



David Haynes

Via FYI fyi-request-13648-d6f9f7d4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Official information request

Dear David

I refer to your official information request dated 2 September 2020 for:

- *Please confirm whether the NZ Council Meeting No. 147, of 21-23 August 2020 was voice and/or video recorded and if so, please supply all of the recordings of all discussions and voting on the following two agenda items:*
 - *Pheasant Preserves (item 10 on the unconfirmed minutes)*
 - *2, Trout Farming (item 11 on the unconfirmed minutes).*

I am responding on behalf of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

I can confirm the meeting was recorded for the sole purpose of assisting with the preparation of the minutes.

It is my view that these recordings should be withheld under s9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act on the grounds that their release would inhibit the free and frank expression of opinions at future council meetings. This is consistent with prior decisions of the Ombudsman, where the recordings of council meetings were deemed able to be withheld on this ground.

Council members present at the August New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting knew the meeting was only recorded for the purposes of preparing the minutes and therefore may have expressed their opinions more freely than if they had known the full voice recording would be made public. As releasing these recordings would inhibit the exchange of free and frank opinions in future I have withhold the recordings. I have considered the public interest in making this decision.

The minutes, when approved, will be made public on our website. You are also welcome to attend the public portions of the next NZC meeting, which is currently scheduled for the 20th through 22nd of November.

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.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Martin Taylor
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

New Zealand Council

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