



17 December 2024

OIAD-1382

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 12 November 2024 making the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Any information or communications created, sent, received, or held by the Ministry for the Environment regarding the McCallum Brothers Limited Bream Bay Sand Extraction Project between 1 January 2024 to present.*

*References to “information or communications” includes but is not limited to:*

- Documents, emails, recordings, faxes and correspondence;
- Memos, minutes, meeting notes, reports, agendas and policy documents;
- External adviser, researcher and other contractor communication and invoices, including all those in electronic form.

*Information that is publicly available is excluded from this request.*

Cabinet has approved the inclusion of 149 projects in Schedule 2 of the Bill. Once the Bill is passed into law, these projects will be required to seek consent through Expert Panels (the Panels).

The fast-track process streamlines multiple approval steps for infrastructure and development projects that provide significant national or regional benefits. This process offers a consolidated, ‘one-stop-shop’ approach, ensuring more efficient decision-making. The Panels will have the authority to make final decisions on approvals for these projects and can impose conditions, including to manage environmental impacts.

The Ministry for the Environment is responsible for the Bill, while the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) will provide secretariat and administrative support to the Panels. Further information on the projects in the process of going through the Panels will be made available in due course on the EPA’s website: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/>.

### **Request for documents**

The Ministry has recently proactively released the applications for the 149 projects that Cabinet has approved for inclusion within Schedule 2 of the Bill. This material, including the application for the Bream Bay Sand Extraction project, can now be found at: <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/fast-track-projects/>.

The Ministry intends to release the applications for the remaining projects, alongside officials’ advice to Ministers and the Advisory Group, by the end of the year. Once published, you will be able to navigate to this information at: <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/>.

The following documents discuss projects in detail, including the Bream Bay Sand Extraction project:

- The Advisory Group's report to Ministers, which is publicly available on the Ministry's website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/acts-and-regulations/fast-track-projects-advisory-group-report-to-ministers-redacted.pdf>
- BRF-5178 Fast-track Approvals (Listed Projects) –Draft Cabinet Paper and officials' analysis on the Advisory Group report
- CAB-470 Fast-track Approvals Bill – Listed Projects Cabinet Paper.

For the reasons above, your request for documents is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is already publicly available or will be made available shortly. Once published, you will be able to navigate to the information here: [environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/](https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/).

Please note that all material proactively released by the Ministry is carefully considered under the provisions of the Act. In some cases, information may be withheld under section 9 of the Act, but only where necessary and where the public interest in disclosure does not outweigh the need to withhold, as outlined in section 9(1).

### Request for correspondence

We have interpreted your request for "*communications... relating to the application*" to mean communications that are directly and substantively related to the Bream Bay project. This excludes administrative emails, such as routine sign-out messages, emails discussing multiple applications where the Bream Bay project is mentioned only briefly and without meaningful detail, or where copies of the application documentation were shared (e.g. with other agencies) without any discussion of the project itself.

We have identified four emails in scope of your request for communications, as outlined in the below document table. I am releasing these emails to you in part, with some information withheld or refused under the following sections of the Act:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 9(2)(a) | to protect the privacy of natural persons. |
| 18(d)   | as information is publicly available.      |

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.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found 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 Ministerial Services team: [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



### Ray Salter

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Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Document schedule

Doc no.	Doc date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	26 July 2024	Fast-Track Projects – request for further information regarding your application	Release in part	9(2)(a)
2	6 Aug 2024	Fast-Track Projects - request for further information regarding your application	Release in part	9(2)(a)
3	8 Aug 2024	Public release of Listed Projects application 082	Release in part	9(2)(a), 18(d)
4	5 Oct 2024	Fast-track Approvals Bill Listed Projects update	Release in part	9(2)(a)