

7 July 2021

Phillip Hart
fyi-request-15677-302b036d@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-8261

Dear Phillip

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 4 June 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please advise what is the time frame for the recently announced Walking and Cycling Bridge across Auckland Harbour to achieve carbon neutrality. That is, given the carbon impact of the materials for and construction of the bridge vs the estimated reduced carbon emissions from users of the bridge.

Please also include the detail of the estimated number of vehicle crossings that will be eliminated by the bridge in the first year after its completion. This should include the estimated proportion of bridge cyclists and walkers that have migrated from public transport to cycling/walking and from passenger vehicles to cycling/walking.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency does not have a timeframe for the Northern Pathway to achieve carbon neutrality. However, the Northern Pathway will aim to achieve successful independent verification of its sustainability performance using the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) Rating Scheme. The ISCA scheme assesses all aspects of sustainability including governance, economic, environmental and social outcomes. The Northern Pathway will provide positive sustainable outcomes and contribute to the Waka Kotahi's Sustainability Action Plan *Toitū Te Taiao* by providing a low carbon, safe and healthy land transport system.

Waka Kotahi is currently working to establish the wider network benefits expected from construction of the separate structure for the Northern Pathway. While an estimate of the number of vehicle crossings that will be eliminated by the bridge in the first year is not currently available, Waka Kotahi forecasts that the Northern Pathway will attract 4,500 daily users when it opens in 2026. This will increase to 6,560 daily users by 2046.

I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act, because the information you have requested is not held by Waka Kotahi.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, please contact Ministerial Services, by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Thackwray', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Thackwray
National Manager Infrastructure Delivery