Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

22 October 2025

OIAD-1771

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request which was transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) on 26 September 2025 by the Office of Hon Nicola Willis, Minister of Finance for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

> *…the following information relating to central government investments associated with the Auckland growth targets set out in legislation:*
> *1. Schools, including land acquisition where necessary, at current prices*
> *2. Hospitals and medical facilities, including land acquisition where necessary, at current prices*
> *3. Prisons, including land acquisition where necessary, at current prices*
> *4. Other Government Offices e.g. WINZ or MSD, including land acquisition where necessary, at current prices*
> *5. Wholesale power supplies, including transmission lines into Auckland; substations etc, including land acquisition where necessary, at current market prices*
> *6. Any cost estimates that have been obtained from the private sector for services such as electricity retail connections and telecommunications, bearing in mind that intensification is likely to occur in a random, developer-driven manner.*

The Ministry does not hold information in scope of your request. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist. I am not aware if the information is held by any other agency at the level of detail specified in your request.

The Resource Management (Consenting and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2025 enabled Auckland Council to partially withdraw Plan Change 78 (PC78) and required it to initiate a replacement plan change that provides for an equivalent level of capacity as PC78. The replacement plan change, known as Plan Change 120 (PC120), provides an opportunity for the Council to address flood and other natural hazard risk, while allowing for greater density around key City Rail Link (CRL) stations.

If you are interested in understanding how the capacity for PC78 was determined, you may wish to contact Auckland Council directly. The Council was responsible for developing and modelling PC78 and holds the relevant technical information.

It is important to note capacity is not a construction target. It represents the theoretical maximum number of houses that could be built if every site was fully developed. Councils use this measure to assess whether sufficient land has been zoned to support future growth and development. While capacity does not in itself require central government investment, it plays a key role in guiding where and how such investment is needed over the coming decades.

PC120 will help central government agencies understand where housing growth is expected in Auckland, and guide decisions about where infrastructure investment, such as transport, water, schools and hospitals, will be needed to support that growth. As the plan change provides a long-term view of where development could occur, it does not commit central government to specific investment decisions at this stage. Instead, it serves as a planning tool to help agencies prepare and prioritise future investment where it will be most effective.

You may wish to contact the relevant central government agencies for further information about their infrastructure plans in Auckland.

I encourage you to have your say once Auckland Council formally opens consultation on the draft PC120. Information is available on the Council's website at: https://new.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/plans-policies-bylaws-reports-projects/our-plans-strategies/unitary-plan/auckland-unitary-plan-modifications/proposed-plan-changes/draft-pc-120-housing-intensification-resilience.html.

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



Jessica Ranger
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