



File No. DOIA 2021-2514

4 August 2021

Mrs Nguyen

[fyi-request-15722-5bbb95ff@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15722-5bbb95ff@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mrs Nguyen,

Thank you for your email of 9 June 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*What advice has the government received about the impact on the fuel market in New Zealand with the potential closure of the Marsden Point oil refinery, can you please provide copies of any consultants reports commissioned and copies of all email communications and meeting minutes or transcripts between stakeholders and government officials in relation to the potential closure.*

On the 7 July 2021, the timeframe of your request was extended under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as consultations were necessary to finalise the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment's (MBIE) final response for your request. In addition we thank you for your patience during this time.

15 documents have been identified in scope of your request, as detailed in the attached document schedule. Some information within these documents has been redacted as out of scope, or withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) in order to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- 9(2)(b)(ii) as the release of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;
- 9(2)(ba)(i) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information 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 continue to be supplied;

- 9(2)(f)(iv) in order to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty;
- 9(2)(j) in order to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations);
- 18(d) that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Two of the documents in the scope of your request is denied under 18(d) of the Act. Since making your request this information has been proactively released on the MBIE website. Links below for your reference.

**Fuel Security and Fuel Stockholding Costs and benefits 2020 – Consultants Report**

[www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15257-fuel-security-and-fuel-stockholding-costs-and-benefits-2020](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15257-fuel-security-and-fuel-stockholding-costs-and-benefits-2020)

Annex One of the Refining NZ strategic review – fuel supply implications briefing has been released below:

**REFINING NZ IMPACT OF CONVERSION TO FUELS TERMINAL**

[www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15260-refining-nz-impact-of-conversion-to-fuels-terminal](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15260-refining-nz-impact-of-conversion-to-fuels-terminal)

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely



Justine Cannon  
**Manager Energy Markets Policy**  
**Energy and Resource Markets**

## Document schedule

#	Date	Title	Paper Type	Reference Number (if applicable)	Withholding Grounds
1	20 April 2020	Refining NZ strategic review – fuel supply implications	Briefing	3034 19-20	9(2)(a)  Annex One declined under 18(d)
2	3 June 2020	Update on Refining NZ's strategic review	Briefing	3319 19-20	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv)
3	11 June 2020	Proposed response to Refining NZ's strategic review questions	Briefing	3702 19-20	9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(i) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i)
4	19 June 2020	Letter from Minister Woods to Refining NZ	Ministerial letter		Released in Full
5	26 February 2021	Visit to the Marsden Point Refinery	Event Briefing	2021-2384	9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(i)
7	25 June 2020	Refining NZ strategic review Stage 1 conclusion briefing and press release	Email with attachments		9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(i)
8	31 July 2020	Green fuels graphic and letter to Minister Woods	Email with attachments		9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(i)
10	1 May 2020	Refining NZ Strategic Review - announcement and briefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attachment (withheld)</li> <li>• 3034 19-20;</li> </ul>	Email with attachments		9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(i)  Attachment

		Refining NZ strategic review – fuel supply implications			withheld under s 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(ba)(i)
11	1 May 2020	Refining NZ Strategic Review briefing and overview for 1 May 2020 meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30.04.20 RNZ Strategic Review Briefing Pack – MBIE</li> <li>• Refining NZ review overview (email with attachments)</li> </ul>	Email with attachments		9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(i)
12	21 May 2020	Additional info provided by Refining NZ	Email		9(2)(a)
13	5 June 2020	Letter from Refining NZ to Minister Woods on 5 June 2020	Email with Attachment		9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(j)
14	15 April 2020	Refining NZ Strategic Review	Email with Attachment		9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(i)
15	23 March 2020	Letter to Refinery	Email with Attachments		9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(i) 9(2)(f)(iv)
16	Various	James Soligo's correspondence with Refining NZ	Emails		9(2)(a)
17	Various	Shane Wilson's correspondence with Refining NZ	Emails		9(2)(a)

## Documents withheld in full

#	Date	Description
1	24 February 2021	Email – Tank information, withheld under s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(ba)(i).
2	11 March 2021	Email – Re: Tank information, withheld under s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(ba)(i).
6	16 December 2020	Fuel Security and Fuel Stockholding Costs and benefits 2020. Withheld under 18(d)
9	14 May 2020	Email- Refining NZ response to questions following 11 May 2020 meeting