



9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 27 May 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Under the OIA, I request copies of:

- *All applications to include projects located in Ruby Bay and/or Māpua (Tasman District) in the list in Schedule 2 to the Fast-track Approvals Bill;*
- *All information supplied in support of such applications;*
- *All correspondence with applicants relating to such applications.*

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) is unable to confirm whether a project has applied to be included as a Listed Project in the new Fast-track Consenting Bill. All applications remain confidential while they are under active consideration by an independent Advisory Group. As such, the Ministry is withholding the requested information under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

In the coming months the Advisory Group will provide recommendations to Ministers regarding the suitability of projects to be included in Schedule 2 of the Bill. Once Ministers have made their decisions, they may also decide when and whether they will be making the applications publicly available.

All projects listed in Schedule 2 of the Bill, once passed into law, will be required to apply to an Expert Consenting Panel for their consents. This process is managed by the Environmental Protection Authority. You can keep an eye on their website www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/status for information about all projects in the consent process.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Ilana Miller

Programme Director – Fast-Track Approvals – Listed Projects
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao