



8 July 2025

OIAD-1624

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 31 May 2025 to the Environmental Protection Authority (the EPA) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Official information request: Application FTA250 - Clutha Hydro Scheme - increasing operational flexibility and efficiency ("the Project")*

*Please supply the following information under the [Official Information Act (OIA)]*

- 1) all comments, advice and reports requested by the Minister for Infrastructure on the application*
- 2) the decision that was conveyed to the applicant including the reasons for declining*

On 9 June 2025, your request was transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) under section 14(b)(i) of the Act.

I am refusing point 1, and the second portion of point 2 of your request, under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information in-scope of these points of your request is publicly available at the following links:

- 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>
- The Minister's decision regarding the 149 projects included in the then-Fast Track Approvals Bill is publicly available, here: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/fast-track-projects-released>
- The officials' briefing to Ministers is available, here: <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/fast-track-approval-listed-projects/>

Regarding the first portion of point 2 of your request, I am releasing this correspondence 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](http://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](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

*Electronically approved by Stephanie Frame*

**Stephanie Frame**

Manager - Delivery

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao