

4 June 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Official information Request: Dog Pound, Featherston

I am writing to you in response to your request received 11 May 2026 for information relating to the dog pound facility opened at Soldiers Settlement Road North, Featherston on 29 May 2023.

We have assessed your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and can provide the link to the proactive release of information on our website: [Dog-Pound-LGOIMA-proactive-release-31 July 2024 combined web.pdf](#) This covers the following information for questions 1-4:

1. Full Cost Breakdown

A complete itemised breakdown of all costs associated with the design, procurement, construction, and commissioning of the new dog pound, including but not limited to:

- ***Site acquisition or lease costs***
- ***Earthworks, foundations, and ground preparation***
- ***Container supply and modification costs***
- ***Solar power system, water storage tank, and septic system installation***
- ***Fencing and security infrastructure***
- ***Internal fit-out, temperature control, and animal welfare fixtures***
- ***External exercise runs and exercise yards***
- ***Professional fees (architectural, engineering, project management, consenting)***
- ***Any contingency amounts drawn down***
- ***Any variations or cost overruns from original budget***

2. Original Approved Budget

The original budget approved by Council for this project, the date it was approved, and the relevant Council resolution(s) or minutes authorising the expenditure.

3. Procurement Records

- ***How the project was tendered or procured (open tender, direct appointment, or otherwise)***
- ***The names of all contractors and suppliers engaged, and the value of each contract***
- ***Any tender evaluation reports or contractor selection rationale***

4. Business Case or Options Analysis

Any business case, options analysis, or report presented to Council or officers prior to approving the project, including any costings for alternative sites (including the Carterton site referenced in Council's public statement).

The following questions are not covered by the proactive release and answers are provided below:

5. Animal Welfare Compliance History

Any reports, notices, or correspondence from the Ministry of Primary Industries or SPCA relating to non-compliance of the former Johnston Street facility, which the Council has cited as a reason for replacement.

Please see attached:

1. relevant legislation; and
2. emails /photos (which include some redactions which relate to LGOIMA section 7(2)(a) - the information withheld is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons):
 - Email MPI 13 April 2022 - Names, title, emails, phone numbers
 - Email SWDC Featherston Pound 17 May 2021 - Names, title, emails, phone numbers - (PDF's named Dog Pound-Relevant legislation (document) and Pound-SWDC-Featherston 2021 (photograph) which are separate are the attachments shown at the top of the email.)
 - MPI email 14 May 2021 - Names, title, emails, phone numbers

6. Capacity Justification

Any analysis or report justifying a capacity of four dogs at a cost of \$450,000, including projected annual usage, impoundment statistics for the past three years, and any comparison with similar facilities in other districts.

Please refer to the publicly available information on our website under Dog Registrations and other information; the links are included below:

[Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for 2024-2025](#)

[Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for 2023-2024](#)

[Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for 2022-2023](#)

7. Communications

Any internal emails, memos, or reports between Council officers or elected members discussing the cost, value for money, or public perception of this project from 1 January 2022 to the date of this request.

Internal emails, memos or reports between Council officers are included in the proactive release (refer to the link on page 1 of this letter).

With regard to elected members' communications, council officers completed an initial search conducted as per the parameters in this request – unfortunately, this has returned a significant volume of emails with those matches. This would take approximately 2-3 days to process.

Before making a decision on this part of your request, we would like to offer you the opportunity to refine or clarify it so we can provide you with the information you are most interested in. For example, you might consider:

- Narrowing the timeframe (e.g., specific months or years)
- Focusing on a particular project, location, or subject area
- Limiting the scope to certain types of documents or communications

If you could provide a revised request **by 4pm on Monday 8 June**, we will proceed on that basis (note officers will require an extension to complete this work). If we do not hear from you, we will need to make a decision on the request as it currently stands, which may result in refusal under section 17 (f) of the LGOIMA (that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research).

Please feel free to contact lgoima@swdc.govt.nz directly if you would like to discuss possible refinements with a council officer — we are happy to help ensure your request is as targeted and effective as possible.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. If this request is selected it will be published at <https://swdc.govt.nz/lgoima-proactive-release/>, with your personal information removed.

You have a right to request a review by the Ombudsman on this response. Further information about this process can be found on <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-ombudsman-can-help/complaints-about-government-agencies/how-make-complaint> or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Nāku noa, nā



Clare Barton
Group Manager, Planning & Regulatory | Kaiwhakahaere Ohu, Te Whaimahere me Te Waeture

Section 4 Animal welfare Act 1999

Definition of physical, health, and behavioural needs

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the term physical, health, and behavioural needs, in relation to an animal, includes—

- (a) proper and sufficient food;
 - (ab) proper and sufficient water;
 - (b) adequate shelter;
 - (c) opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour;
 - (d) physical handling in a manner which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
 - (e) protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease,—
- being a need which, in each case, is appropriate to the species, environment, and circumstances of the animal.

Section 10 Animal welfare Act 1999

Obligation in relation to physical, health, and behavioural needs of animals

The owner of an animal, and every person in charge of an animal, must ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both—

- (a) good practice; and
- (b) scientific knowledge.

Section 13 Animal Welfare (care and Procedures) Regulations 2018

Dogs must have dry and shaded shelter

- (1) This regulation—
 - (a) applies when a dog is on land or premises owned or occupied by the dog's owner or the person in charge of the dog; but
 - (b) does not apply when a dog is temporarily tethered or confined.
- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, the dog must—
 - (a) ensure that the dog has access at all times to an area (a **lying area**) that—
 - (i) is large enough to allow the dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down in a natural position; and
 - (ii) is fully shaded; and
 - (iii) is dry; and
 - (iv) is ventilated; and
 - (v) provides the dog with protection from extremes of heat and cold; and
 - (b) ensure that the dog has access at all times to water; and
 - (c) ensure that the dog has access at all times to an area in which to urinate and defecate away from its lying area; and
 - (d) ensure that faeces or urine do not accumulate in any area in which the dog is kept.
- (3) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$900.
- (4) The offence in subclause (3) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$300.

Section 67 Dog Control Act 1996

Provision of pound facilities

Every territorial authority, either singly or jointly with any 1 or more other territorial authorities, shall make such provision as is necessary for the proper custody, care, and exercise of dogs impounded, seized, or committed to its custody or the custody of a dog control officer or dog ranger under this Act, and for that purpose may—

- (a) establish, maintain, and operate a dog pound either separately or in association with any pound established under any other Act:
- (b) enter into an agreement with any person, upon such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, for that person to provide proper custody, care, and exercise for such dogs.

RE: SWDC Featherston Pound - File 11715

From: [REDACTED]@mpi.govt.nz>
Date: Wed 13/04/2022 3:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]@swdc.govt.nz>

Thanks [REDACTED] Appreciate the update, very challenging times to be juggling expectations and costs.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@swdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 April 2022 2:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]@mpi.govt.nz>
Cc: Russell O'Leary - Group Manager Planning and Environment <russell.oleary@swdc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: SWDC Featherston Pound - File 11715

Afternoon [REDACTED],

We are engaging the procurement process for the build of the kennels with the open market and finalising the site (the original site at Johnston St fell thru) and costings. Given the current environment finding both suppliers, materials and costing very challenging at the moment.

Regards

[REDACTED]
South Wairarapa District Council
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@mpi.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 April 2022 1:52 pm
To: [REDACTED]@swdc.govt.nz>
Subject: SWDC Featherston Pound - File 11715

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Hope all is good with you. Just looking for an update on the pound build etc... I appreciate I would probably have heard if there was news on this. Just need to update the file status and keep the bosses happy.

Have a good Easter

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Compliance Services | Compliance Central | Operations

Ministry for Primary Industries | 77 Ngaumutawa Road, PO Box 344, Masterton 5810 | New Zealand

Mobile [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@mpi.govt.nz | Web: www.mpi.govt.nz

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



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FW: SWDC Featherston Pound - File 11715

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 17/05/2021 12:07 PM
To Russell O'Leary - Group Manager Planning and Environment <russell.oleary@swdc.govt.nz>

 2 attachments (3 MB)

Dog Pound-Relevant legislation.docx; 11715 POUND-SWDC-Featherston-20210514-04.jpg;

FYI

[REDACTED]
South Wairarapa District Council
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@mpi.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 17 May 2021 10:23 am
To: [REDACTED]@swdc.govt.nz>
Subject: SWDC Featherston Pound - File 11715

Good Morning [REDACTED] – Good to meet you and Russell on Friday.

As discussed, the Featherston dog pound was inspected at around 9am on Friday 14 May 2021.

The inspection was conducted under section 127 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, after MPI received a complaint from a member of the public - concerned about the general pound conditions with the coming winter.

There were no animals present at the time of inspection. I have attached an image taken during the inspection along with relevant current legislation.

Very little appears to have changed at the pound since it was last inspected in May 2017.

As you are aware, in its current state, the pound does not meet minimum standards as set out in the Temporary Housing of Companion Animals, code of welfare.

Key areas of concern rising from my inspection include;

- Lack of disease prevention/control
- Limited exercise area
- Limited protection from weather extremes

Here is a link to the “Temporary Housing of Companion Animals” Code of Welfare

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/30795/direct#:~:text=This%20Code%20of%20Welfare%20encourages,or%20exceed%20the%20minimum%20standards.&text=There%20are%20many%20stressors%20associated%20with%20animals%20being%20housed%20temporarily.>

I understand that the SWDC is endeavouring to address issues at the Featherston Pound and is not in a position to indicate a time frame for when the pound would be compliant. Our expectations are that the matter is given priority and all work required is completed within a reasonable time.

After discussion with my regional manager, I can confirm that MPI would expect to conduct compliance inspections with your co-operation, prior to the new facility being commissioned.

I look forward to hearing from you once a time frame for the project is formalised.

Ngā mihi

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Compliance Services | Compliance Central | Operations

Ministry for Primary Industries | 77 Ngaumutawa Road, PO Box 344, Masterton 5810 | New Zealand

Mobile [Redacted] | SAT [Redacted] | Email: [Redacted]@mpi.govt.nz | Web: www.mpi.govt.nz



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RE: MPI Notice of Entry to Dog Pound

From Harry Wilson- CEO <Harry.Wilson@swdc.govt.nz>

Date Fri 14/05/2021 12:04 PM

To Russell O'Leary - Group Manager Planning and Environment <russell.oleary@swdc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@swdc.govt.nz>

Cc [REDACTED]@swdc.govt.nz>; Alex Beijen- His Worship the Mayor
<themayor@swdc.govt.nz>

Thanks for the heads up. Can you advise elt and [REDACTED] in case this issue escalates. I have copied Alex into this email. You should advise Ross as Chair of planning and Reg

Harry Wilson

CEO

South Wairarapa District Council

From: Russell O'Leary - Group Manager Planning and Environment <russell.oleary@swdc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 11:59 am

To: [REDACTED]
<Harry.Wilson@swdc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: MPI Notice of Entry to Dog Pound

Hi

Thanks [REDACTED] for the summary note. It was good to talk and explain with [REDACTED] regards the pound, we will continue to work with him as we serve up a modern effective solution for our needs.

Ta

Russell

Best Regards

Russell O'Leary

Group Manager Planning and Environment

From: [REDACTED]@swdc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 10:39 am

To: Russell O'Leary - Group Manager Planning and Environment <russell.oleary@swdc.govt.nz>; Harry Wilson-CEO <Harry.Wilson@swdc.govt.nz>

Subject: MPI Notice of Entry to Dog Pound

Morning Russell, Harry

We have officially been inspected today (14th may 2021) by Ministry of Primary Industries (without notice) on our Dog pound. MPI received an official complaint. In talking to the Inspector he has asked question relating to the pound and our plans.

My opinion is that they understand that we are currently trying to upgrade but the time taken to reach any decision or concrete plans seem to be of worry.

We were informed that they will be ensuring that the pound is not going to continue in the state it is in currently but at this stage are willing to work with us.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

South Wairarapa District Council

[REDACTED]

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