

31 March 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request to the Mayor for information regarding the art work at Ross Creek. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) and I provide the following response, which have been provided under each of your questions.

**1 What underlying research did DCC undertake to decide to place the art in Ross Creek? What benefits would DCC ratepayers gain from the placement of the artwork?**

*The Council approved Art and Creativity in the Infrastructure Policy on 11 December 2017. The purpose of this policy is to enable the consideration and development of proposals to embed good quality and cost-effective artwork and/or creativity in relevant Dunedin City Council Infrastructure projects. This policy sits alongside the Dunedin Public Art Framework Policy which was approved on 1 October 2017.*

*In determining projects for which integrated art and creativity proposals should be developed, consideration is given to the following contributions:*

- a) The importance of the project and its location;*
- b) The likely community interest in a proposal;*
- c) A proposal's likely consistency with the Dunedin City Council's Strategic Framework and previous Council decisions; and*
- d) A proposal's financial impact.*

*This project was assessed under each of the criteria and it was decided under staff delegation, that, as a significant city engineering project, the Ross Creek Refurbishment Project fitted with each of the considerations and provided a great opportunity to include a creative intervention.*

*In addition, we would like to advise that as part of developing the Dunedin City Council Public Art Framework, a Public Art Lab was created to gauge feedback from the community at several locations across the city. The Dunedin Public Art Gallery hosted the lab from April to August 2018. The Public Art Lab provided the public with an opportunity to comment on what and where they wanted to see public art. The lab included a map of the city and at the art gallery consultation, Ross Creek was identified a number of times as a preferred location for public art. This is shown in the photo attached.*

*The benefits of the artwork on the Ross Creek site include adding another dimension of beauty to an already beautiful natural environment, layering an education focus for those interested in exploring our local star scape including from a Kai Tahu perspective and providing an opportunity for local artists to pitch for and secure significant funding to create work. This*

*opportunity also recognises the intrinsic social, economic, environmental and cultural value of embedding creativity within the public realm and its contribution to building a creative economy.*

**2 How was the form of the art work decided and who's idea was it?**

*A Request for Proposals was issued to over 100 members of the Dunedin art community and national art networks in July 2018, from which five proposals were received. The submissions were evaluated according to the criteria in the Request for Proposals by a Dunedin City Council team comprised of staff members from the Engineering (3 Waters and Transport) and Parks and Art departments, facilitated by a member of the procurement team. The recommendation to award the project was then submitted and approved by the Executive Leadership Team's Tenders Board.*

*In accordance with the Dunedin City Council's Procurement Policy, at the start of the evaluation process, there was one Conflict of Interest identified with one of the original staff members of the evaluation team who was associated with artists in two of the submitting groups. As a result, she was replaced on the Evaluation Team by another member of staff who had no conflicts of interest.*

**3 How many Dunedin ratepayers visit Ross Creek annually?**

*It is not possible to provide a figure on the number of ratepayers that visit Ross Creek annually as Ross Creek has several entrances and the Council does not have track counters to record usage.*

**4 Does the Mayor have personal or business association with the artists.**

*The artists are friends of the Mayor.*

**5 Did the Mayor promote the commissioning of the artwork?**

*The proposals were evaluated by a team of Dunedin City Council staff members as advised earlier and there were no elected members involved in the process.*

**6 Did the Mayor support the commissioning of the artwork and approve funding of the artwork?**

*The Ross Creek Reservoir Refurbishment Project which included funding for the artworks was part of the 3 Waters budget approved by Council.*

**7 I understand that the artwork is being attached to the Ross Creek Dam. Have appropriate building and dam safety consents been obtained?**

*Building consent is not specifically required for the artwork, however an engineering assessment was undertaken by external consultants of the design itself and to check any impacts it may have on the dam structure. A variation to the building consent for the reservoir refurbishment works for the artwork was applied for and granted by the Otago Regional Council. Engineers have continued to be involved during fabrication and installation of the artwork.*

*A resource consent was required for the artwork and the relevant application was lodged with and granted by the Dunedin City Council.*

- 8     **The ODT article says the cost will be around \$120,000 which invites a potential over spend. Has DCC received a fixed contract for the cost of the work?**

*Yes, the Dunedin City Council received a fixed contract of \$120,000 for the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork.*

For your information the Policy's referred to above can be viewed on the following links:

Art and Creativity in the Infrastructure Policy <https://tinyurl.com/Infrastructure-policy>

Dunedin Public Art Framework Policy <https://tinyurl.com/Public-Art-Framework>

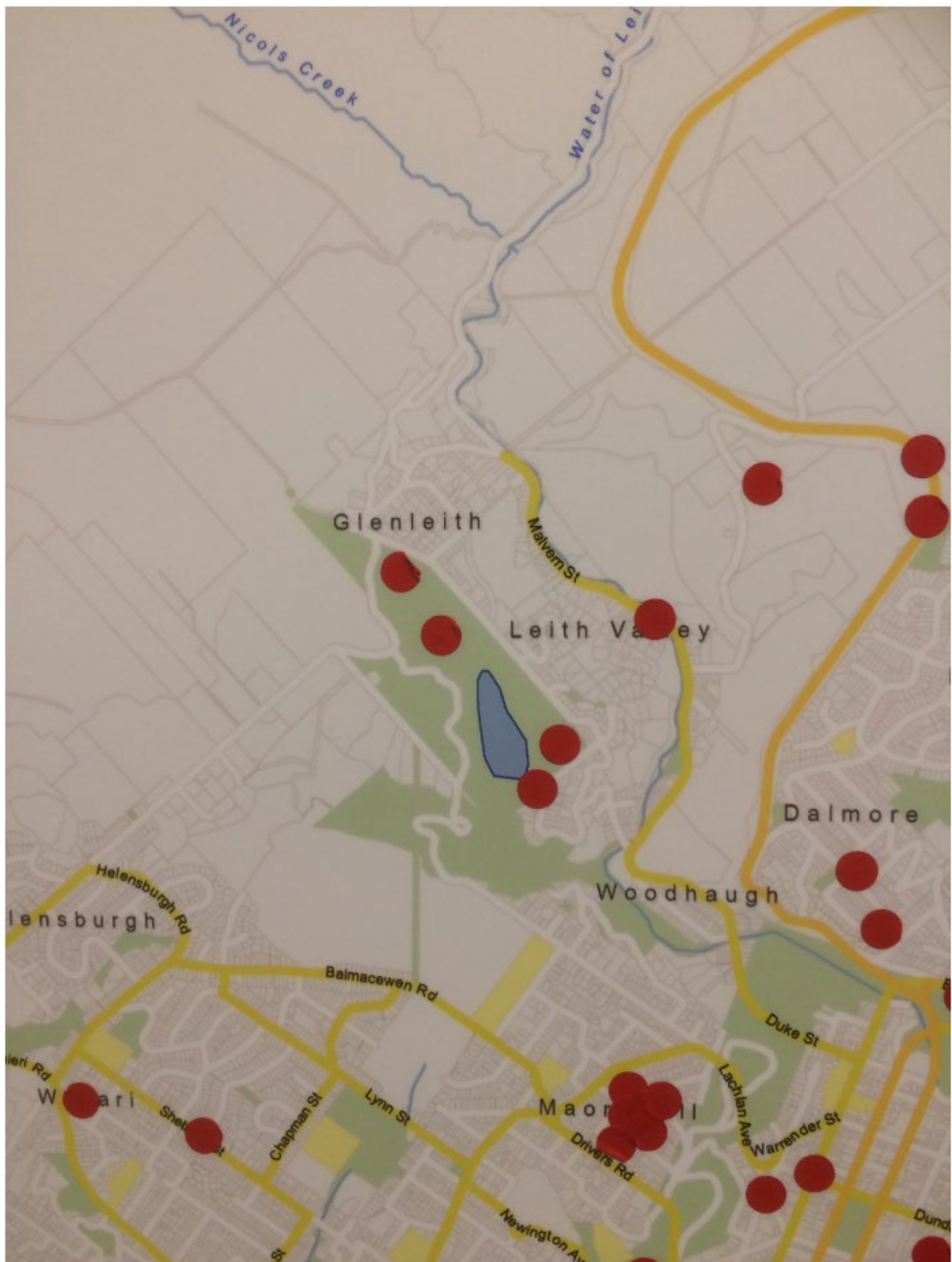
Procurement and Management Policy <https://tinyurl.com/Procurement-Policy>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lynne Adamson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lynne Adamson  
Governance Support Officer

Encl: Art Gallery Consultation



Art Gallery Consultation