



18 April 2024

OIAD-1035

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 3 April 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I write to request access to the “comprehensive advice provided” and “comprehensive advice on all dimensions of the policy proposals” associated with fast-track approvals by ministers, as referenced by James Palmer in answer to a question from Hon Brooking during the 2022-23 Annual Review of MfE.

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 is currently open for public submissions to the Environment Committee. Public submissions will be accepted until 11:59pm on Friday 19 April 2024. More information about the Bill and the process to make a submission is available on the Parliament website at: parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCENV_SCF_083F0A7B-F182-41D5-0897-08DC3E31559C/fast-track-approvals-bill

The Ministry for the Environment is currently undertaking a proactive release process to publish the advice and documents we hold relating to the Bill on our website. Once published, this information will be available at: <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/>. Therefore, the Ministry is refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you have requested is soon to be made publicly available.

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.

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.

Yours sincerely

Jo Gascoigne
General Manager, Resource Management System
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao