

16 May 2019

Kiri Gillespie
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Bay of Plenty Times
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REF: OIA-4997

Dear Kiri

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

'I would like information provided for the following questions under the Official Information Act 1982.

- *How many hours have the traffic lights at Barkes Corner (SH29A, Pyes Pa Rd and Cameron Rd) been active and running for since they were installed?*
- *what is the process of the lights being switched on? (meaning what criteria/how much traffic does there need to be to have the lights activated?)*
- *What is the longest period of time the lights were active for?*
- *How much were they expected to cost when the project was first signed off?*
- *How much did the removal and re installation cost?*
- *In total, how much have the lights at Barkes Corner cost? Please elaborate if there is any discrepancy between original cost and cost of reinstallation?*
- *Can w please have the same information for the lights just installed at Takitimu Drive (SH2) and Elizabeth St, where applicable.'*

Each of your questions has been responded to as follows:

Barkes Corner:

How many hours have the traffic lights at Barkes Corner (SH29A, Pyes Pa Rd and Cameron Rd) been active and running for since they were installed?

The signals (which are queue activated) went live on 12 December 2018, they have been activated for a total of 405 hours as at 17 April 2019. This is an average of 4.5 hours daily, during peak commute hours.

What is the process of the lights being switched on? (meaning what criteria/how much traffic does there need to be to have the lights activated?)

The signals are activated by traffic volumes and queue detectors monitoring queues (on Pyes Pa Road in the morning peak period, and State Highway 29A (SH29A), from Tauriko, in the afternoon peak period). The queue detectors are located at 30m and 140m, and 197m and 765m respectively. The queue detectors identify stationary or very slow-moving vehicles (queues) which then activate the lights.

What is the longest period of time the lights were active for?

- AM peak Barkes Corner – the maximum time the red signal on SH29A Westbound is active for is 15 seconds
- PM peak Barkes Corner – the maximum time the red signal on either Pyes Pa Road and/or SH29a Westbound is active for is 61 seconds.

How much were they expected to cost when the project was first signed off?

- physical works contract was \$408,000
- total anticipated cost was \$421,642.

How much did the removal and re installation cost?

The removal for the minor related works was \$20,000.

In total, how much have the lights at Barkes Corner cost?

The total cost, including the upgrades to improve safety and operation, was \$778,111. The updated design to improve the user controls of the roundabout saw the additional cost of \$356,487. These works included installing a median island, dual lights (as well as additional electronic infrastructure for the lights). The initial three phase lanterns included in the above costs have been returned to stock and will be utilised in the network.

Please elaborate if there is any discrepancy between original cost and cost of reinstallation?

The initial users experienced some confusion with the operation of the three phase (green, amber, red) lights. Due to safety considerations, the Transport Agency implemented changes to a two-phase light system (amber & red) to remove any confusion, making the operation of the lights intuitive for all users. Some improvements to the median and the signals' location and stop lines provided further safety benefits.

Elizabeth Street:

How many hours have the traffic lights at Takitimu Drive (SH2) and Elizabeth St has been active and running for since they were installed:

The signals went live on Thursday 11 April, they have been activated for eight hours as at 17 April 2019. This means an average of two hours daily, during the peak morning period commute hours.

What is the process of the lights being switched on? (meaning what criteria/how much traffic does there need to be to have the lights activated?)

The signals are activated by traffic volumes and queue detectors monitoring queues (on the Southbound (to Tauriko) Takitimu Drive approach in the morning peak period). The queue detectors are located at 30m, 150m and 230m. The queue detectors identify stationary or very slow-moving vehicles (queues) which then activate the lights. There are also queue detectors on Takitimu Drive off-ramp approach – that detects queues before they back up into Takitimu Drive to balance queues.

What is the longest period of time the lights were active for?

During the morning peak period at Elizabeth Street the maximum time the red signal on Takitimu Drive off-ramp has been active for is 45 seconds.

How much were they expected to cost when the project was first signed off?

- \$312,755 construction price
- \$99,164 for professional services and utility connections etc.

How much did the removal and re installation cost?

This is not applicable to Elizabeth Street.

In total, how much have the lights at Elisabeth St roundabout cost?

This cost is currently being finalised but is anticipated to be \$411,919.00.

Please elaborate if there is any discrepancy between original cost and cost of reinstallation?

Some additional costs have occurred regarding power supply and related assets that were unknown at the time of tender.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Sarah-Lee Crellin, Central North Island Media Manager, by email to sarah-lee.crellin@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (07) 958 7954.

Yours sincerely



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