

5 February 2019



Dear 

**Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act Request**

Thank you for your recent email dated 9 January 2019 addressed to the Group Manager Transport regarding the state of the pedestrian walkway between Tyne and Goodall Streets.

Your request has been considered under the Official Information and Meetings Act (1987) and the following response is provided:

Staff advised that they have viewed your photos and note that while there is leaf drop on both paths, there is a clear unobstructed path for anybody wishing to use the path. However, they note that the amount of leaf drop is not acceptable and needs to be addressed.

A monthly check/clean of all zones, which includes this path, is undertaken. Staff have also sent notices to property owners who have trees/shrubs overhanging the Tyne/Goodall street walkway, to trim the vegetation to council standards.

With respect to your specific questions, please see the answers below:

1. **Confirmation that these walkways are the responsibility of the Council to maintain.**  
Yes – these walkways are Council walkways.
2. **The name of the Contractor responsible for the maintenance.**  
The contractor responsible for the maintenance of this walkway is Downer.
3. **The dates of the inspections carried out by the Contractor as part of the monthly inspections as part of zone cleans and confirmation that they have been paid for these inspections.**  
Contractors maintain a list of when each zone was cleaned. The walkway in question is part of zone 8 and was cleaned the week commencing 9 December. Based on your photos, staff are not satisfied that this clean met DCC specification which includes the removal of all detritus. This has been raised with the maintenance team and contractors.  
  
Payments for zone cleans are lump sums rather than being recorded against specific roads or paths. Some zone clean payments have been partially withheld in the last year but not specifically for this site.
4. **What is Council's policy on overhanging trees and shrubs in these walkways.**  
The rule for encroaching trees/shrubs is that the property owner needs to maintain their vegetation so there is a vegetation free envelope 4.5m above the carriageway (and 0.5m behind kerb), and

2.5m above the footpath, full width. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain vegetation growing from their property. Staff will write to property owners requesting this work is undertaken before contractors are instructed to undertake the work which would be at Council's cost.

5. **Copies of the documentation by Council and the Contractors following my "fixit" notices and my December phone call. The "fixit" form continues to ask if you want to be notified of the action taken as well as the phone call to Customer Services but over the last two years there is no response to me in spite of you assuring me that this would be rectified.**

*Fixit* notices that we have on record sent in by you are:

- a. 4 July 2018: Road signs – severe lack of street name signs at this intersection (corner of Forfar and Mure Streets, Mosgiel).
- b. 8 July 2018: Damaged footpath outside 36 Tay Street, Mosgiel.
- c. 20 September 2018: Damaged footpath outside numbers 2 and 6 Melville Street, Mosgiel. In need of repair.

There are no records stored of any calls (noting that calls to CSA are only stored for 3 months) and no *Fixits* relating to the Tyne and Goodall Streets walkway. Additionally, there is nothing recorded in the Road Assessment and Maintenance Management (RAMM) software. Therefore, we are unable to supply you with copies of the documentation by Council.

When you met with the Group Manager Transport, I understand that he advised that the lack of contact following calls was a significant concern. This issue is still being investigated including how it could be improved in future contracts.

6. **Copies of the audit reports undertaken by your staff as you suggested in your reply.**

No specific audits have been carried out on the walkways. This has been an oversight which will be rectified after the January zone clean and then periodically after this month.

7. **When maintenance on these walkways is going to be undertaken.**

Maintenance work will be undertaken at the beginning of February 2019. The trees overhanging the walkway from private properties were due to be checked in January 2019 and further correspondence will be sent to landowners if there has been no action.

We hope the information provided is of assistance and would like to advise that our maintenance team leader would be happy to meet you on site if you would like to discuss the issues further. Please contact Andrew Lord ([andrew.lord@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.lord@dcc.govt.nz)) direct if you would like to take up this opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Adamson  
Governance Support Officer