

Hon Damien O'Connor

MP for West Coast-Tasman

Minister of Agriculture
Minister for Biosecurity
Minister for Land Information
Minister for Trade and Export Growth



27 April 2023

John Luke
fyi-request-22174-6a1ce51c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Luke

Thank you for your email of 21 March 2023 requesting a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by agribusiness leaders. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

This agreement is released to you as Appendix One. Some information has been withheld pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- Section 9(2)(g)(ii) – *to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment*
- Section 9(2)(j) – *to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations, (including commercial and industrial negotiations).*

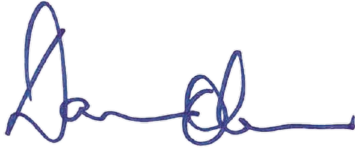
The MOU has been superseded by the CCA Joint Ventures Shareholders Agreement (Agreement) which was signed on 19 December 2022. A copy of the Agreement is attached in Appendix Two. Some information has been withheld pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- Section 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 department or organisation in the course of their duty.*
- Section 9(2)(g)(ii) – *to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment*
- Section 9(2)(j) – *to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations, (including commercial and industrial negotiations).*

I am satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. You are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Damien O'Connor', written in a cursive style.

Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister of Agriculture