



**National Headquarters**  
Level 12  
80 The Terrace  
PO Box 2133  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Phone +64 4 496 3600

4 December 2019

Alan Thompson  
By email: [fyi-request-11420-34d8671a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11420-34d8671a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Alan

#### **Information Request – Tasman Fires**

I refer to your official information request dated 9 October 2019 asking for the following information:

1. *Copies of the Incident Action Reports for the first 10 days of the Pigeon Valley Fire as prepared by the FENZ IMT.*
2. *The written advice, forecasts, predictions, trigger points and other advice as given to the Tasman District Council Incident Controller with specific regard to his decision to proceed with the evacuation of the town of Wakefield (confirmed around noon on the 8th of Feb).*

On 30 October 2019, you lodged a request asking for similar information. On 7 November 2019, you clarified your request for Incident Action Plans (IAPs) to be for day and night shift reports for the period 5 to 12 February 2019.

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), I *enclose* copies of the IAPs for the period 5 February to 12 February 2019. Some information has been withheld under s9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of individuals identified in the report.

Some of the QR codes recorded within the IAPs still enable access to information which includes the private information of individuals. If you wish us to consider that information as being in scope of your request please let us know. We will consider such a request on its merits.

Please note, the document we have provided which is recorded as the IAP for the night shift of 7 February 2019 in our system is titled as the day shift report for 6 February. The information contained in section 6 of the night shift report for 8 February has been cut off. We have attached (Appendix A) a section of the SitRep for 9 February 2019 which was used to populate the IAP.

The decision to evacuate Wakefield was made during a conversation between Civil Defence's Nelson Tasman Emergency Management Group, New Zealand Police and Fire and Emergency following an update on the fire's progress on the morning of 8 February 2019. Fire and Emergency's Incident Controller recalls providing verbal advice on the impact of wind speeds on Fire and Emergency's ability to contain the fire.

Specifically, he recalls advising that should *“the winds exceed the predictions by as much as 10-20 kilometres per hour for sustained periods (similar to what it did on Thursday 7 February, we could struggle to contain the fire, and if the fire jumped the containment line in this particular vicinity we calculated it could be to the edge of Wakefield in about 2 hours at the soonest”*.

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](http://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', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raewyn Bleakley  
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive

encl