



9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 22 April 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I was hoping you might be able to inform me of where I would find a report detailing why a minister declined to refer a project on to the expert consenting panel under the Covid-19 Recovery Fast Track Act.

I have found the list of projects at this link [Fast-track consenting | Ministry for the Environment](#), however the detail in regard to why each proposal was declined is very vague. Is this the only detail available or are there more extensive reports available?

As you are aware, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) publishes information on all of the projects which were declined under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 on our website, and this also notes the “reasons for decision”.

The documents for 24 of the 41 declined applications have been proactively released and are available at the end of each project page.

As the Ministry will soon proactively release the information for the remaining 17 declined applications, the Ministry is refusing this request under Section 18(d) of the Act, as the information will soon be publicly available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision 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 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.

Nāku noa, nā,

Electronically approved by Stephanie Frame

Stephanie Frame

Manager – Fast-Track Consenting
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao