



15 DEC 2016

Coastlands Community  
[fyi-request-4975-38ded4e9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-4975-38ded4e9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Coastlands Community,

Thank you for your email of 17 November 2016 to the Ministry of Education, in which you requested:

*All information relating to the proposed Buildings/Land use for the current operating Rangitaiki Independent School following its impending closure at the end of the school term of 2016.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Twenty five documents have been identified within the scope of your request. The Ministry is currently engaged in ongoing negotiations and at this stage has not reached a final decision regarding the future use of the Rangitaiki Independent School (RIS) site. Until such time that negotiations are completed, we are unable to advise the proposed plans for the site. In addition to the negotiations, a large amount of the information in scope is still being actively considered.

For these reasons, I am withholding all 25 items and their titles in full under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- 9(2)(j), to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organization holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.

In making decisions to withhold official information, I have considered whether the withholding of that information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. On balance, I consider the public interest is best served by allowing these matters, and the advice presented for consideration, to be developed in confidence.

I am, however, aware of the importance this matter has to your community. Please be assured that once a decision is made regarding the intended use of the RIS site, we will engage with your community to share our information and listen to what members of the community have to say, and respond to them. This is expected to be during Term 1, 2017. Any questions about this engagement can be forwarded to Carol Ngawati, Education Manager, Bay of Plenty-Waiariki at: [Carol.ngawati@education.govt.nz](mailto:Carol.ngawati@education.govt.nz).

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Thank you again for your request.

Yours sincerely



Jerome Sheppard  
**Head of Education Infrastructure Service**