

Hon James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change

Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity)



OIA577

Steven Cranston

By email: fyi-request-22414-a24b21ec@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Steven

Thank you for your email of 6 April 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *What is the rate of sea level rise that the government attribute to climate change?*
2. *What is the source of NZ sea level rise data that the government relies on?*
3. *Please provide any emails sent by the minister which reference 'sea level rise' since January 1 2018.*

As you are aware, the Government follows the latest science on climate change, which is supported by rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific methods. Sea level rise has been a known consequence of climate change for many decades.

In 2017, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) published the guidance *Coastal Hazards and Climate Change*, which outlines advice on how local government can adapt to coastal hazard risk from climate change, particularly relating to sea-level rise. Last year, the Ministry published updated interim guidance on the use of new sea-level projections, which reflect the latest scenarios from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the NZSeaRise Programme.

Both of these guidance documents provide peer-reviewed scientific evidence for New Zealand sea-level rise and can be accessed at: tinyurl.com/mvw8kak9 and tinyurl.com/4zc8zdmj.

You can also find more information on sea-level rise resulting from climate change in the Ministry's report *Our Marine Environment 2022*, which is available at tinyurl.com/mrk78zxs.

Additionally, the IPCC has published information and data on sea level rise in Chapter Four of its *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, which is publicly available at: tinyurl.com/3kkc2ar9.

The science shows why we must continue to take action towards ensuring a climate-friendly, prosperous future for Aotearoa.

In response to part 3 of your request "*Please provide any emails sent by the minister which reference 'sea level rise' since January 1 2018*" there are 5 documents in scope of this part of your request. These documents are being released to you with some information withheld as it is outside the scope of your request:

1. *8 September 2022 RE: Sea-level land development mistake preventable*
2. *8 September 2022 Attachment 1: Letter to Brendan Hosken*
3. *12 October 2022 RE: Rising sea level protection*
4. *6 October 2022 Attachment 1: Letter to Murray Jordan*
5. *15 March 2023 Inquiry*

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please contact my office if you have any queries about this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Shaw', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon. James Shaw
Minister of Climate Change