



9 May 2025

OIAD-1554

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 1 April 2025 to the Environmental Protection Authority (the EPA) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

(a) Confirmation of whether or not Explore or Omakiwi (or any other person) has lodged a referral application under s 13 of the FTAA for the Proposal (Referral Application).

(b) If a Referral Application has been lodged, then:

(i) A copy of the Referral Application lodged with the EPA; and

(ii) A copy of all documents submitted in support of the Referral Application (including assessments of environmental effects, supporting technical documents or reports, and all information required to be submitted under s 13(4) of the FTAA).

On 10 April 2025, these points of your request were transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) for response, under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

The Ministry is refusing your request in full under section 18(e) of the Act, as the requested information does not exist, due to the fact that a referral application has not been lodged by the entity in question.

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

Electronically approved by Stephanie Frame

Stephanie Frame
Manager - Delivery
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao