



8 March 2024

Tom Bennion  
fyi-request-25722-d2eb69d0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Tom,

Thank you for your email of 13 February 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*The MfE website records:*

- *The Government has announced its intention to begin work on a replacement for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) in 2024.*
- *In preparation for this, the repeal legislation extends the date that councils are required to notify freshwater plan changes, by three years to 31 December 2027.*

*Could I have all advice of MfE to the government related to the extension of the date to notify freshwater plans, and in particular advice about impacts on water quality and on iwi. Also any related papers presented to Cabinet and Cabinet decisions.*

I am writing to notify you that the Ministry for the Environment is extending the timeframe for its response to your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original timeframe.

We will now respond to your request on, if not before, 11 April 2024, which is an extension of 20 working days.

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

Ngā mihi,

*Electronically approved by Lachlan Brown*

**Lachlan Brown**  
Team Leader - Ministerial Services  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao