

Hon Dr Megan Woods

MP for Wigram

Minister of Housing

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister for Building and Construction

Associate Minister of Finance



14 DEC 2022

OIA22-159

Sam Murphy

Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your emails of 3 October 2022, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

(OIA22-158)

In the following article you mention that you have access to 'modelling' around future use of hydrogen in NZ. Please share the modelling you are referring to.

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/politics/30-08-2022/has-the-government-been-fooled-into-embracing-green-hydrogen>

For the sake of being thorough I am also requesting all policy advice, reports and modelling you have access to, relating to Hydrogen and Green Hydrogen. Including, but not limited to the following:

Data, Results and methods for Energy and Financial modelling relating to use of hydrogen in transport, energy and fertiliser production.

Internal or external Reports, Advice and policy recommendations relating to hydrogen and Green hydrogen.

(OIA22-159)

All communications to and from your office relating to green hydrogen and hydrogen.

The types of data I am requesting are as follows:

Meeting minutes and electronic communications (text, email, private message etc) mentioning or relating to hydrogen and green Hydrogen during your tenure as Minister of Energy and Resources.

Please note that these two requests have been combined for ease of reply.

A records search undertaken by my officials has resulted in a very large number of email chains potentially falling in scope of your request OIA 22-159 (*All communications to and from your office relating to green hydrogen and hydrogen*), totally over 300,000 emails. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

One document that falls in scope of your requests, entitled *New Zealand Hydrogen Scenarios: Report to MBIE* is publicly available. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act. The document is available here:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/energy-strategies-for-new-zealand/a-vision-for-hydrogen-in-new-zealand/roadmap-for-hydrogen-in-new-zealand/>

The document *Briefing to the Incoming Minister Energy and Resources* is also available publicly, and is withheld under section 18(d) of the Act. The document is available on the MBIE website here: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/who-we-are/our-ministers/briefings-to-incoming-ministers/>

Another document that falls in scope of your requests, entitled *Briefing: Potential hydrogen export development with Korea* is withheld in full under section 6(a) of the Act, that the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

Please find attached the remaining documents you have requested.

Please note that some information from within these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act, as detailed in the below Document Schedule:

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|-------------|--|
| 6(a) | that the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; |
| 9(2)(a) | to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons; |
| 9(2)(ba)(i) | to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, 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)(b)(ii) | to protect information where the making available 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)(f)(iv) | to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect 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)(h) | to maintain legal professional privilege; |
| 9(2)(j) | 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); and

18(d) that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Document Schedule

#	Date	Description/Title	Withholding/refusing grounds
1	August 2021	NZ Battery Project – update on hydro and other technologies	9(2)(a)
2	4 November 2021	Report back on managing the phase-out of fossil gas in the energy system and opportunities to repurpose fossil gas infrastructure	18(d)
3	31 March 2022	Briefing: Gas Transition Plan: Draft Terms of Reference	18(d)
4	20 February 2020	Briefing: update on hydrogen policy developments.	6(a), 9(2)(a)
5	28 March 2019	2320 18-19 Briefing seeking release of public discussion document on targeted changes to the Gas Act 1992	9(2)(a)
6	30 August 2019	Event Briefing: Launch of the Hydrogen Green Paper - A vision for hydrogen in New Zealand	9(2)(a)
7	22 February 2019	Briefing for Cabinet Paper-Green Hydrogen Strategy: A vision for Hydrogen in NZ.	9(2)(a)
8	14 April 2022	Briefing on New Zealand Hydrogen Scenarios Report 2022	9(2)(a)
9	7 April 2022	Joint Ministers meeting on the New Zealand Battery Project	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)
10	10 October 2019	1069 19-20 Gas Act 1992 - Report Back and Final Policy Decisions combined (1).	9(2)(a)
11	30 October 2018	1229 18-19 Briefing Determining the scope of changes to the Gas Act 1992	9(2)(a)

13	28 March 2019	2320 18-19 Briefing seeking release of public discussion document on targeted changes to the Gas Act 1992	9(2)(a)
14	29 September 2022	Final Report- New Zealand's Regulatory Pathway for Hydrogen	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)
15	22 September 2022	2223-0866 Development of a roadmap for hydrogen in New Zealand	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv)
17	3 June 2020	Update on hydrogen policy developments – June 2020	9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i)
18	23 October 2019	EECA advice on hydrogen in New Zealand	9(2)(a)
19	12 February 2021	Follow-up advice on hydrogen in New Zealand	9(2)(b)(ii)
20	14 December 2021	Market insights based on EECA's led hydrogen projects Contains attachment: 3.1 Appendix Two: Review of Zero-Emission Bus & Charger trials	9(2)(b)(ii)
21	11 December 2020	Clarifying public reporting about Hiringa's shovel-ready project to establish a hydrogen refuelling network	
22	22 February 2022	Low Emission Transport Fund: Round One and Two projects	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii)
23	22 December 2020	Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund: Round 9 projects	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii)
24	12 December 2018	Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund: successful round five projects	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii)
25	2 October 2020	Funding arrangements for IRG project: Hiringa minimum viable hydrogen refuelling network	9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(ba)
26	23 November 2018 - 2 September 2022	Word document containing excerpts of Fortnightly reports	9(2)(ba), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(b)(ii)
27	2018/19 - 22/23	Word document containing excerpts of Quarterly reports	9(2)(b)(ii)

28	2018 - 2022	Relevant excerpts from MBIE briefings: 2018 - 2022	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(j)
29	2017-2022	Weekly Reports extracts	9(2)(a)

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

I trust that you will find this information helpful; however, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision on this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Energy and Resources