



10 October 2024

OIAD-1221

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which was partially transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) on 20 August 2024:

- 1. I am wanting information relating to what (if any) analysis has been done - and what information informed any such analysis - around the Fasttrack Approvals Bill in relation to the impacts that the passing of the Bill would have on Aotearoa New Zealand's economy, specifically as it relates to repetitional effect (i.e. Aotearoa New Zealand's reputation internationally) in relation to trade (including tourism) and diplomacy.*
- 2. I am also interested to know what analysis has been undertaken on the implications of the FTA Bill on our current Free Trade Agreement.*
- 3. Has there been any correspondence that the Government has received from other Governments and trading partners around the Bill?*
- 4. Has there been any inter-Departmental reporting on the trade considerations of the FTA Bill? I would be very interested in these also.*

We understand that MFAT have responded to parts 1 and 2 of your request in relation to analysis and/or advice they have led, developed or produced.

We have interpreted part 3 of your request as being for correspondence between the Ministry and international Government agencies and/or trade partners in relation to the Bill.

Whilst the Ministry has been working alongside MFAT and other agencies on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill (the Bill), analysis of and advice on the Bill's impacts on the economy, New Zealand's reputation internationally, or fair-trade agreements was led by MFAT and provided to us in the form of legal advice. The Ministry has not produced any analysis or advice in relation to these impacts or corresponded with international Government agencies about the Bill.

Ordinarily, we would be required by section 14 of the Act to transfer these parts of your request to MFAT, because the information requested is more closely related to the functions of that agency. However, as MFAT have already responded to this request, we have not done so in this case.

The Ministry has not completed any inter-departmental reporting on the trade considerations of the Bill.

You may be interested to know that Ministry's Departmental Report to the Environment Committee on the Bill is expected to be proactively released in October. Once published, you will be able to find it on the Parliament website at:

<https://bills.parliament.nz/v/Bill/083f0a7b-f182-41d5-0897-08dc3e31559c?Tab=history>

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.

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 Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Jo Gascoigne

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Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao