

Mr. Hammond
fyi-request-24340-918872c1@requests.fyi.org.nz

27 October 2023

Dear Mr. Hammond,

Re: Official Information Act Request: Reasoning behind LETF Round 9 Funding Decisions

Thank you for your online request of 4 October 2023, in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. You requested:

“In LETF round 9 various different entities received funding for what seems to be the same outcome, “two 150kW chargers with four ports (1 CHADEMO, 3 CCS)”. <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/assets/EECA-Resources/Co-funding/LETF-files/Round-9-Files/Rounds-9-and-10-approved-projects-list.docx>

ChargeNet NZ Limited was awarded \$190,000 for each of these projects, while Jump Charging Limited was awarded between \$272,550 and \$308,500, and EV Infrastructure Partners was awarded between \$240,850 and \$267,100. At first glance the reasoning does not appear to be due to location/site requirements, as all ChargeNet funding is the same amount for all locations.

I request the reasoning for awarding more money for the same chargers to different entities, including any correspondence relating to this.”

Response:

Reasoning for awarding more money for the same chargers to different entities...

While the outcome of installing two 150kW chargers with four ports (1 CHADEMO, 3 CCS) is the same in each of the ChargeNet NZ Ltd, Jump Charging Ltd and EV Infrastructure Partners projects you have referenced, the electrical work and upgrades required vary significantly depending on supply availability in each location.

In Round 9 of the LETF, EECA identified 14 major holiday journey routes with 25 specific locations where we determined a need for additional public EV charging infrastructure. We held an open Request for Proposals process, where parties could apply for EECA co-funding to deliver charging infrastructure in one or more of these locations. Applicants determined the amount of funding they requested based on their view of competitiveness at the site, their estimates of total project costs, and their internal cost structures.

Across proposals received in Round 9, the estimated capital costs required to install charging infrastructure ranged between \$50,000 and \$300,000. These costs were based on applicant estimates of power availability, need for connection or transformer upgrades, and associated civil works – as well as the

number of chargers to be installed at each site. For example, in Geraldine the site civil works cost estimates for the Jump Charging project were half that of another applicant's proposal, and the electrical upgrade cost estimates were under 25% of another applicant's.

A moderation meeting was held on 22 May 2023 to consider applications and award funding. At this meeting, the assessment panel scored each application based on the following four components:

- Proposed solution (30% weighting)
- Ability to deliver (30% weighting)
- Speed of implementation (30% weighting)
- Value for money (10% weighting)

Proposals from ChargeNet, NZ Ltd, Jump Charging Ltd and EV Infrastructure Partners were approved based on their scores against these criteria. Applications were assessed location by location. For each of the 25 locations, the panel selected the application with the highest overall score.

We have released the LETF Panel Report 'Round 9 Holiday Journey Charging', which outlines the final funding allocated to Round 9 projects as well as their moderated final average scores against the fund criteria. This is attached as *Appendix A*. We have partially withheld information under s9(2)(b)(ii), to protect information where making available the information would unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject to the information. Redactions have been applied to information we believe would compromise applicant confidence if shared in a highly competitive market, potentially impacting their willingness to openly share commercial information with EECA in future.

...any correspondence relating to this.

Regarding the second aspect of your request, for all correspondence relating to the decision to award more money for the same chargers to different entities, there is no internal or external correspondence that falls within scope of this request. We are therefore refusing this aspect of your request under 18(e) of the OIA.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/news-and-corporate/official-information/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Marcos Pelenur
Chief Executive