



2 February 2024

Kevin Smith  
fyi-request-25221-b32097c8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0368

Dear Kevin

**Official Information Act request relating to correspondence between NIWA and NEMA between 13 July and 17 July 2021.**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 18 December 2023. You requested:

*"I am seeking the correspondence between NIWA, and also NEMA, to either the Buller District Council or West Coast Regional Council in the days prior to the July 2021, Buller River flood.*

*This is to cover the period from Tuesday 13th July 2021 through to midday on the Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> July.*

*As I am interested in weather and other warnings or advisories given, this may also include correspondence to affiliated agencies, Civil Defence, Emergency Management agencies."*

I note that you have also submitted a request to the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA). Staff has contacted NIWA, and I am advised that NIWA will be responding to you directly in regard to matters that relate to their request, and I refer you to their response.

I have identified some correspondence of a general nature between the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and either the Buller District Council or West Coast Regional Council in the period from Tuesday 13 July 2021 through to midday Saturday 17 July 2021. Also, there are some emails and material of a general nature that provide updates – please see the attached bundle for this information.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the attached bundle of documents ("the bundle"), subject to some information being withheld. Unless expressly noted in the bundle, the information that is withheld is done pursuant to s9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Also, please note that information which is considered "trivial" (such as embedded branding images) has not been included in the information to be released and is withheld pursuant to s18(h) of the Act.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

It is proposed that this response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Richards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anthony Richards

**Chief Advisor to the Deputy Chief Executive, Emergency Management**