



19-D-02248

s 9(2)(a)

Rural News Group
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Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 1 October requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *All expenditure and costs related to the establishment, running and ongoing costs of the Freshwater Leaders Group thus far – including costs of the chair and members attending consultation meetings around the country in Sept/October 2019.*
2. *The criteria, interview process and make-up of panel that went in to deciding the 16 person make-up of the Freshwater Leaders Group*
3. *The fees/salaries of the Freshwater Leaders Group chairman and each individual member of the Freshwater Leaders Group expended thus far.*
4. *The budget for meeting costs, room hire, airfares and accommodation of the Freshwater Leaders Group expended thus far*
5. *The budget for administrative, secretarial and executive support for the Freshwater Leaders Group expended thus far*
6. *The reasoning why the Freshwater Leaders Group was established and met from October 2018 onwards, but its terms of reference were not set until March 7 2019*
7. *The number of meetings (if any) the chair could not attend and an acting chair presided (and the name of the person who presided as acting chair)*

The information you have requested is attached as appendix one.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry for the Environment publishes 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

Martin Workman
Director, Water

Appendix One

1. All expenditure and costs related to the establishment, running and ongoing costs of the Freshwater Leaders Group thus far – including costs of the chair and members attending consultation meetings around the country in Sept/October 2019.

- a. The total non-baseline costs of the Freshwater Leaders Group (FLG) up until the receipt of your request on 1 October are:
 - i. 18/19 = \$191,696
 - ii. 19/20 = \$48,642
 - iii. Total = \$240,338

Please note that the above costs are based on received invoices and will change over time as more invoices are received.

These costs include: travel, accommodation, meeting costs, fees, and secretariat and professional support for preparing reports to the Minister.

The baseline costs to the Ministry are estimated at \$146,000. This is based on staff preparing reports, presenting at meetings, and other work as needed.

2. The criteria, interview process and make-up of panel that went in to deciding the 16 person make-up of the Freshwater Leaders Group

- a. The FLG was established as an advisory group comprising senior leaders selected from across the land-based business sector, Māori, environmental interests, local government and academia. Ministers indicated that a range of skills and perspectives should be represented, including:
 - i. an existing sound understanding of freshwater management and quality issues;
 - ii. the ability to bring a fresh perspective to freshwater management;
 - iii. leadership qualities and influence within their sector/s, with the ability to influence the public agenda on freshwater reform; and
 - iv. an agri-business perspective and knowledge of the effect that changes to waterbodies have on rural areas.
- b. The Minister for the Environment and Minister of Agriculture asked the Ministry for the Environment to seek suggestions on their behalf for suitable people from relevant primary sector agencies and representatives. Ministers then assessed the candidates and selected a group of people that they considered, between them, had the requisite skills and perspectives to ensure the success of the FLG and the Government's Essential Freshwater programme.
- c. Candidates were appointment by the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee. You can find out about the Committee here <https://dpmc.govt.nz/cabinet-committees/aph-cabinet-appointments-and-honours-committee>.

3. The fees/salaries of the Freshwater Leaders Group chairman and each individual member of the Freshwater Leaders Group expended thus far.

Under the Cabinet Office Fees Framework the FLG is classified as a Group 4 Level 1 Board. The framework specifies that the daily fees range for the chair is \$540 - \$1,150 and for members \$450 - \$865. For the FLG the daily fee for the chair is \$1000 and members \$500.

Note that not all FLG members have chosen to claim the fees. These members may have attended meetings and not claimed fees, therefore no fees are recorded against their name. The amount paid to-date does not equate to the number of meetings attended, as not all claims have yet been received. Attendance at meetings is recorded in the minutes of each meeting, and is available here <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/freshwater-leaders-group>

a. As of 1 October details of fees paid to each member are:

- i. John Penno (Chair) \$18,000
- ii. Professor Nicola Shadbolt \$3,450
- iii. Alison Dewes \$12,942
- iv. Tom Lambie \$ Nil
- v. Traci Houpapa \$ Nil
- vi. Dr Marc Schallenberg \$1,000
- vii. Allen Lim \$9,250
- viii. Marnie Prickett \$9,500
- ix. Gary Taylor \$8,000
- x. Dr Hugh Logan \$11,500
- xi. Mandy Bell \$8,333
- xii. Lees Seymour \$500
- xiii. Corina Jordan \$ Nil
- xiv. Bryce Johnson \$5,500
- xv. Graeme Gleeson \$ Nil
- xvi. Stephanie Howard \$7,000

4. The budget for meeting costs, room hire, airfares and accommodation of the Freshwater Leaders Group expended thus far

a. The Budget for the Freshwater Leaders Group to the end of its term is:

- i. Room hire: for the 18/19 year = \$25,207 and for the 19/20 year = \$346
- ii. Airfares: 18/19 year = \$43,213 and for the 19/20 year = \$6,492
- iii. Accommodation: 18/19 year = \$23,188 – and for the 19/20 year = \$2,558

5. ***The budget for administrative, secretarial and executive support for the Freshwater Leaders Group expended thus far***
- a. The majority of the administrative cost for supporting the Freshwater Leaders Group comes from Ministry for the Environment baseline costs. Ministry staff do not keep time sheets but the costs are estimated at \$146,000 to 1 October 2019.
 - b. For the 18/19 year non-Ministry support cost \$15,101 and for the 19/20 year the cost was \$7,551. This was for minute taking at one meeting and professional support in preparing the FLG's reports to Ministers.
6. ***The reasoning why the Freshwater Leaders Group was established and met from October 2018 onwards, but its terms of reference were not set until March 7 2019***
- a. The group discussed the terms of reference at its 23 October 2018 meeting. The March date reflects the date they were published on the Ministry's website, not the date they were set.
7. ***The number of meetings (if any) the chair could not attend and an acting chair presided (and the name of the person who presided as acting chair)***
- a. The chair was unable to attend 1.5 meetings of the FLG.
 - b. For the meeting of 25 January 2019 the chair and other members were delayed when fog affected flights. Nicola Shadbolt acted as chair for approximately half of the meeting.
 - c. For the meeting of 25 June 2019 Hugh Logan was the acting chair.

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982