 926 732

1484 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga 3112

From: Margaret Murray-Benge <Margaret.Murray-Benge@westernbay.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 5 July 2026 8:05 pm

**Service Request
Summary**

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

To: Charlene Page <Charlene.Page@westernbay.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Culling wild and domestic birds

Charlene,

I assume the preparations for the arrival of bird flu is the responsibility of the regional Council or central Government. Are we involved?

Thanks,

Margaret

Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray-Benge

Kaimai Ward



Documents

message/rfc822	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - Email (13).eml
message/rfc822	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - Email (14).eml
message/rfc822	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - Email (15).eml
message/rfc822	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - Email (16).eml

**Service Request
Summary**

15/07/2026 10:43:04 am

message/rfc822	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - Email (17).eml
message/rfc822	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - Email (18).eml
message/rfc822	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - Email.eml
application/octet-stream	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - HPA1 Bird Flu Resp
image/gif	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - image001 (11).gif
image/gif	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - image001 (12).gif
image/gif	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - image001 (13).gif
image/gif	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - image001 (14).gif
image/gif	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - image001 (15).gif
image/gif	SR.110885 - Internal - Corp Solutions – Elected Members - Margaret Elizabeth Murray-Benge - image001.gif

Vetting – Additional Information