

07 NOV 2013

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



OIA13-134

Morgan Varaine
Fyi-request-1142-2f19e4a@requests.fyi.org.

Dear Morgan Varaine

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of 19 September 2013 relating to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's proposed Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme, specifically:

- Correspondence within the department about this scheme; and
- Correspondence between the department and the Minister for Primary Industries about this scheme.

Given that the initial scope of your request would have required substantial collation and research, I note that on the 8 October 2013 you agreed to refine the scope of your request to include:

- All substantive documents that would include internal memos and briefing notes between the Ministry and the Minister for Primary Industries.

This information is released to you under the Official Information Act 1982. Where appropriate to protect the privacy of persons, names of officials have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (the Act).

Ministry Précis notes for Pre Cabinet meetings are withheld under the following provisions of the Act:

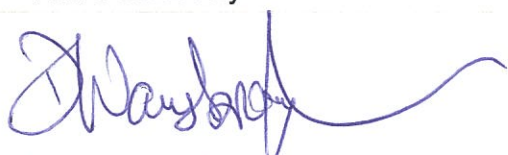
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

For MPI Briefing B12-699 *Meeting with Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company re Irrigation Investment* I have withheld paragraphs 31 and 32 under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act on the grounds that disclosure would unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to withhold information. A request must be made in writing to:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
PO Box 10 152
WELLINGTON

Yours sincerely



David Wansbrough
Director Resource Policy

Appendix 1: Information Released Re OIA 13-134 Morgan Varaine

Number	Date	Document
1	26 Jan 2012	MAF Aide-Memoir – HBRC Ruataniwha Water Storage Project Field Visit Monday 30 Jan 2012
2	1 Feb 2013	MPI Briefing B12-359 – Central Hawke’s Bay Visit – 5 Feb 2013
3	9 April 2013	MPI Briefing B12-699 – Meeting with Hawkes Bay Regional Investment Company re Irrigation Investment
4	31 July 2013	Email – Ruataniwha Water Storage Project – Media Cover of Dam Break and Public Safety Concerns
5	2 Aug 2013	MPI Briefing B13-107 – Tukituki Catchment and Ruataniwha Dam Proposal – Submission to the Board of Inquiry