

14 January 2020

**Response to official information request for Porirua City Council offering Fresh Christmas Trees.**

I refer to your request for official information received Monday 2 December relating to PCC offering Fresh Christmas Trees. We have processed your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987.

The information you requested is as follows.

**1. How does the promotion of using fresh trees (which would need to be harvested/cut down) align with the Climate Change Emergency that PCC declared earlier in 2019?**

On 29 November 2019 the council promoted its Christmas in the City event on Facebook. One of the stallholders was selling fresh Christmas trees.

The Council does not vet all of its suppliers for adherence to carbon neutrality or climate change principles. At some stage we may turn our mind to doing this, but we are still at the early stages of developing a Climate Change Strategy.

However, thinking about this particular issue, fresh Christmas tree suppliers replant trees to ensure a consistent, year-on-year supply, so the business is probably in keeping with climate change principles and sustainability.

**2. Has the climate change emergency been cancelled, and is it now acceptable to cut trees down that provide a very useful carbon sink?**

The climate change emergency has not been cancelled.

If you wish to discuss this information with us, please feel free to contact Lisa Treeby-Brown, [lisa.treeby-brown@porirua.govt.nz](mailto:lisa.treeby-brown@porirua.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wendy Walker'.

Wendy Walker  
**Chief Executive**  
**Kaiwhakahaere Matua**