



8 July 2025

OIAD-1615

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 27 May 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

All correspondence since October 2024 between: 1. MfE and Environment Canterbury; and 2. The Minister for the Environment and Environment Canterbury- which relates to: i) Environment Canterbury's draft plan change 8; ii) targeted plan changes to protect water quality after NES-F provisions relating to intensification and winter grazing expired at the beginning of 2025.

On 3 June 2025, part two of your request for correspondence between the Minister for the Environment and Environment Canterbury was transferred to the Office of Hon Penny Simmonds (Minister for the Environment), as this information was believed to be held by the Office.

On 12 June 2025, the Ministry contacted you by email to seek refinement of your request, as initial searches returned a large number of documents. On 16 June 2025, you agreed to the following refinement:

Search keywords: 'plan change 8', or 'PC8', and 'advice', or 'briefing', or 'intensification'

Timeframe: 1 October 2024 – 17 June 2025

Contacts: @mfe.govt.nz and @ecan.govt.nz

On 26 June 2025, the Ministry contacted you by email to advise that the timeframe for responding to your request had been extended by 15 working days in accordance with 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.

A search of the Ministry's records returned five documents in scope of your request, as listed in the document schedule below.

I am releasing one document to you in full.

I am releasing four documents to you in part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of information in this request 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 decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information shortly after the response has been sent on our website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests/>. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team at: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina McGrath', written in a cursive style.

Gina McGrath

General Manager – System Enablement and Oversight
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

#	Date	Title	Decision	Grounds	Link/Notes
1	28 November 2024	RE: ECan Council decides on next steps for RPS/Plan Change 8 at meeting on 27 November 2024	Released in full	N/A	N/A
2	24 January 2025	FW: ECan PC8 & RPS	Released in part	9(2)(a)	The public interest in this material does not outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.
3	4 February 2025	RE: Letter from Minister Simmonds	Released in part	9(2)(a)	The public interest in this material does not outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.
4	14 February 2025	RE: PS-COR0907 Letter from Minister Penny Simmonds	Released in part	9(2)(a)	The public interest in this material does not outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.
5	27 March 2025	RE: Draft memo - Plan Change 8	Released in part	9(2)(a)	The public interest in this material does not outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.