



8 April 2025

OIAD-1502

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 26 February 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*I note that Bioplant Tairāwhiti was recommended by the Minister of Forestry for fast track status. Please see page 12 of this document released by MFE:  
<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnewsroom.co.nz%2Fwpcontent%2Fuploads%2F2025%2F02%2FAppendix-1.1.pdf&data=05%7C02%7COIA%40mfe.govt.nz%7C1dcc0839379242525d7908dd55ecb43b%7C761dd003d4ff40498a728549b20fcb1%7C0%7C0%7C638761198591288985%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BgIRSTnDCIcfrCP4XgLfZYvEkuU%2B4ZjL62jN9%2BfiFL0%3D&reserved=0> I am requesting all information held by your agency regarding Bioplant and this recommendation.*

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

Two documents are being withheld in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, to protect information where the making available of the information would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Two documents are being release to you as excerpts, as provided for under section 16(1)(e) of the Act. Some information within one of these excerpts has been redacted as out of scope of your request, or withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, to protect information where the making available of the information would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

The Ministry understands that the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has received an identical request from you and will be responding to you regarding the document titled “Agriculture and Forestry. FTC project summaries (23 February 2024)” as this document relates more closely to the functions of that agency.

Regarding the document titled *Ministerial nominated projects*, please note that the document includes a link which is not hyperlinked in the version provided. The link directed to a folder on our internal servers which was intended to hold further information on the project, but it is currently empty as no additional information was 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 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](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).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Gascoigne', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**Jo Gascoigne**  
General Manager – Resource Management System  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Document schedule

Document no.	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1.	Appendix 1 - Projects nominated by Ministers for Category A	Release in part	16(1)(e), 9(2)(b)(ii)
2.	Ministerial nominated projects	Release in part	16(1)(e)
3.	Correspondence between MfE and MPI	Withheld in full	9(2)(b)(ii)
4.	Water storage projects economic information Feb2024 - information for MPI FTC Panel plus Hurunui.pdf	Withheld in full	9(2)(b)(ii)
5.	Agriculture and Forestry. FTC project summaries (23 February 2024).pdf	To be released by MPI	n/a