

6 January 2020

Alan Thompson  
via email  
[fyi-request-11757-25088057@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11757-25088057@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Alan

Official Information request – Fire Prediction Tasman Fires Feb 2019

Further to your OIA request dated 28 November 2019, we are unable to release the requested information.

We provide a full explanation below with your original request in bold and our explanation in italics.

**Information on work undertaken by SCION at the February 2019 Tasman Fires over the period 6th - 10th of Feb:**

*Scion was not present at the fires during the period 6 to 10 February and carried out no work related to the fires during that time.*

*At FENZ's request and under FENZ's direction Scion was present at the fires from the 11 February onwards and carried out work.*

**1. For each day, the predicted fire weather data that SCION input into the Prometheus fire growth simulation modelling system and the resulting output (s) from Prometheus.**

*As above Scion did not generate inputs or outputs for the period 6 to 10 February. Scion did generate weather inputs and Prometheus outputs from 11 February onwards. The weather inputs for this period and leading up to it are unprocessed raw data. These inputs were generated at FENZ's request and so FENZ is the organisation most closely connected to this information. Any request to Scion for such information would be transferred to FENZ under the OIA.*

**2. For each of these same days, the output(s) from Prometheus when the recorded fire weather data for the day was subsequently input into Prometheus to test the model and compare "actual" with the "prediction".**

*Scion has not generated any outputs from Prometheus or compared actual with predicted data for the early stages of the Tasman Fires (before 11 February). The Prometheus outputs undertaken following this were predictions of potential fire outbreaks from smouldering hotspots collected from UAV thermal analyses, and not reproductions of fire growth. Again, these outputs were generated at FENZ's request and so FENZ is the organisation most closely connected to this information.*

**3. In the event the model was not tested as in 2. above, I request that this work be undertaken and the results released to me.**

*Under the OIA we are required to disclose information we hold; we are not required to create new information.*

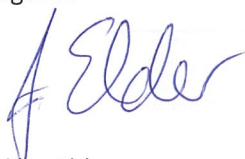
*At the request of FENZ, Scion did produce a summary of the fire environment factors contributing to the Tasman fires to support the Independent Operational Review. Again at the request of FENZ, Scion produced a summary of observed fire behaviour and brief comparison with fire behaviour predicted using available NZ models, which was subsequently added to the Review report. The Review report is published on Fire and Emergency's website : <https://fireandemergency.nz/research-and-reports/tasman-fires-operational-review/>*

*Scion's fire research team is interested in carrying out further research on the Tasman Fires, including a more detailed case study with Prometheus modelling, but does not currently have any funding to support such work. Our fire research team is also interested in engaging with communities affected by fire. Further information about the work and staff of the fire research team can be found on our website: [ruralfireresearch.co.nz](http://ruralfireresearch.co.nz) (<https://www.scionresearch.com/rural-fire-research>)*

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our 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.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Lynda Frew (lynda.frew@scionresearch.com).

Regards



Julian Elder  
CEO