

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

20-D-00663

Dear s 9(2)

Thank you for your email of 24 April 2020 requesting the following official information. As you have requested official information from the Ministry, this response has been formed in line with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*The Market Economics cost benefit analysis published in support of the proposed amendments refers to the following analyses:*

- NIWA, (2016). *PM<sub>2.5</sub> in New Zealand – Modelling of current state*. Report prepared by NIWA for Ministry for the Environment. June.
- Golders, (2016/2017). *PM modelling by airshed disaggregated by source (domestic, industry, motor vehicles and natural) five year snapshots out to 2028*.

You provided the following clarification regarding your request on 30 April 2020:

*Just to clarify - the cost benefit analysis (Market Economics, 2019) states that it relies on the 2016 NIWA report for exposure modelling. This is the report I was after, not the 2018 version on the website?*

*Also, if the Golders study isn't available how can we understand what is status quo please? It's unclear in the reports if improvements that would have occurred anyway without the amendments have been taken into consideration.*

The Ministry for the Environment has identified three documents in scope of your request, as listed in the document schedule attached, and explained below.

**Document 1: PM<sub>2.5</sub> in New Zealand Modelling the current (2014) levels of fine particulate air pollution (July 2016)**

Document 1 is attached in full. It is important to note that the publicly available report: [PM<sub>2.5</sub> in New Zealand Modelling the current \(2018\) levels of fine particulate air pollution \(November 2019\)](#) was developed as a full replacement for Document 1.

## **Document 2: Air Quality Cost-Benefit Analysis – Update Review of the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality– Policy Options (November 2019)**

Document 2 is refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available on the Ministry's website: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/air/air-quality-cost-benefit-analysis-update-review-of-national-environmental-standards>.

The Ministry contacted Market Economics about text produced by Golder Associates (Golders) for the cost-benefit analysis. Market Economics advised that Golders prepared text for an earlier version of Document 2 in 2017. The text was updated in 2019 and incorporated into Document 2 as Chapter 2.

## **Document 3: Cost-Benefit Model for the Air Quality Cost-Benefit Analysis (November 2019)**

Document 3 is refused in full under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

The Ministry contacted Market Economics about the data produced by Golders for the cost-benefit analysis. Market Economics advised that Golders prepared data for an earlier version of Document 3 in 2017. The data was updated in 2019 and incorporated into Document 3. The Ministry does not hold a copy of this document or the data that was prepared by Golders and provided to Market Economics.

## **Consideration of status quo in the cost-benefit analysis**

The Ministry also contacted Market Economics about its consideration of the status quo in the cost-benefit analysis. Market Economics noted that Chapter 2.10 of Document 2 explains that changes that would happen without the provision of new policies were implemented in Document 3 as a status quo situation.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions in regards 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 publishes responses to requests for official information 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: [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Liz Moncrieff  
**Acting Director, Natural and Built Systems**

### Document Schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	July 2016	National Institute of Air and Water, <i>PM<sub>2.5</sub> in New Zealand Modelling the current (2014) levels of fine particulate air pollution (July 2016)</i>	Released in full	
2	25 November 2019	Market Economics, <i>Air Quality Cost-Benefit Analysis – Update Review of the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality– Policy Options (November 2019)</i>	Refused in full	s18(d) - the information requested is publicly available
3	November 2019	Market Economics <i>Cost Benefit Model for the Air Quality Cost-Benefit Analysis (November 2019)</i>	Refused in full	s18(g)(i) - that the information requested is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982