



Ref. no. DOIA 2223-2036

11 April 2023

J Bruning

fyi-request-22064-a2a5f931@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear J Bruning,

Thank you for your email of 10 March 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE), requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *All plans/reports/forecasts from 2017 onwards, analysing projected energy needs to 2035 by sector/industry (industrial, transport, commercial, residential, agriculture) to support the wellbeing of the citizens of Aotearoa New Zealand and the New Zealand economy.*
2. *Allowing for transitional shifts in energy supply, please supply all plans/reports/forecasts from 2017 onwards detailing breakdowns of percentage/units of each energy sector expected to supply energy to each of the above sectors over this time:*
 - a. *renewable electricity (by renewable sector water/hydrothermal/wind /sea etc);*
 - b. *coal*
 - c. *gas*
 - d. *biofuel*
3. *All reports/estimates/reviews and information detailing sources of biofuels (including feedstock).*
4. *All papers/plans/reports advice and information outlining the changing ownership structure of the energy sector to 2035 from 2020 onwards. I.e., publicly owned assets, public-private or private.*
5. *All available New Zealand-based literature reviews of the scientific information and white and grey papers assessing costs, human rights implications and pollution impact of renewable energy infrastructure development in (a) low-income and (b) high-income nations. This includes total energy required to mine, manufacture and ship infrastructure and technologies to New Zealand. This includes projected lifecycles of the renewable energy infrastructure.*

On 20 March 2023, MBIE sought clarification and refinement of your request. On 29 March 2023, you refined your request to:

4. *All papers/plans/reports advice and information outlining the changing ownership structure of the energy sector to 2035 from 2020 onwards. I.e., publicly owned assets, public-private or private.*

- 5 *All available New Zealand-based literature reviews of the scientific information and white and grey papers assessing costs, human rights implications and pollution impact of renewable energy infrastructure development in (a) low-income and (b) high-income nations. This includes total energy required to mine, manufacture and ship infrastructure and technologies to New Zealand. This includes projected lifecycles of the renewable energy infrastructure.*

Section 4 - reports specifically dedicated to this subject.

Section 5 - specifically concerns questions of ethical stewardship for non-renewable infrastructure, such as worker conditions where minerals are sourced, wind turbines, solar cells lifecycles, recycling of electric vehicles and pollution along the chain from the mine to disposal.

I.e. what literature reviews and reports have considered non GHG externalities relating to the lifecycle of renewable energy infrastructure inputs.

Regarding part 4 of your request, MBIE has identified two documents relevant to your request, that being:

- *The New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2052*
(<https://strategy.tewaihanga.govt.nz/strategy>)
- *the 2021 New Zealand Public Private Partnership Model Review*
(https://www.tewaihanga.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/TeWaihanga_New_Zealand_Public_Private_Partnership_Model_Review.pdf).

We note these are not specific to energy infrastructure, however, we consider these to be relevant strategy and review documents that detail application of public-private partnerships in Crown Infrastructure. As these documents are publicly available via the links provided above, part 4 of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

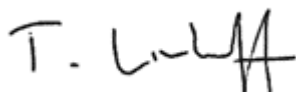
No further reports or papers have been identified relevant to energy ownership models.

Regarding part 5 of your request, we appreciate that you have refined your request, and your effort to help clarify it. However, we have been unsuccessful in refining our search terms in such a way that would reduce the substantial collation and research needed to identify whether we hold such literature reviews, as literature reviews, grey or white papers, may be accessed by any given staffer, on any number of projects, so we are unable to identify relevant experts to check their own records. Further, such documents are not readily identifiable in our Electronic Document and Record Management System. For example, a search of “Renewable Energy” and “Human Rights” capturing records from the last three years returns 2300 results. Therefore, at this stage, part 5 of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

MBIE would like to invite you to meet with officials via a Microsoft Teams call, to further discuss the information you are interested in receiving, as minimal information has been provided in this response. If you wish to proceed with this approach, we invite you to email: OIA@mbie.govt.nz, from a private email address, referencing this request (DOIA 2223-2036), so that we can arrange such a meeting.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of MBIE's decision on your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at:
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Linnhoff'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' at the end.

Tamara Linnhoff
Manager, Electricity Generation, Infrastructure and Markets Policy
Energy and Resource Markets