

19-D-02237 and 19-D-02246

s 9(2)(a)

Federated Farmers of New Zealand  
s 9(2) @fedfarm.org.nz  
( )

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Your emails of 20 September 2019 to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) were partially transferred to the Ministry for the Environment on 30 September and 1 October 2019:

*[DPMC's and MPI's] comments on the Cabinet paper "Essential Freshwater – Public Consultation on National Direction for Freshwater Management" as part of formal departmental consultation.*

In the interests of processing your request quickly, we are providing information relating to both DPMC and MPI's comments here.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified 18 emails, and 7 documents attached to some of those emails, that fall within scope of your request. These are listed in the attached table and collated in the attached documents for release.

Some information within these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(g)(i) 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.

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.

Some out of scope information has also been removed from the documents being released to you. Note that entirely redacted pages have been removed for readability, and page numbering may appear to have gaps as a result.

The information being released records comments made by DPMC and MPI during the process of drafting the relevant Cabinet paper. All departmental comments were addressed prior to the Cabinet paper being finalised, and they should be understood in the context of a drafting process – comments do not represent a department's view of the final product or the proposals contained within it. Please refer to the Ministry for the Environment's website ([www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz)) for the final version of the Cabinet paper titled "*Essential Freshwater – Public Consultation on National Direction for Freshwater Management*".

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of 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 on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment may publish responses to requests for official information on our website on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent.

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

Yours sincerely



**Katherine Meerman**  
Director, Water

Released under the provision of  
the Official Information Act 1982

### List of documents

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions
1	14 August 2019	Email from John Scott [DPMC]:  <i>RE: Early look at the docs that we will provide tomorrow</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
2	14 August 2019	Email from Rachelle Linwood [MPI]:  <i>RE: Updated Cab package for review (CAB versions)</i>  (note the attached document is mislabelled as a draft of the relevant Cabinet paper, it is actually a draft of the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater)	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
3	14 August 2019	Email from John Scott [DPMC]:  <i>RE: Early look at the docs that we will provide tomorrow</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
4	14 August 2019	Email from John Scott [DPMC]:  <i>RE: Early look at the docs that we will provide tomorrow</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
5	9 August 2019	Email from John Scott [DPMC]:  <i>2019-C-05364 - as at 8 August 2019 V6 final MPI.DOCX</i>  (includes attached draft of the relevant Cabinet paper)	Partially withheld (redacting out of scope information AND withholding one comment on page 3 of attachment under 9(2)(g)(i))
6	9 August 2019	Email from Charlotte Denny [MPI]:  <i>USE THIS VERSION Amended cabinet paper and A3 for urgent review</i>  (includes attached draft of the relevant Cabinet paper)	Partially withheld (redacting out of scope information AND withholding one comment on page 3 of attachment under 9(2)(g)(i))

7	9 August 2019	Email from Charlotte Denny [MPI]:  <i>RE: Amended cabinet paper and A3 for urgent review</i>  (includes attached draft of the relevant Cabinet paper)	Partially withheld (redacting out of scope information AND withholding one comment on page 3 of attachment under 9(2)(g)(i))
8	6 August 2019	Email from Rachelle Linwood [MPI]:  <i>RE: Updated Cabinet package, cover note and attachments</i>  (includes attached draft of the relevant Cabinet paper)	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
9	5 August 2019	Email from Martin Workman [MFE]:  <i>Jon Scott comments</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
10	1 August 2019	Email from Martin Workman [MFE]:  <i>John Scott feedback</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
11	29 July 2019	Email from Rachelle Linwood [MPI]:  <i>Feedback from Minister O'Connor's office on the cabinet paper</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
12	25 July 2019	Email from Kay Baxter [MPI]:  <i>FW: Freshwater Cabinet paper</i>  (includes attached draft of the relevant Cabinet paper)	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
13	24 July 2019	Email from Sophia Murphy [MPI]:  <i>FW: Cabinet Paper - 2019-C-05364 - Essential Freshwater public consultation on regulations for freshwater management - as at 3.50pm 19 7 2019 MPI final comments</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
14	22 July 2019	Email from Charlotte Denny [MPI]:  <i>RE: Cabinet Paper - 2019-C-05364 - Essential Freshwater public consultation on regulations for freshwater management - as at 3.50pm 19 7 2019 MPI final comments</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)

15	22 July 2019	Email from Charlotte Denny [MPI]:  <i>Cabinet Paper - 2019-C-05364 - Essential Freshwater public consultation on regulations for freshwater management - as at 3.50pm 19 7 2019 MPI final comments</i>  (includes attached draft of the relevant Cabinet paper)	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
16	22 July 2019	Email from Charlotte Denny [MPI]:  <i>Cab paper – headsup</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)
17	19 July 2019	Email from Martin Workman [MFE]:  <i>FW: ESSENTIAL FRESHWATER – PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL DIRECTION FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT - MPI 19-7-2019 2</i>  (includes attached draft of the relevant Cabinet paper)	Partially withheld (redacting out of scope information AND withholding one comment on page 23 of attachment under 9(2)(g)(i))
18	12 July 2019	Email from John Scott [DPMC]:  <i>RE: Feedback Request: Draft Essential Freshwater Cabinet Paper</i>	Release in full (redacting out of scope information)

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