



9 May 2025

OIAD-1555

9(2)(a)

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 25 March 2025 to the Environmental Protection Authority (the EPA) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *This is a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) in respect of the application by McCallum Brothers Limited (MBL) for resource consent for 35 years to extract sand suitable for concrete production from Bream Bay.*
2. *It does not appear that MBL has yet lodged its substantive application for fast track approval (Substantive Application).*
3. *We have reviewed the information on the Ministry's website,¹ and the listing application documents disclosed in respect of MBL (Listing Application), seeking to have the Sand Extraction project to be listed in Schedule 2 to the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).*
4. *In addition to the documents disclosed about that project, we request:*
 - (a) *Any records of communications with MBL or its representatives relating to its Listing Application prior to its lodgement (on 2 May 2024).*
 - (b) *Any records of the assessment of the Listing Application by the EPA.*
 - (c) *The records of any advice and reports provided to the independent advisory group for the purposes of considering the Listing Application.*
 - (d) *Any records of communications between the panel convener and MBL or its representatives.*
 - (e) *Whether the Substantive Application has been received, and if it has, then the documents comprising it.*
 - (f) *The identity of the panel members for the Substantive Application.*
 - (g) *Any records of consideration by the EPA or the panel (or panel convener) of the persons from whom comments will be sought under s 53 of the FTAA for the purposes of the project.*
 - (h) *Any records of comments by persons identified under s 53 of the FTAA, whenever received.*
5. *We look forward to hearing from you as soon as reasonably practicable, and within no more than 20 working days.*

On 10 April 2025, points 4 (a), (b) and (c) 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 points (a) and (b) of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the requested information does not exist.

The Ministry is refusing point (c) of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the requested information is publicly available, here: <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals/fast-track-projects/bream-bay-sand-extraction-project/>

You may also be interested to note that the Fast-Track Projects Advisory Group Report to Ministers is publicly available, here: <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/acts-and-regulations/acts-and-bills/fast-track-projects-advisory-group-report-to-ministers-redacted.pdf>

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