



15 August 2024

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 1 August 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Council would be grateful to receive the Ministry's advice (legal or otherwise) in relation to the ability to make decisions [on the Proposed District Plan] while appeals are still active. Please treat this as a formal request under the Official Information Act 1982. Given the timeframes Council is currently facing, we would also request this information as a matter of urgency.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified one document in scope of your request, titled "22 July 2024 BRF-4824 Updated request from Waikato District Council for more time to complete the Intensification Streamlined Planning Process". I am releasing this document to you in part, with some information withheld in accordance with the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.
- 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.

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 decisions 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.

Nāku noa, nā

Electronically approved

Liz Moncrieff

General Manager, Urban & Infrastructure Policy
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao