

Hon Michael Wood

MP for Mt Roskill

Minister of Transport

Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

Deputy Leader of the House



2-9 JUL 2021

Micky Turner
fyi-request-15882-30fbd4fc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Micky

Thank you for your email of 23 June 2021 requesting information regarding the Northern Pathway Westhaven to Akoranga project under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I have addressed each of your questions in turn below.

1. Survey or any research undertaken which shows the number of people who will likely use the Auckland harbour walking & cycling bridge each day.

Forecasts completed in 2019 estimated that there would be 1,700 pedestrians and 2,700 one-way cycle trips daily on the bridge component (Westhaven to Akoranga) of the Northern Pathway on an average day in 2026.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency will be updating the forecasts as part of the next steps for the project.

2. Computer modelling of how the proposed Auckland harbour walking & cycling bridge will ease traffic congestion in Auckland.

Modelling is available in the attached extract from the document 'Cross Harbour Walking and Cycling Connection DRAFT Transport Modelling and Economic Evaluation'. Please note this modelling was done in 2019 and is no longer up to date. I am advised that Waka Kotahi is working on updated modelling.

3. Why the latest plans for a Auckland harbour walking & cycling bridge will (if implemented) cost close to 1 billion dollars.

The total cost for the Northern Pathway between Westhaven and Akoranga included in the NZUP programme is \$785 million, which includes \$100 million for the land component and \$685 million for the bridge component, covering all phases of the project as well as contingency.

Further information about the cost of the Northern Pathway, and other advice relied on by the Government to inform the changes to the NZ Upgrade Programme, has been proactively published on the Waka Kotahi website: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/planning-and-investment/nz-upgrade/changes-to-the-new-zealand-upgrade-programme/>

I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available.

4. Alternative solutions the Labour government has considered and why they were rejected (including abandoning the project until a tunnel is finished).

The alternative options considered for the Northern Pathway are included in the advice proactively released on the Waka Kotahi website above. I am therefore also refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available.

5. Any discussions you have had with other ministers and the Ministry of Transport regarding the proposed Auckland harbour walking & cycling bridge via email - including but not limited to the cost blowout, plus why Starship Children's Hospital is begging for donations while the Labour government pour money into vanity projects such as this bridge and the Pike River Mine.

As Minister, I have not exchanged any emails with other Ministers or Ministry of Transport officials regarding the Northern Pathway project or any of the other matters mentioned. I am therefore refusing your request for this information under section 18(e), as the documents do not exist.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Wood', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Hon Michael Wood
Minister of Transport