

**From:** LGOIMA  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: LGOIMA Request - Water quality testing - [REDACTED] - Reference 2403  
**Date:** Wednesday, 23 October 2024 9:54:14 am

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Kia ora,

We refer to your official information request dated 23 September 2024. The information you have requested is below:

**1. Does the council monitor or test the water quality of the water coming from the Riwaka resurgence?**

We used to sample water quality at a site about 500m downstream from the North Branch Source, but had to rationalise in 2016 when we went to quarterly monitoring. We are hoping to set up a programme of monthly monitoring at this site (as part of a synoptic survey) to be done at the same time as the Hickmotts site (a long-term 'State of the Environment' monitoring site that is sampled monthly) -

**2. What other waterways are tested and or monitored by the TDC and how often?**

We sample 30 sites on rivers across the region monthly. See our website <https://tasman.govt.nz/> and 'State of the Environment' reports for details - [Environmental monitoring reports | Tasman District Council](#)

River Water Quality Monitoring Programme data is available on our website: [River Water Quality Data | Tasman District Council](#). The map shows all the sites with testing. These have been consistently sampled monthly since 2016. Sampling at many of the sites listed started in 2000 (albeit on a quarterly frequency in the earlier years).

**3. Where can the public access these test results.**

As above and via [www.lawa.org.nz](http://www.lawa.org.nz) and [Environmental monitoring reports | Tasman District Council](#)

**4. Who were the scientists that did the tests.**

Staff involved in the data collection are various environmental officers overseen by Environmental Monitoring Officer - Jonathan McCallum, and Principal Scientist – Freshwater and Estuaries - Trevor James.

**5. How long does it take for water to reach sea level through these tomos?**

The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) enables people to request official information from local government agencies, including the Tasman District Council. However, the LGOIMA only applies to information that is already held by Council. There is no obligation on Council to create information in order to respond to a request.

We are therefore refusing your request under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA because Council does not hold any official information. We are, however, able to advise the Karst geology in Takaka (where the tomos/caves are) – water emerges at Te Waikorpupu Springs and also seeps out to Golden Bay.

The mean age (residence time) for water at the main spring is about 8 years old. This means water takes approximately 8 yrs on average where it enters the tomos etc to get here – so its likely water going out/seeping out to sea could be older.

We don't have any samples from these (to test for age) as water is thought to seep over a large area in the Bay.

**6. Have any follow up tests been done since the last tests?**

For our Bathing Water Quality Monitoring Programme we do follow-up sampling if we get a result over "Action" levels, but we don't do that for our other programmes. If you require information on the Bathing Water Quality Monitoring Programme, information is available on our website via the following link: [Swimming water quality data | Tasman District Council](#)

**7. you state that "the tomos in that area are understood to drain to the catchment of the Holyoake Stream and the Otuwhero" but it was "understood" tobacco was harmless for decades until proven wrong. What definitive proof is there that these tomos exit where stated?**

It is unclear as to whom you are quoting with regards to part 7 of your request and which tomos you are referring to however we do not hold information on where tomos exit.

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We are therefore refusing your request under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA because Council does not hold any official information on where tomos exit.

**8. When was holyoake Stream water last tested?**

We are not aware of any water quality sampling of Holyoake Stream. We have done wetland surveys, fish surveys and fish passage investigations there.

If you are unsatisfied with the Council's response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review 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.

Yours sincerely,  
Legal Services Officer

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