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Email: fyi-request-12817-86965609@requests.fyi.org.nz

Hello

Re: OIA Request – List of Shovel Ready Projects

1. We refer to your request under the Official Information Act (**OIA**) dated 8 May 2020, in which you requested a full list of all shovel ready projects that have been applied for.
2. The information requested is being withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(i) and (ii) of the OIA, as the information requested is confidential information, and disclosure would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should be supplied, or disclosure would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.
3. The project information sought from the construction industry by the IRG was obtained for the purpose of informing an IRG report to Government on potential “shovel ready” projects that could be considered by Government for a potential COVID-19 recovery response.
4. As you may be aware, the IRG received 1924 submissions in response to its information request on shovel ready projects, at a combined value of \$136bn. The IRG has since submitted its report to Government for consideration.
5. This is an ongoing process in which the Government is considering the IRG’s report and is yet to make any decisions. Premature release of the project information requested, would prejudice the ability of Ministers to consider the IRG report and make the decisions they consider necessary. Release of such information, in particular while the assessment and decision-making process is ongoing, could undermine participants’ confidence and participation in the process, and their willingness to provide such information and engage in such processes in future. CIP is therefore withholding the information requested on the grounds stated in paragraph 2, as disclosure would likely damage the public interest.
6. We realise this is nonetheless a matter of high public interest, and we anticipate the Government will make announcements once it has completed its decision-making process.
7. CIP note that in relation to the information it is withholding, you are entitled to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsmen under Section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of CIP’s decision to withhold such information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Mitchell', with a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn Mitchell

Chief Legal and Risk Officer

Crown Infrastructure Partners