



OIAD-1162

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 15 July 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*... all official information held by you relating to any approaches to, or by, Azuma Property Ltd, Hopper Developments Ltd, and any related entities, including their directors, shareholders, agents, representatives, and/or assigns (the "entities"), for inclusion of a marina project at Waipiro Bay, Bay of Islands (the "Project"), within Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals Bill ("FTAB"):*

*copies of any correspondence sent to, or received from, the entities in relation to the potential inclusion of the Project within Schedule 2 of the FTAB;*

*minutes or notes of any meetings between Ministers and the entities in relation to the Project and its potential inclusion within Schedule 2 of the FTAB, including diary entries;*

*copies of any correspondence between Ministers in relation to the potential inclusion of the Project within Schedule 2 of the FTAB;*

*copies of any correspondence between Ministers and staff (including staff at the Ministry for the Environment ("MfE"), and the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment ("MBIE")) in relation to the potential inclusion of the Project within Schedule 2 of the FTAB;*

*copies of any correspondence between Ministers and members of the Fast-Track Advisory Group (or its Secretariat), including any advice provided, relating to the Project; and*

*records of any decisions (if made) to include the Project within Schedule 2 of the FTAB, and if not yet made, confirmation of the same.*

As final decisions have yet to be made regarding Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals Bill, I am withholding information relating to all parts of your request 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.

There has been significant public interest in Fast-track project applications and the Fast-track Approvals Bill more generally. As with all applications of section 9 of the Act, I have considered whether the public interest outweighs the need to withhold information. I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of private and commercially sensitive information under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii) is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

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 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: [bills.parliament.nz/v/Bill/083f0a7b-f182-41d5-0897-08dc3e31559c](https://bills.parliament.nz/v/Bill/083f0a7b-f182-41d5-0897-08dc3e31559c)

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](https://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](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Ilana Miller  
Programme Director  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao