



1 November 2024

OIAD-1326

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can I please request the release of [CAB-470] as well as the accompanying CIPA. If the Cabinet paper is to be proactively released within the next 20 working days, can I please exclusively request the CIPA. Please can you advise me ASAP whether this request will need to be transferred.

Due to the high public interest in the Fast-Track Approvals Bill (the Bill), and the projects recommended for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Bill, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) intends to proactively release the advice we have provided to the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Hon Chris Bishop, alongside the applications and material considered by the Advisory Group, on our website on or before 28 November 2024. This includes the Cabinet Paper and accompanying Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) you have requested.

Therefore, I must refuse your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you have requested is or will soon be made publicly available. Once published, we expect you will be able to navigate to the requested Cabinet Paper from this webpage:
<https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/>.

Cabinet has approved the inclusion of 149 projects in Schedule 2 of the Bill. Once the Bill is passed into law, these projects will be required to seek consent through Expert Panels (the Panels).

The fast-track process streamlines multiple approval steps for infrastructure and development projects that provide significant national or regional benefits. This process offers a consolidated, 'one-stop-shop' approach, ensuring more efficient decision-making. The Panels will have the authority to make final decisions on approvals for these projects and can impose conditions, including to manage environmental impacts.

The Ministry for the Environment is responsible for the Bill, while the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) will provide secretariat and administrative support to the Panels. Further information on the projects in the process of going through the Panels will be made available in due course on the EPA's website: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision refuse 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Gander-Cooper', written in a cursive style.

Max Gander-Cooper

Acting Manager – Fast Track Consenting
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao