



20 March 2025

OIAD-1500

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

What assessments have been made of the projected warming, in degrees centigrade, per annum, for the next ten years arising from ruminant methane emissions? Please supply copies of any such assessments.

Please be advised that the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has not undertaken modelling or assessments of the warming impact of ruminant emissions. However, we are undertaking analysis relating to biogenic methane emissions, which are defined in New Zealand's climate change legislation as the methane emissions from the agriculture and waste sectors combined. As shown in the latest Greenhouse Gas Inventory, ruminant methane emissions are a significant portion of overall methane emissions. In 2022, enteric fermentation was the main source of Agriculture emissions, contributing 78.2 per cent of the sector's emissions. More information is available at: environment.govt.nz/publications/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2022/.

The Ministry is withholding the preliminary analysis relating to biogenic methane emissions in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) at this time, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

The analysis is a work in progress and will require peer review prior to finalisation. The analysis will form part of the evidence base for the decisions relating to New Zealand's domestic climate change targets and have not yet been considered by the Minister for Climate Change, Hon Simon Watts. The analysis will likely be finalised in the coming months, and decisions around New Zealand's domestic climate change targets are required by the end of the year.

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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meredith Davis'.

Meredith Davis

Manager – Climate Priorities and Forecasting
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao