



Office of Hon Tim Groser

Minister of Trade
Minister for Climate Change Issues

Dear Requestor

Thank you for your recent request, under the Official Information Act (OIA), for a copy of the draft text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA).

The New Zealand Government has consistently said it is not prepared to release TPPA negotiating documents that would jeopardise New Zealand's ability to negotiate a high quality trade agreement that advances the national interest. This approach has been agreed by all of the TPP negotiating parties.

Accordingly, I am withholding the draft text for the TPPA under the following OIA sections:

- 6(a), to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- 6(e)(vi), to protect information, the making available of which would be likely to damage seriously the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the entering into overseas trade agreements; and
- 9(2)(j), to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

The Government has, however, been open about the issues under negotiation, and the consultation processes for the TPPA have been among the most extensive a New Zealand Government has undertaken for any trade negotiation.

You have the right, under OIA section 28(3), to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Groser'.

Tim Groser
Minister of Trade