

**From:** [LGOIMA](#)  
**To:** [Robin McCarthy](#)  
**Subject:** 855 Council land, leases and licenses, response  
**Date:** Wednesday, 27 August 2025 1:22:15 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[mdc\\_logoround-transparent\\_5f714c05-1956-4f84-9197-0b60100dcd99.png](#)  
[mdc\\_landscapelogo\\_transparent\\_10b75d24-300f-456c-8203-d3454f9dc7e7.png](#)  
[855 Lease Spreadsheet 2025.pdf](#)  
[855 Forestry Map.pdf](#)

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Dear Robin

**Re: information relating to Council land, leases and licenses (Our ref. 855).**

We have decided to release the information you have requested; - please see our answers below.

**Request:**

I would be grateful if council can forward a map of all council owned land, leases, and licences over this land.

**Response:**

As previously supplied on 7<sup>th</sup> August relating to your request for a map of 'all council owned land, leases and licences' we do not hold all of this information in simple map form because there is no operational reason for council to do so.

For operational purposes our electronic mapping records are accessed by us on a property by property basis – there is no single view available of all Council properties.

After initial discussion with the relevant staff, creating a complete map of this information would be complex and time consuming, and would involve the expertise and cost of external consultants using national land databases. Land owned by council covers a large number of land parcels across a range of categories. These include road reserves, parks, reserves, forestry blocks and more.

We did not receive clarification regarding what information was sought therefore we have processed your initial request to the best of our understanding.

Please find attached a list of current leases (including some which are in process but in the public arena), along with a forest location map of MDC forests.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, as outlined in the candidate handbook, all LGOIMA requests lodged by electoral candidates during this time are required to be made available to all other candidates. The Candidate Handbook is available online

[https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1024828/LGE25-MackenzieDC-Candidate-Handbook-v9.pdf](https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1024828/LGE25-MackenzieDC-Candidate-Handbook-v9.pdf). Printed copies are available on request.

*'Council is required to respond to information requests made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Any information supplied to a candidate as part of a LGOIMA request response will be shared to all candidates as soon as possible after the original information release.'*

Details of the request, the response, and any information provided by council will be published on the council website, in the 'elections' section. All candidates will be notified by email when the response is posted to the website.

If you wish to discuss this further with us, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,  
Nic

Nāku noa, nā / Yours sincerely,

## LGOIMA Officer



(03) 685 9010  
53 Main Street, Fairlie 7925  
[mackenzie.govt.nz](http://mackenzie.govt.nz)



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**From:** LGOIMA

**Sent:** Friday, 15 August 2025 10:34 am

**To:** [robin.mccarthy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robin.mccarthy@xtra.co.nz)

**Subject:** 855 Council land, leases and licenses

Dear Robin,

**Regarding request for information relating to Council land, leases and licenses (Our ref. 855).**

I refer to your official information request dated 30 July for a map of all council owned land, leases, and licences over this land, and the clarification we requested on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

**With regard to some general matters you raise in your email:**

All requests for information are covered by the LGOIMA and I understand the chief

executive has explained this to you in previous correspondence. It is normal practice for requests that require research, collation and/or may need to be assessed for privacy, commercial or legal reasons before release to be handed to the information officer for processing. This approach doesn't delay provision of the information or give any additional grounds for a request to be refused.

We did not assert that council leases are commercially confidential - just indicated that some elements of some leases may be.

855 is our internal reference number relating to your request.

Thank you for indicating you don't object to your request for information being shared with other candidates. However, please note that election rules require us to do so regardless of your stance on the matter.

**With regard to this specific request for information:**

As stated in our email requesting clarification, we do not hold the information you are requesting in the format you are requesting. Clarifying what information you require in respect of leases may have impacts on the time taken for us to respond (for example providing a list of lease holders is more straight forward to process than a request to provide lease documents - which would need to be individually reviewed to ensure any commercially sensitive information they may contain is redacted).

Your email does not provide the clarification we sought, and so unless we receive further correspondence from you, in line with the Ombudsman's guidelines, we will process your initial request to the best of our understanding.

Kind regards

Nic

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**From:** [robin.mccarthy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robin.mccarthy@xtra.co.nz) <[robin.mccarthy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robin.mccarthy@xtra.co.nz)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 August 2025 12:48 pm

**To:** LGOIMA <[LGOIMA@mackenzie.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMA@mackenzie.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: 855 Council land, leases and licenses, Clarification request

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside Mackenzie District Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Nic,

Thankyou for your email dated 7 August, 2025.

I made my request of the CEO, Ms Angela Oosthuizen. I specifically stated that it was not to be a LGIOIMA request. That council has made it a LGOIMA request subjects my request to possible delays and costs to me and a likely refusal to provide the requested information. Any refusal can be referred to the Ombudsman, but that could take up to a year. We are in an election phase and the information I have requested is very important for all candidates. Council may need to rationalise its property portfolio to pay down debt. Candidates need to have this information if they are asked about how they would get council finances back to a sustainable level when it is currently carrying considerable debt.

I am also a United kingdom citizen. All leases over seven years are required to be registered. All other leases are encouraged to be registered to protect property rights. These leases are public. I disagree with the assertion that council leases are commercially confidential. There might be the odd exception, but not as a general rule. If a leasee requests such a lease, then they probably shouldn't be getting involved.

You have correctly noted that my request for a copy of a specific lease was denied. It remains a complete shambles, where the council told me that the land in question was leased to the Ben Ohau Golf Cub, then in another email that it was leased to the Twizel Bowling Club. My map shows that it is leased to the Golf Club, and the Golf Club agrees. Council denied that the lease was for only one year terminating at the start of this month. Prior to this it would appear that the Golf Club had no lease and it was hastily put in place when I made enquiries. The public has a right to know. I believe the council was hiding incompetence. As the council refused to co-operate, releasing the lease will clear the matter up for once and for all. In the meantime, two summers have passed when the Mini Golf Course could have been up and running again as a tourist attraction and recreational facility at no cost to the council.

I am aware that the council is being put under some pressure to perform on this matter. But if I compare it to a staffer seeking details of any land ownership, council lease or licence it would likely be instantly available to them on their computers. Is this what the "855" refers to in the subject heading? I will give my request some further thought and come back to you. I would also like to hear from other candidates.

I have no objection to council referring my request for information to all other candidates. I will CC this email to the other candidates as well as bring it to the attention of the Electoral Officer.

Regards,

Robin McCarthy.

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**From:** LGOIMA <[LGOIMA@mackenzie.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMA@mackenzie.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 7, 2025 8:06 AM

**To:** [robin.mccarthy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robin.mccarthy@xtra.co.nz)

**Subject:** 855 Council land, leases and licenses, Clarification request

Dear Robin,

**Regarding request for information relating to Council land, leases and licenses (Our ref. 855).**

I refer to your official information request dated 30 July for a **map of all council owned land, leases, and licences over this land.**

It appears likely that your original request will need to be clarified or amended to enable us to respond. Please note, any clarification or amendment of a request is considered to be a new request for the purpose of calculating the maximum statutory timeframe for response—see section 13(7) of the LGOIMA.

1. Request for a map of 'all council owned land'. We do not hold all of this information in map form because there is no reason for council to do so, but will provide what we do have. After initial discussion with the relevant staff, creating a complete map of this information would be complex and time consuming, because land owned by council covers a large number of land parcels across a range of categories. These include road reserves, parks, reserves, forestry blocks and more. If you are able to provide us with some more details about what information you require and why, we may then be able to extract the relevant information for you and provide it in a different format.
2. Request for 'leases and licences over this land'. You'll be aware from previous correspondence with council that details of some leases would likely not be released due to commercial sensitivity. Please could you clarify exactly what information you are requesting in respect of leases and licences relating to council owned land.

Please note, as outlined in the candidate handbook, all LGOIMA requests lodged by electoral candidates during this time are required to be made available to all other

candidates. The Candidate Handbook is available online [https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1024828/LGE25-MackenzieDC-Candidate-Handbook-v9.pdf](https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1024828/LGE25-MackenzieDC-Candidate-Handbook-v9.pdf). Printed copies are available on request.

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Kind regards

Nic

Nāku noa, nā / Yours sincerely,



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