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16 May 2019

Allen Reynolds

By email: fyi-request-10211-371e5dcf@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Allen

Information Request - Wanaka (Mt Alpha) Fire Costs

I refer to your official information request dated 26 April 2019 asking for the following information:

- Q1 – has the cause of the Wanaka fire been determined?
please state the cause*
- Q2 – what action(s) have been taken against person(s) responsible for the fire?
including, but not limited to – written warning, infringement notice, court action...*
- Q3 – has the full amount of the firefighting costs been determined?
if yes, what is the total?
if no, what is the total so far? And what costs remain to be determined?*
- Q4 – how have (or how will) the firefighting costs be recovered?
the article above mentioned “new rural fire liability laws introduced by the Fire and
Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) Act 2017...”*
- Q5 – please state the following details –
the area of land that the fire burnt
the number of helicopters used and the total hours flown*

Following an investigation, the fire was determined to be accidental. Please see attached the comments from the Fire Investigator.

Fire and Emergency has sent a cautionary letter to the property owner and they have proactively engaged with us to promote fire safety messages. As no enforcement action has been taken there has been no action to recover costs.

The full costs of this fire have been determined at \$456,400.

The fire burnt 203-hectares. Nine helicopters were used to fight the fire and they flew a total of 93 flying hours.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602. Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raewyn Bleakley', written in a cursive style.

Raewyn Bleakley
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive

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