

**From:** LGOIMA  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: LGOIMA request - Power generating from Waimea Dam - Reference: 2597 Thursday, 16  
**Date:** January 2025 3:04:05 pm

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Kia ora [REDACTED],

We refer to your official information request dated 16 January 2025. Our response is below:

### **Was it ever considered to generate power from the Waimea dam?**

The ability to generate power through hydroelectric means was considered for the Waimea Dam from an early stage in the planning of the current dam.

In short, this capability was explored at length but in end the discounted for several reasons.

- The establishment of the appropriate cabling (22kva from the upper reaches of the Lee Valley) was found to be overly expensive for possible returns.
- The amount of power possibly generated itself was considered uneconomic for the investment
- The amount of power possibly generated was not enough to make a significant contribution to local power needs and was too much for individual consumption, and
- It was not the purpose of the dam. As opposed to supporting power generation, the Waimea dam was built to augment the flow of the Waimea River, which in turn maintains the aquifers of the Waimea Plains. The lack of the power imperative, as opposed to saving water for when it is needed to augment the river, further reduced the possibility of gaining economic benefits through hydrogeneration.

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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