



29 January 2025

Malia Gaumeir

By email: fyi-request-29533-8d9c8334@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Malia Gaumeir

**Official information request regarding environmental impact of the Boyd-Wilson returf and repairs**

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 12 December 2024:

*“- What options were explored for replacing/refurbishing the astroturf (e.g. natural turf or cork replacement instead of rubber/plastic)?*

*- What mitigations are in place to ensure that microplastics are not released into the environment during the turf's refurbishment?*

*- How much waste (by weight) is being generated by the refurbishment, and what proportion of that waste is being reused, recycled and landfilled?*

*- What environmental impact assessments have been done for the installation, refurbishment, and/or ongoing use and maintenance of the astroturf?*

*- What is the financial cost of refurbishment, and where is this funding being pulled from?*

*- When is this project due to be completed?*

*How will this project meet each of the following obligations outlined in the University's Sustainability Policy:*

- 6.1 (e)*
- 7.1 (b)*
- 7.1 (d)*
- 7.1 (e)?”*

Information relating to your request regarding the returf and repairs of the Boyd-Wilson field is attached. Please note, some information has been withheld in accordance with s9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as making the information available would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; and s9(2)(a) in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

The amount of waste generated by the refurbishment will not be known until the completion of the project. Therefore, this aspect of your request is refused in accordance with s18(e) of the Act as the information does not currently exist.

As part of the consideration of the tender, staff assessed whether the project would meet the University's obligations under the Sustainability Policy and confirmed that it would. However, there is no specific documentation that addresses how the project complies with the specific obligations you have noted. Therefore, this aspect of your request is refused in accordance with s18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made regarding this request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at [oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz).

Ngā mihi nui

Blair Doherty  
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy  
Legal Services  
**Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington**