

OIAD-277

9(2)(a)



Thank you for your email of 10 May 2022 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Dear MfE, Under the OIA, please provide me with all documents produced by the Ministry in relation to the creation of this group and the appointment of its members.*

[Link provided: Ministry for Environment takes lead role in developing Waste Strategy for New Zealand.](#)

On 18 May 2022, clarification was sought on which group this your request related to, as the article discussed two groups a “formation of a rōpu of Māori experts to guide the kaupapa according to mātauranga Māori” and a “sector advisory group established at the same time, including waste professionals from across business, academia, NGOs and local government”.

On 23 May 2022 you advised you are after “information on the creation of the rōpu”.

### **Background on the establishment of a Māori advisory rōpū**

Hon Eugenie Sage had ministerial responsibility for waste matters as Associate Minister for the Environment from October 2017 to November 2020. In mid 2020, the Ministry began to plan a project to develop a new long-term waste strategy for New Zealand. It identified an opportunity to work with Māori from the outset to incorporate mātauranga Māori into the underlying conceptual framework, given its close connection with circular economy concepts (which focus on keeping resources in use for as long as possible) and the waste hierarchy (which prioritises avoiding and reducing waste).

Using its existing network of contacts, the Ministry approached individuals with relevant expertise to discuss the idea with them and assess interest. It considered this was appropriate given the very limited pool of people who would have the necessary depth of expertise in waste, circular economy thinking and mātauranga Māori. The kaumatua aspects of the role also made a direct approach to individuals with recognised mana in the field more appropriate.

Between June and October 2020, the Ministry developed its overall project plan, alongside discussions with the proposed group members about its potential role. Those discussions included consideration of how to pay the group members for their time and expenses. An agreed approach and supporting contracts were finalised in October 2020.

The result was a core group of kaumatua, supported by rangatahi with relevant expertise to carry out the bulk of the more detailed research and preparation of documents and visual material, as follows:

Jacqui Forbes <i>Contract with Para Kore Inc</i>	Jacqui Forbes has been a leader in the community resource recovery sector for many years. She is both one of the founders and general manager of the Para Kore programme which works to reduce waste on many marae, particularly in the North Island. She has previously worked as a senior manager for Xtreme Zero Waste, she was an Enviroschools facilitator at the Waikato Regional Council, and kura kaupapa and kōhanga reo kaiako. Jacqui has been a member of the Waste Advisory Board since 2019.
Teina Boasa Dean <i>Contract with BH Lands Trust</i>	Teina Boasa-Dean is a recognised expert on circular economy thinking in New Zealand. She provided the opening keynote address for the Ōhanga Āmiomio (circular economy) Pacific Summit in April 2019. She has been on the board of Te Mātāwai since 2018. She is a soil science researcher and works with Manaaki Whenua Land Care New Zealand and AgResearch NZ. She has also been a Māori advisor to the Ministry for the Environment's National Climate Change Risk Assessment programme, and a Māori science advisor to the Environmental Protection Authority. Teina was appointed to the Waste Advisory Board in April 2022.
Gannin Ormsby <i>Contract with Ka Awatea Services</i>	Gannin Ormsby helped found Para Kore, actively working to connect indigenous peoples and circular economy initiatives. He has extensive operational and governance experience with iwi, community sector, local government, including on environmental issues.
Tāmoko Ormsby <i>Contract with Kawai Catalyst</i>	Tāmoko Ormsby has worked on the Amio Circular economy framework with Te Puni Kōkiri and piloted a successful e-waste Amio initiative to refurbish and repurpose laptops for a decile 1 school during the pandemic. He has worked with Auckland Council on several projects, providing advice on matauranga Māori concepts and environmental issues, developing visual storytelling and Māori narratives, and facilitating or carrying out interviews and site visits with mana whenua. He has also helped deliver waste minimization training and workshops, and to develop educational content to encourage behaviour change on waste.
Waimirirangi Ormsby <i>Contract with Kawai Catalyst</i>	Waimirirangi Ormsby has been centrally involved in projects to develop indigenous rangatahi capability on circular economy initiatives and helped develop the Amio Indigenous Circular Economy framework with Te Puni Kōkiri. She founded Pipiri ki a Papatūānuku in 2017, which works on a kaupapa Māori approach to the management of waste and encourages annual activity around Matariki, and has delivered workshops and training on waste minimization to workplaces and schools.

The group was established to work collaboratively with MfE in the initial stages of preparing a new waste strategy. Their role was to provide expertise and advice incorporating a Māori world-view to help develop a draft conceptual framework for the strategy. In addition to their own meetings and discussions across the period of their work, the group:

- Participated in two major workshops with a general sector advisory group
- Hosted a three-day working session with Ministry officials and some of the general advisory group
- Met regularly with Ministry officials and responded to requests for comment and advice on working drafts and ideas.

The group's work concluded in mid 2021.

The Ministry was aware of the personal relationships between the Ormsby family members and Hon Nanaia Mahuta from the beginning of the process. Ms Mahuta had no ministerial responsibility for or involvement in the waste reduction work programme.

Steps taken in response to the potential or perceived conflict of interest included:

- No ministerial involvement in the process of identifying rōpū members, deciding on the nature and scope of their contribution, or preparing their contracts. Assurance members had the expertise we needed
- Full disclosures of potential conflicts of interest in procurement documents.
- All payments were at a standard market rate and expenses were pre-approved
- Sought advice from the Public Service Commission before the contracts were signed
- Explicit understanding that arrangements might need to be reviewed if Ms Mahuta were to take on any ministerial responsibility for waste matters in future
- Regular meetings to discuss any potential risks and mitigation as they arise

In the interests of full transparency, the documents record that Ms Mahuta briefly attended with her husband Gannin Ormsby a breakfast with other group members and officials in a personal capacity.

The breakfast was part of a two-day hui on 3-4 September 2020 at the Waikato-Tainui Endowment College at Taupiri. The purpose of the hui was to introduce the Māori experts to the Ministry's work programme on waste and explore the possible role they might play in the waste strategy project.

Ms Mahuta made clear that she was there as mana whenua, in her home environment, as a gesture of hospitality and welcome. She did not engage in any substantive discussion with officials and left before the working sessions began. She had no further involvement at any other point during the two-day hui.

## Response to your request

The following documents relating to the creation of the rōpū in 2020 are attached:

1. The procurement plan for the contracts with the three kaumatua members of the rōpū
2. The three contracts for those members
3. The procurement plan for the contract for rōpū support services
4. The contract with Kawai Catalyst Ltd for those services
5. A Māori engagement plan from August 2020 setting out the thinking at that time
6. A draft background paper, "Developing a new strategy and new legislation on waste for Aotearoa New Zealand" which was provided to the proposed group as a basis for discussion.

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7. CVs for the individuals involved (other than Jacqui Forbes, as the Ministry already had equivalent information from her appointment to the Waste Advisory Board the previous year)
8. A presentation on Ka Awatea's Project Amio, from a meeting attended by Ministry officials in June 2020.

Some redactions have been made under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982, to protect the privacy of individuals:

- Personal contact details across all documents
- In the engagement plan, the name of a person who had no involvement with the group.

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).

Yours sincerely



Sam Buckle  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Waste and Resource Efficiency, Water and Land Use Policy**

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### Document schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	OIA sections applied
1	August 2020	Crown Engagement Plan with Māori	9(2)(a)
2	August 2020	Proposed approach to developing a new strategy and new legislation on waste for Aotearoa New Zealand	Released in full
3	21 October 2020	Procurement Plan – Waste Strategy Rōpu	Released in full
4	27 October 2020	Procurement Plan – Kawai catalyst Ltd.	Released in full
5	November 2020	Contract – WRE Māori expert rōpu: Para Kore (Jacqui Forbes)	9(2)(a)
6	November 2020	Contract – WRE Māori expert rōpu: Ka Awatea Services Ltd (Gannin Ormsby)	9(2)(a)
7	November 2020	Contract – Support for the WRE Māori expert rōpu: Kawai Catalyst Ltd	9(2)(a)
8	April 2021	Contract – WRE Māori expert rōpu: BHW Lands trust (Teina Boasa-Dean)	9(2)(a)
9		Gannin Ormsby C.V	9(2)(a)
10		Tamoko Ormsby C.V	9(2)(a)
11		Waimirirangi Ormsby C.V	9(2)(a)
12		Teina Boasa-Dean C.V	9(2)(a)
13		Āmio – Indigenous Guardianship and the Circular Economy	Released in full

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