



10 July 2024

OIAD-1142

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2024 making the following request to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, I am requesting information related to any fast-track applications or resource exploitation projects that are currently being considered, or have been approved, for Great Barrier Island. Specifically, I seek clarity on the following points:

- *A list of all fast-track applications or resource exploitation projects filed for Great Barrier Island under the proposed Fast-track Approvals Bill process.*
- *Detailed descriptions of these projects, including the nature of each application, the specific areas of Great Barrier Island they impact, and the current status of these applications.*
- *Any communications or documentation that pertain to the decision-making process regarding these applications, including but not limited to minutes from meetings, internal memos, and correspondence between involved parties.*

Please note, if some parts of the requested information are deemed sensitive and are to be withheld, I request that you provide the reasons for withholding this information under the relevant sections of the Official Information Act.

The Government has committed to introducing a permanent approvals regime to deliver a range of regionally and nationally significant housing, infrastructure, renewable energy, and development projects. The Fast-track Approvals Bill is part of the Government's wider resource management reform programme.

Public submissions on the Fast-track Approvals Bill closed on 19 April 2024. The Environment Select Committee will report back to the House with a revision tracked version of the Bill later in the year. Progress on the Bill can be followed on the Environment Select Committee page at: <https://bills.parliament.nz/v/Bill/083f0a7b-f182-41d5-0897-08dc3e31559c>.

The Ministry is withholding all information about individual project applications for the Fast-track Approvals Bill 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.

I am therefore refusing your request under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. I consider that it is likely that releasing any information about applications at this time would impact the orderly and effective conduct of executive government decision making processes.

There has been significant public interest in Fast-track project applications and the Fast-track Approvals Bill more generally. However, in terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am

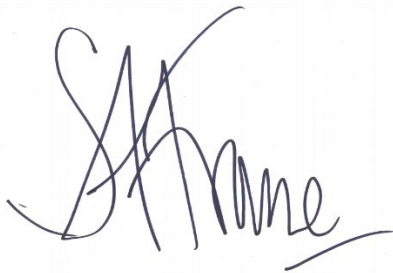
satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

I invite you to review the material that we have proactively released on the Fast-track Approvals Bill on the Ministry's website at <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/fast-track-approvals-bill/>.

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 'Stephanie Frame', with a stylized, flowing script.

Stephanie Frame

Manager – Fast-track Listed Projects
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao