



3 March 2025

9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Dear 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

2. ...from 1 December 2022 to the date of this request:

- 2.1 *Discussions and/or advice on international and/or NZ ability or likelihood to meet targets of 1.5 degrees and/or 2 degrees and/or 3 degrees and/or any other global mean average temperature.*
- 2.2 *Discussions and/or advice on the integrity and/or deficiencies of climate models used by the IPCC, including the extent to which they rely on 'overshoot' and/or carbon capture and storage to meet emissions targets.*
- 2.3 *Discussions and/or advice on geoengineering including solar radiation management.*
- 2.4 *Discussions and/or advice on the definition and/or integrity and/or deficiencies of the term "net zero".*
- 2.5 *Discussions and/or advice on NZ as a developed country party 'taking the lead in combating climate change' (per Article 3.1 UNFCCC), showing "ambition" (per Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement) or similar with regard to reductions in GHG emissions.*
- 2.6 *Discussions and/or advice on 'tipping points' in the climate system, including the collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) and the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC), including their likelihood, and potential impacts on NZ, including Māori.*
- 2.7 *Discussions and / or advice on Māori views and / or Treaty compliance and / or use of Māori land in relation to carbon capture and storage in NZ.*
- 2.8 *Relative costs of establishment and /or sequestration rates of native forest versus exotic forests. Any separate analysis for Māori freehold land.*
- 2.9 *Biodiversity level / values of exotic forests relative to native forests.*
- 2.10 *Impact of harvest operations on the biodiversity of exotic forests at the time of harvest.*

- 2.11 *Discussions and / or advice on expected timeframes for forests on Māori land to remain under the ETS and/or ability to meet liabilities to exit the ETS.*
- 2.12 *Discussions and / or advice on the financial costs of adaptation to climate change for Māori individuals and/or communities (including marae), iwi, hapu, businesses.*
- 2.13 *Discussions and / or advice on the establishment, funding, ongoing work of the Māori Climate Platform;*
- 2.14 *Advice / communications regarding the connection between climate change and East coast flooding from 5 February 2023 – the date of this request;*
- 2.15 *All Treaty of Waitangi impact analyses for policies related to climate change, including initial requests for the analysis and the dates the analysis was undertaken;*
- 2.16 *Analysis and advice relating to National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry as it affects Māori landholdings;*

On 17 January 2025, you agreed to refine the scope of your request to capture only formal advice prepared for Ministers (including draft advice) and Cabinet papers.

Note that the Ministry does not hold information in scope, or is not responsible for information relating to, certain parts of your request. As you have already made the same request to relevant agencies, we do not consider there is a need to transfer these parts of your request.

For clarity, the Ministry is providing information relevant to parts 2.1-2.7, 2.12, 2.13 and 2.15 of your request.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified 16 documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached table.

Seven documents have been refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as they are or will soon be made publicly available. The document *BRF-4944 The use of high-end climate scenarios in New Zealand's regulatory framework* can be found in full on our website, at: [Request for briefings covering climate and environment policy work | Ministry for the Environment](#)

Six documents are scheduled to be published as part of a wider proactive release process, within four weeks of the date of this response. This material will be made available on our website. Please note that some information within these documents may be withheld in accordance with the Act.

Three documents are being released to you in full.

Five documents are being released to you in part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, and 9(2)(h) of the Act to maintain professional privilege.

Please note that the Ministry needs more time to finalise these documents for release. We will therefore provide copies of these documents to you as soon as possible, and no later than 21 March 2025.

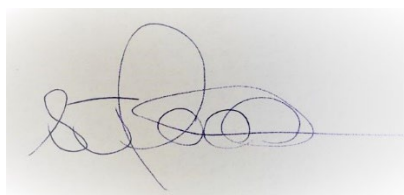
In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Goodman', is centered on a light grey background.

Stephen Goodman
Manager – Climate Systems
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	20 March 2023	BRF-2819 Advice on the IPPC Synthesis report summary for policy makers	Release in full	N/A
2	24 April 2023	BRF-3170 Climate Change Commission draft advice for the second emissions reduction plan	Release in part	9(2)(a)
3	5 December 2023	BRF-3941 CCC final advice on the policy direction for the second emissions reduction plan	Release in part	9(2)(h)
4	14 December 2023	BRF-4000 Ministerial governance of Climate work programme and the second emissions reduction plan	Release in full	
5	2 July 2024	BRF-4944 The use of high-end climate scenarios in New Zealand's regulatory framework	Refuse	18(d)
6	21 August 2024	BRF-4882 Update on Māori Rights and Interests in the Second Emissions Reduction Plan	Release in part	9(2)(h)
7	2 October 2024	BRF-5276 Mitigating Impacts with Iwi and Māori in ERP2	Release in part	9(2)(h)
8	10 October 2024	BRF-5252 Interagency Final Assessment of Climate Change	Release in part	9(2)(h)

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
		Commission Advice on the Second Emissions Reduction Plan		
9	N/A	Summary of submissions	Refuse	18(d)
10	14 October 2024	BRF-5347 Initial advice on NDC2 target level	Refuse	18(d)
11	7 November 2024	BRF-5534 Options for the NDC2 target level	Refuse	18(d)
12	7 November 2024	BRF-5582 Cabinet paper on NDC process	Refuse	18(d)
13	5 December 2024	BRF-5665 Summary of Key Policy-Relevant Findings of the Latest Global Evidence on Climate Change	Release in full	N/A
14	5 December 2024	BRF-5596 Accounting approach for NDC2	Refuse	18(d)
15	5 December 2024	CAB-502 Setting New Zealand's second nationally determined contribution	Refuse	18(d)