



11 April 2024

OIAD-953

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

Tēnā koe Tom,

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

*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.*

On 8 March 2024, the Ministry notified you that the timeframe for responding to your request was being extended under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act as the consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original timeframe.

The Ministry has identified six documents in scope of your request, as per the attached document schedule.

I am releasing one document to you in full. I am releasing one document to you with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty; and
- 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege.

Four of the documents in scope of your request are publicly available and I must therefore refuse these under section 18(d) of the Act. Links to these documents have been provided in the attached document schedule.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has

been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā,



**Hayden Johnston**  
General Manager – Natural Environment Policy  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Document schedule

Doc no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	11 December 2023	CAB 377 - Replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020, and addressing its implementation in the interim	Released in part	9(2)(h); 9(2)(g)(i)
2	11 December 2023	CAB-23-MIN 0486 - Replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020, and addressing its implementation in the interim	Released in full	N/A
3	4 December 2023	CAB-23-MIN-0473 - Repealing the Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 and the Spatial Planning Act 2023	Refused in full	18(d): the document is available <a href="#">here</a> .
4	4 December 2023	CAB-371 – Repealing the Natural and Built Environment Act and the Spatial Planning Act	Refused in full	18(d): the document is available <a href="#">here</a> .
5	18 December 2023	CAB-23-0499 - Resource Management (Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Repeal and Interim Fast-track Consenting) Bill: Approval for Introduction	Refused in full	18(d): the document is available <a href="#">here</a> .
6	18 December 2023	CAB-372 - Resource Management (Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Repeal and Interim Fast-track Consenting) Bill: Approval for Introduction	Refused in full	18(d): the document is available <a href="#">here</a> .