

2 March 2023

Kate
fyi-request-21421-33567fc7@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-11960

Dear Kate

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2023 to Te Manatū Waka – The Ministry of Transport requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On 1 February 2023, the following parts of your request were transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency for response as they refer to a Waka Kotahi owned document:

Does this mean road cones are not factored into climate change related policies or impact calculations?

Section A-H of the CoPPTM document has over 300 references to cones and around 500 pages. Is a summary available?

Road cones are not specifically factored into carbon assessments for Waka Kotahi activities as our focus is assessing and reporting on our material emissions – the main contributors such as fuel and electricity, concrete, steel, and asphalt.

Our Resource Efficiency Policy and Network Outcomes Contracts key performance indicator measure, *3.1.7 Resource Efficiency and Waste Minimisation*, requires our contractors to identify and implement resource efficiency opportunities to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions, increase uptake of recycled and alternative materials, reduce use of virgin and high carbon intensity materials, and reduce water and waste consumption. Your query highlights a good opportunity to factor road cones into this context, including considering the carbon impacts of purchasing new road cones and recycling old road cones, where it is possible to do so.

You can find out more about Waka Kotahi resource efficiency and waste management expectations of our contractors on our website at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/highways-information-portal/technical-disciplines/environment-and-sustainability-in-our-operations/environmental-technical-areas/resource-efficiency-and-waste-minimisation/.

The code of practice for temporary traffic management (CoPTTM) is an operational document used by contractors as a technical guide for roadworks. A summary for the document does not exist because each part is relevant to a specific scenario. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act because the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Waka Kotahi does not specify, via CoPTTM, the number of road cones and other materials required for any site, but rather asks contractors to ensure the safety of road users and others. Further to this, we are currently reviewing our national Temporary Traffic Management guidance, so that there is an enhanced focus on safety through risk management and less mandated detail regarding the solutions to achieve this. In doing so, we are reinforcing to contractors that they may implement innovative solutions. We will also continue to support the discussion on resource efficiency, including opportunities involving road cones as outlined above.

Although we cannot provide you with a summary of the CoPTTM, if you would like to discuss how it is used, you are welcome to contact Ryan Cooney on (03) 941 6489.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse part of 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 Waka Kotahi, please contact Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "V L Browne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vanessa Browne
National Manager, Programme and Standards