Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

24 September 2025

OIAD-1742

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 28 August 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

> *This correspondence serves as a formal request under the Official Information Act 1982 regarding the Waipiro Bay Marina application currently undergoing Fast Track processing. In relation to the Stage One Referral, we respectfully seek:*
>
> > *• All submissions provided by affected landowners, hapū, iwi, councils, and other relevant stakeholders*
> > *• All related communications, evaluations, and reports received, including written correspondence, emails, text messages, and social media exchanges*
> > *• Any Ministerial and Cabinet Papers associated with this stage*
>
> *Regarding the Fast Track Referrals – Substantive Process, we request:*
>
> > *• All briefs, reports, correspondence, modelling, flowcharts, guidance documents, terms of reference, candidate profiles, and discussion papers relating to the Independent Panels process*
> > *• All panel-specific documentation concerning the Waipiro Bay Marina application*
> > *• Information detailing the appointment process for independent panel members, including*
> > *• how Councils and Iwi Māori contribute to or influence these appointments, and the competencies required for panel membership*

The Ministry understands that you submitted a separate request for the same information to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on 2 September 2025, which was partially transferred to the Ministry under section 14 of the Act. This response also serves as the Ministry's reply to that transferred request.

Regarding the first part of your request, which pertains to the Stage One Referral, I am refusing this portion of your request in full under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information in-scope is publicly available, here: https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/waipiro-marina

Please note that, under section 17 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the FTAA), there is no requirement to consult affected landowners during the referral stage of the application process.

Regarding the second part of your request, which relates to the Substantive Process, I am refusing this portion under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist. You may be interested to note that, as indicated on the website, the application has been referred by the Minister for Infrastructure, and the applicant may choose to seek substantive consent through the Environmental Protection Authority (the EPA) and an Expert Panel.

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.

Yours sincerely

Electronically approved by Stephanie Frame

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