



27 June 2025

OIAD-1569

9(2)(a)

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 1 April 2025 to the office of Hon Chris Bishop, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *All correspondence (including but not limited to emails, letters, briefings, meeting notes, and text messages) between yourself, your office, or officials within your portfolios, and:*
  - o *The proponents or representatives of the Taheke 8C Hydro Scheme including, but not limited to The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks (Inc) ('Taheke 8C') and Taheke 8C Limited*
  - o *Local authorities, iwi, hapū, or community groups*
  - o *Ministerial colleagues and/or officials regarding the scheme*
2. *Any briefings, advice, or internal reports prepared by or for you or your office in relation to the Taheke 8C Hydro Scheme, including, but not limited to The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks (Inc) ('Taheke 8C') and Taheke 8C Limited including:*
  - o *Consideration of the scheme's inclusion or potential inclusion in the Fast-Track consenting process*
  - o *Assessment of the scheme's potential infrastructure, environmental, cultural, recreational, or economic impacts*
  - o *Any consultation or engagement with iwi, hapū, or affected stakeholders*
  - o *Communications relating to the referral to the Fast Track Act.*
3. *Details of any meetings, phone calls, or other communications between yourself (or your office) and the proponents of the Taheke 8C Hydro Scheme or their representatives.*
4. *Any communication, internal or external, regarding the referral of the Taheke 8C Hydro Scheme to the Expert Consenting Panel or any other decision-making process under the Fast-Track consenting legislation.*

On 21 April 2025, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) received a partial transfer of the point of your request for "...all correspondence between officials within your portfolios and the proponents or representatives of the Taheke 8C Hydro Scheme including, but not limited to, The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks (Inc) ('Taheke 8C') and Taheke 8C Limited" under section 14 of the Act, as the information requested is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry.

On 29 April 2025, the Ministry contacted you to clarify your request. On 30 April 2025, you responded that you were seeking the following information:

*In regard to the The Proprietors of Taheke 8C and Adjoining Blocks (Inc) ('Taheke 8C') and Taheke 8C Limited, Hydro Scheme submitted under the Fast Track Application process or communications between MFE and Taheke 8C in regard to the Kaituna Hydro Scheme.*

On 27 May 2025, the Ministry extended the timeframe for our response to your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original timeframe.

The Ministry has collated the information in-scope of your request in the document titled *OIAD-1569 Collated correspondence*. This document is being released to you in part, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(b)(ii) 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
- 9(2)(ba)(i) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.
- 9(2)(j) to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

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).

Ngā mihi nui

*Electronically approved by Stephanie Frame*

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