



27 March 2024

OIAD-1004

9(2)a

Tēnā koe 9(2)a

Thank you for your email to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) dated 11 March 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. The names and locations of all projects that have been identified or are under consideration for potential inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals Bill*
- 2. A copy of any compiled lists, including provisional or currently under construction lists, of projects under consideration for potential inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals Bill*
- 3. The names and locations of all projects that have been identified or are under consideration for fast tracking under the Fast Track Approvals Bill but not under consideration for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals Bill*

The Fast Track Approvals Bill (the Bill) aims to make it easier for New Zealand to build the infrastructure and major projects we need to get the country moving.

The Bill is now being considered by the Environment Committee after being introduced to Parliament on 7 March 2024. The Bill does not include any listed projects under Schedules 2A and 2B.

The Government is establishing a process for people to nominate projects for inclusion in the Bill. A group of independent experts (the Fast-track Advisory Group) will assess and make recommendations to Ministers on what projects are suitable for inclusion in the Bill. The selected projects from these recommendations will be added to the Bill later in the Parliamentary process. Ministers also reserve the right to directly add Crown funded projects to the Bill.

A process for accepting nominations of projects for inclusion in the Bill is not finalised, and we have not received any formal nominations.

The Ministry must therefore refuse your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry, and we do not believe it is held by, or more closely connected to the functions of, another agency subject to the Act.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to refuse your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Ilana Miller

Programme Director
Partnership, Investments and Enablement
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao