

20 September 2022

Wiremu Thomson


John Ryan
Auditor-General
Office of the Auditor-General
John.Ryan@oag.parliament.nz

Re: Breach of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

Dear Auditor-General,

I am writing to make a complaint that Christchurch City Councillor James Tracy Gough has breached the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 section 6 (Member of local authority or committee not to discuss or vote on question in which he has pecuniary interest).

This is in regards to the Christchurch City Council's decision on 14 July 2022 of whether to¹:

- Invest an additional up to \$150 million to enable the Te Kaha stadium project to continue as planned,
- Stop the project altogether, or
- Pause and re-evaluate the project

According to the Companies Register, Cr. Gough is currently a director of the following relevant companies:

- The Terrace Carpark Limited
- The Terrace Christchurch Limited
- The Terrace on Avon Limited

These relate to The Terrace hospitality area bordered by Oxford Terrace, Hereford St, and Cashel St. This is only a few blocks from the Te Kaha Canterbury Multi-Use Arena site bordered by Madras St, Hereford St, Barbadoes St, and Tuam St.

Common sense indicates construction of the stadium would indirectly be of pecuniary benefit to his companies in a way that is not in common with the public. This is backed up by Te Kaha's Investment Case, which mentions benefits for the CBD. The most prominent of these is that one of the four key benefits highlighted within the Investment Case is "Accelerated levels of investment, and relocation of businesses into the CBD."²

For the meeting, Cr. Gough did not declare he had a pecuniary interest and when it came time to vote, he voted in favour of investing an additional up to \$150 million to continue the project as planned.³

As additional context, his close relatives⁴ are the majority owners of the aforementioned companies, and for The Terrace Christchurch Limited his uncle Antony is the only other director and the sole shareholder.

Regards, Wiremu Thomson

1 <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/haveyoursay/show/514>

2 5.4.4 on pg. 8 of the Investment Case
(https://christchurch.infocouncil.biz/Open/2019/12/CNCL_20191212_ATT_4037_EXCLUDED.PDF)

3 A video recording of the meeting can be seen at <https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/129255045/live-christchurch-to-get-new-stadium-after-councillors-agree-to-683m-deal>

4 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/business/75001482/christchurch-city-councillor-jamie-gough-ceases-family-directorships>