



15 May 2025

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Please provide all GIS data relating to lands identified for afforestation on 'Crown-owned' land in New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan 2026–30 ISBN 978-0-473-73006-2. Please also provide any other GIS dataset used in the assessments identifying existing land cover.*

The GIS data relating to *lands identified for afforestation on 'Crown-owned' land in New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan* is withheld under section 9(2)(j) of the Act to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.

The high-level methodology used by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to create the map of indicative land that may be potentially available for afforestation partnerships is available through the below publicly available links:

- MPI used the Crown Land – CroSL layer to identify land administered by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) and exclude land managed by other government agencies: [linz.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=3868f64109ff45b3ac4b4c514b6f27cf](https://linz.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=3868f64109ff45b3ac4b4c514b6f27cf).
- MPI used the Department of Conservation (DOC) conservation land to remove national parks from Crown Land layer: [doc-deptconservation.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/72354ba9bf7a4706af3fdfe60f86eea1\\_0/about](https://doc-deptconservation.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/72354ba9bf7a4706af3fdfe60f86eea1_0/about).
- Of the Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)/DOC areas, MPI used the Land Use Mapping (LUM) layer to narrow these areas down to those comprised of 'grassland with woody biomass' or 'low producing grassland': [data.mfe.govt.nz/layer/117733-lucas-nz-land-use-map-2020-v003/](https://data.mfe.govt.nz/layer/117733-lucas-nz-land-use-map-2020-v003/).
- Of the areas narrowed down by the LUM layer, the Land Cover Database (LCDB) was used to further narrow down the identified areas to those comprised of 'depleted grassland', 'fernland', 'flaxland', 'gorse and/or broom', 'high producing exotic grassland', 'low producing grassland', 'matagouri or grey scrub', or 'mixed exotic shrubland': [iris.scinfo.org.nz/layer/104400-lcdb-v50-land-cover-database-version-50-mainland-new-zealand/](https://iris.scinfo.org.nz/layer/104400-lcdb-v50-land-cover-database-version-50-mainland-new-zealand/).
- MPI provided the remaining areas to LINZ and DOC for these agencies to identify any areas that needed to be excluded due to being subject to negotiations with non-government parties. DOC and LINZ then excluded these additional areas from the

dataset due to being subject to negotiations with non-government parties or where the spatial data needed refinement to better describe what may be available.

Please note that while New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan is the responsibility of multiple agencies, the GIS data relating to afforestation is the responsibility of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). If you have any additional questions or requests for information in this area, we recommend you contact MPI in the first instance.

In accordance with section 9(1) of the OIA, we have also considered countervailing public interest relating to the release of the information. We are satisfied that in this case, public interest considerations do not outweigh the withholding reasons outlined above.

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](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



**Cheryl Moir**

Manager – Land Use and Removals  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao