



# Office of the Prime Minister

**Prime Minister**

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial  
Services

29 JUN 2015

Andrew Riddell

Email: [fyi-request-2797-50f80e9c@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2797-50f80e9c@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Andrew Riddell

## **Official Information Request for Information Relating to the Cost of Climate Change Reductions**

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 2 June 2015 where you stated that *"today [2 Jun 2015] during Parliament's question time you [the Prime Minister] asserted that a reduction in carbon emissions of 40% by 2030 would have too great an economic cost."* You requested *"...copies of the reports and assessments you are relying on in making that assertion."*

Identified as being relevant to your request is a briefing note provided to the Prime Minister by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence, in order to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. These briefings have been withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) as withholding the information is necessary to *"maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials"*.
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) as withholding the information is necessary 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 department or organisation in the course of their duty"*.

No public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

Also identified as relevant to your request are two documents that include information on the estimated costs of climate change reductions that are publically available. Both these documents can be found on the Ministry for the Environment website as follows:

- Discussion document (May 2015) *"New Zealand's climate change target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement"* is available at: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/20723>;
- Modelling the economic impact of New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution (May 2015) is available at: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/modelling-economic-impact-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-post-2020-climate-change>.

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To the extent these documents are relevant to your request it is formally declined under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act on the basis "*that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.*"

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne Eagleson." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Eagleson  
**Chief of Staff**