

s 9(2)(a)

18-D-02577

Major Electricity Users' Group
s 9(2)(a) @meug.co.nz

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 4 December 2018 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Please provide a copy of all briefings, reports and communications since 4 May 2018 between the Ministry for the Environment and the office of the Minister for Climate Change Issues on the Zero Carbon Bill.*
- *Please provide in regard to the Economic Impact analysis of 2050 emission targets or other metrics relating to the Zero Carbon Bill Please, a copy of all briefings, reports, communications and modelling inputs and outputs since 18 June 2018.*

This request encompasses:

- *work to be carried out by NZIER as detailed on page 45 under the heading "What next?" of their report to the Ministry for the Environment dated 18 June 2018 "Economic impact analysis of 2050 emissions targets - A dynamic Computable General Equilibrium analysis"*
- *Any additional analysis or modelling carried out by NZIER, other third parties or government agencies and officials*

On 14 January 2019, you agreed to refine the first part of your request to:

- *Please provide a copy of all briefings and reports since 4 May 2018 between the Ministry for the Environment and the office of the Minister for Climate Change Issues about the economic costs and benefits of the Zero Carbon Bill.*

We have identified 13 documents in scope of the first part of your request, as detailed in the attached document schedule. Seven documents, including those which contain or report on NZIER's second stage of modelling (the second part of your request), have been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers. They contain information that is under the Minister's active consideration ahead of decisions that Cabinet is yet to make.

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.

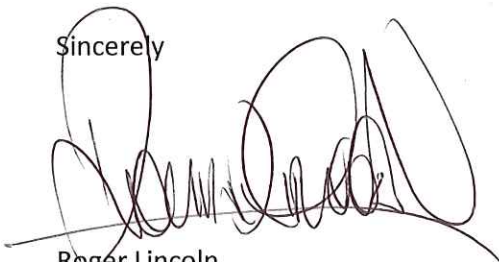
We are releasing the other six documents in scope of the first part of your request to you in part or in full, with some information withheld as summarised in the document schedule. These documents are enclosed.

Please also note that Cabinet material relevant to the second stage of economic impact analysis will be proactively released within 30 working days of Cabinet making decisions on this matter. This material will satisfy the second part of your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team.

Sincerely



Roger Lincoln
Director, Climate Change

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

List of documents

Document no.	Document date	Document no.	Content	Decision	OIA sections applied
1	4/05/2018	18-B-04517	Final draft ENV paper and talking points on climate change framework	Released in full	N/A
2	4/05/2018	18-B-04538	Draft Zero Carbon Bill Cabinet paper and Consultation Document	Released in part	s 9(2)(a) – In order to protect the privacy of natural persons s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials s 9(2)(g)(i) – In order 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.
3	4/05/2018	18-B-04541	Slide pack on initial results of economic modelling for draft Zero Carbon Bill discussion document	Released in part	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
4	11/05/2018	18-B-04569	Updated draft Cabinet paper seeking agreement to release the Zero Carbon Bill discussion document	Released in part	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
5	18/05/2018	18-B-04588	Draft Zero Carbon Bill discussion document and Cabinet paper	Released in part	s 9(2)(a) – In order to protect the privacy of natural persons s 9(2)(g)(i) – In order 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.
6	25/05/2018	18-B-04631	Revised Zero Carbon Bill Discussion Document for Cabinet consideration	Released in part	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
7	17/08/2018	18-B-04834	Zero Carbon Bill: Early draft of the Cabinet Paper and RIS	Withheld in full	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials

8	31/09/2018	18-B-04867	Zero Carbon Bill Slide Pack for Climate Change Ministers Meeting on 5 September	Withheld in full	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
9	7/09/2018	18-B-04877	Additional advice on the economic, scientific and international considerations for target options within the Zero Carbon Bill	Withheld in full	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
10	21/09/2018	18-B-04928	Summary of economic impacts	Withheld in full	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
11	27/09/2018	18-B-04958	Summary of economic impacts - update	Withheld in full	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
12	18/10/2018	18-B-05029	Zero Carbon Bill: Peer review of second stage of NZIER modelling	Withheld in full	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
13	6/12/2018	18-B-05192	Cabinet paper & RIS for lodging	Withheld in full	s 9(2)(f)(iv) – In order to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Note: due to file size, please email ministerials@mfe.govt.nz for copies of the documents released