



14 March 2025

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 16 February 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

In an OIA that was released by MfE there is a Memo from Courtney Clyne - Senior Analyst Freshwater Investments; We discussed the status of the project and the draft/Annual Work Plan/Work Programme received recently. You highlighted that if the \$6.5m is repurposed towards the completion of the Rotoiti Scheme two things could occur; Either the Tarawera Scheme is stopped and/or OSET systems are put in place Or continue with the completion of the scheme and:

Either RLC takes on additional debt (which is not feasible given the balance sheet) Or the Tarawera ratepayers contribution would need to increase from \$33K to \$50K. Once we get your feedback, we'll aim to have a meeting with the Minister as soon as possible - and ideally before the next Strategy Group meeting/workshop on 13 August If we don't receive a formal answer from the Minister prior to the 13th, we'll at least be able to provide an update to the Group.

- 1. What was date of that memo and which year is the 13 August date? In the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Minutes 22nd October 2021 there was a public excluded session. Item 5.1 the subject of each matter to be considered - Verbal Update by the Ministry for Environment.*
- 2. Could you please provide a copy of the transcript or written summary of the verbal update by the Ministry for the Environment provided to the RTLSG Meeting 22nd October 2021.*
- 3. Could you please provide a copy of either the formal answer from the Minister or the update that was provided to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group, in response to Courtney Clyne's memo as itemised?*

I have responded to your questions in order below.

Question One

I understand you are referring to an email sent by Courtney Clyne on 30 July 2021, which was released in response to a previous request under the Act (OIAD-175 refers).

Beyond this email, there is no further memoranda or documents in scope. If there is specific information contained in the email you are interested in, please let us know.

The 13 August date would have referred to 13 August 2021, but it appears that meeting did not occur as the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's committee's webpage only references Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Meetings occurring in February, May, and October of that year.

Question Two

The Ministry is not aware of any transcript, written summary or other material relating to the verbal update from the meeting (October 2021) you refer to. As such, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found.

Question Three

The Ministry is not aware of any 'formal answer' from the Minister, or any update that the Ministry provided to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group. As such, I am also refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act.

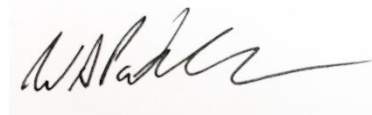
I understand you have also made similar requests for information to the Bay of Plenty District Council and the Rotorua Lakes Council. If you have not done so already, you may wish to contact them for further information regarding the Strategy Group.

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



Wes Patrick

Manager – Environmental Investments
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao