



5 April 2024

OIAD-1019

9(2)a

Tēnā koe 9(2)a

Thank you for your email of 20 March 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1) *I am wanting to lodge an official information request for any projects that have received advice that they will be considered as a project to be fast tracked under 2A or 2B of the Fast Track Bill currently being considered.*
- 2) *I would also like to see any information that has been sent from the Ministers of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Transport to outside parties regarding suitable applicants for the government's Fast Track Advisory Group.*

As per our letter dated 3 April 2024, Part 2) of your request has been transferred to Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure, Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Regional Development, and Hon Simeon Brown, Minister for Transport under section 14 of the Act.

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 has established 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 nomination of projects for inclusion in the Bill was announced on 3 April 2024 and will close on 3 May 2024. Applications can be made by filling out an application form on our website, at: [consult.environment.govt.nz/resource-management/fast-track-consenting/](https://consult.environment.govt.nz/resource-management/fast-track-consenting/). As yet, we have not received any formal applications.

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 part of your request, and my decision to transfer part of 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](https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

**Ilana Miller**  
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Partnership, Investments and Enablement  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao