



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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3 September 2021

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9588

I refer to your email dated 13 August 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- **Are you looking to move away from a coal boiler at Te Nikau to biomass - is there a report etc on this?**

The Carbon Neutral Government Programme is requiring DHBs to reduce emissions by focusing on the primary emission sources and to utilise the State Sector Decarbonisation (SSDF) fund, administered by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), to help achieve this. West Coast DHB is currently operating three coal boilers at Grey Base, Buller and Reefton with the new Buller facility designed to be serviced by a heat pump.

The new coal boiler at Grey Base can almost certainly run on wood pellets. A trial, jointly funded by EECA, is planned to ensure the required output can be achieved. The trial will determine an accurate conversion cost that will also include a silo to store the pellets as the coal bunker is undersized. The Grey Base trial will last for 1 week with input from controls and combustion engineers with the security of the diesel boiler as a backup. The conversion costs could qualify for a 40 to 50% subsidy from the SSDF.

It is possible that both Reefton and Grey Base hospitals could be heated using heat pumps and the operating costs could be very similar to those of using coal. The conversion costs, however, will be significantly higher than converting to wood pellets but would also qualify for a subsidy from the SSDF.

- **Also, can I see a list of what defects have not been rectified at Te Nikau.**

The Ministry of Health still hold the contract and oversee the defect process with Fletcher Construction, therefore they will need to provide this detail. However, as of 16 August 2021 we understand from the Ministry of Health that there are currently 12 defects for Fletcher to complete

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Maisey
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support