



1 August 2024

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 5 June 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to request the following in fully searchable format under the Official Information Act.

- 1. Any briefings or reports provided to the Environment Minister from 1 April 2024 to now (5 June 2024) about changing, repealing or replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.*
- 2. Any briefings or reports provided to the Environment Minister from 1 March 2024 to now (5 June 2024) that relate to New Zealand's industrial composting facilities, recycling infrastructure or remediation of contaminated historic landfill sites*

On 4 July 2024, the Ministry extended the timeframe to respond to the request by 20 working days under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified 19 documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached document schedule.

I am releasing two documents to you in full.

Three documents are being released in part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Six documents are being withheld in full 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 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.

Eight documents are being refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information will soon be made publicly available. The Ministry intends to publish this information on our website as part of a wider proactive release by 12 August 2024.

You may be interested in the Ministry's online *Waste Investments* dashboard, which provides details on confirmed funded projects. This can be accessed at: mfenz.shinyapps.io/waste_wmf_app/.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Lewis', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Shaun Lewis
General Manager – Waste Systems
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

| No | Date | Content | Decision | OIA section applied |
|----------------------------|---------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Part one of request | | | | |
| 1 | 6 May 2024 | BRF-4598 Aide Memoire: Freshwater Ministers Group – May 2024 meeting Including all appendices attached | Withhold in full. | 9(2)(f)(iv) |
| 2 | 6 May 2024 | BRF -4665 Aide memoire: Engaging with Māori on freshwater reform | Withhold in full. | 9(2)(f)(iv) |
| Part two of request | | | | |
| 3 | 8 March 2024 | BRF-4363 Waste investments under 1 million and approval thresholds for large projects | Release in part | 9(2)(b)(ii) |
| 3.1 | 8 March 2024 | BRF-4363 Appendix 1 | Withhold in full | 9(2)(b)(ii) |
| 4. | 20 March 2024 | BRF-4189 Policy options for provision of household kerbside recycling and food scraps services | Withhold in full | 9(2)(f)(iv) |
| 5 | 25 March | BRF-4370 Application Approval Briefing - Waste Investments | Withhold in full | 9(2)(f)(iv) |
| 6 | 27 March 2024 | BRF-4161 Opportunities for addressing construction and demolition waste | Release in part | Out of scope information withheld |
| 7 | 28 March 2024 | BRF-4544 Investment of the waste disposal levy | Release in part | 9(2)(b)(ii) |
| 7.1 | 28 March 2024 | COMBINED BRF-4544 Appendices 1-3 | Withhold in full | 9(2)(b)(ii) |
| 8 | 29 April 2024 | BRF-4679 Aide Memoire Talking points meeting with Auckland Council 29 April | Release in full | N/A |
| 8.1 | 29 April 2024 | BRF-4679 Appendix 1 Talking Points | Release in full | N/A |

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|----|---------------|---|----------------|-------|
| 9 | 15 March 2024 | BRF-4319 Second emissions reduction plan – waste sector policy options | Refuse in full | 18(d) |
| 10 | 12 March 2024 | BRF-4313 Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Bill: Scope and timeline | Refuse in full | 18(d) |
| 11 | 28 March 2024 | BRF-4548 Aide Memoire: Advice on waste levy | Refuse in full | 18(d) |
| 12 | 3 April 2024 | BRF-4559 Draft Cabinet paper: Investment of the waste disposal levy to achieve Government priorities | Refuse in full | 18(d) |
| 13 | 24 April 2024 | BRF-4614 Aide memoire: Talking points for the Budget Sensitive Cabinet paper: Investment of the waste disposal levy to achieve Government priorities | Refuse in full | 18(d) |
| 14 | 7 May 2024 | BRF-4684 Briefing: Cover briefing for CAB-437 Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Bill: approval for introduction | Refuse in full | 18(d) |
| 15 | | CAB-413 Investment of the waste disposal levy to achieve Government priorities | Refuse in full | 18(d) |
| 16 | | CAB-437 Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Bill: approval for introduction | Refuse in full | 18(d) |