



Office of Hon Phil Heatley

MP for Whangarei

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister of Housing

16 July 2012

Alex Harris

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Dear Alex

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 19 June requesting copies of all briefings and correspondence, in particular draft advice from officials, relating to Oral Question #6 on Tuesday 19 June.

As I stated a number of times in my answer to the question in the house, Mrs. Melhuish's calculations were simplistic and didn't take into account the various factors that needed to be considered. As I said, it simply wasn't possible to do robust calculations, given the large range of scenarios that apply, that would give the House the quality of answer I would be comfortable providing, in the time available.

As you may be aware, the same question was asked in the House the following day and Minister Ryall, on my behalf was able to give a full and thorough response, following officials continuing to work on the 19th and 20th of June, in order to provide a comprehensive answer.

Briefings on oral questions are confidential to Ministers. As such, I decline your request for a copy of my briefing notes under the Official Information Act 1982 (9)(f)(iv) maintaining confidentiality of advice and 9(g)(i) expression of free and frank opinions.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

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

Yours sincerely

Hon. Phil Heatley

Minister of Energy & Resources