



OIAD-1179

22 August 2024

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 25 July 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Hello recently i encountered a statement on the Ministry for the Environment NZ facebook page pictured below. This request is for the evidence and supporting studies and data for the claim that: "Maori are disproportionately impacted by the impacts of climate change" A formal explanation is requested on this matter*

Information regarding the disproportionate impacts of climate change on Māori is publicly available in Aotearoa New Zealand's first Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP). These documents outline how climate change disproportionately affects Māori communities due to several factors, including geographical location and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

For example, the NAP details that many Māori communities are located in rural and coastal areas, which are more susceptible to the effects of climate change, such as flooding and sea-level rise. It also highlights the socio-economic challenges that further increase Māori vulnerability, making them more susceptible to climate impacts (National Adaptation Plan, Chapter 9: Communities, pp. 140-144). You can access the full document here: <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/climate-change/MFE-AoG-20664-GF-National-Adaptation-Plan-2022-WEB.pdf>

Similarly, the ERP acknowledges the need to consider the specific impacts of climate change on Māori and includes provisions to ensure that Māori perspectives and needs are integrated into climate policy and adaptation strategies (Emissions Reduction Plan, Chapter 3: Ensuring an Equitable Transition, pp. 108-110). The full document is available here: <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/aotearoa-new-zealands-first-emissions-reduction-plan/>

I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act as this information is publicly available.

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](http://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).

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Goodman', is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a yellow highlight behind the main part of the name.

**Stephen Goodman**  
Manager – Mitigation Policy  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao