



27 November 2024

OIAD-1369

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 5 November 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. A table, or a list of documents, showing any policy or legislative work that the Ministry of Environment has done from 27 November 2023 to 1 November 2024 for the coalition Government around a beverage container return scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand, or Container Recycling Bill, or similar identically named topic, which would then allow me to OIA specific documents in that list.

2. A list of documents showing the policy advice, including any draft legislation, that the Ministry of the Environment provided the previous Labour Government regarding a beverage container return scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand, or Container Recycling Bill, from 26 October 2017 until 13 March 2023 (when the project was discontinued by the Government, i.e.

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/freeing-more-government-bandwidth-and-money-focus-cost-living>

“Deferring work on the container return scheme that would see small refunds for returning containers. It’s estimated it will add a small cost to the average household and we don’t want to be imposing additional costs on families at this time.” Again, so then I could OIA specific documents in that list.

I have interpreted the first part of your request as being for policy or legislative work in the form of briefings (in which policy advice is tendered), aide memoire, and cabinet papers. The Ministry for the Environment has identified four briefing titles in scope of your request, as listed in the attached table. These titles are being released to you in full. A fifth briefing title has been withheld 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 have interpreted the second part of your request as being for as being for policy or draft legislative work in the form of briefings (in which policy advice is tendered), aide memoire, cabinet papers, and draft legislation. The Ministry for the Environment has identified 27 document titles in scope of the second part of your request, as listed in the attached table. These documents were proactively released on the Ministry’s website between 11 July 2023 and 1 November 2024 and can be found at: [Container Return Scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand | Ministry for the Environment](#).

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Annabelle Ellis', written in a cursive style.

**Annabelle Ellis**  
Acting General Manager – Waste Systems  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Title schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions
1.	20/02/2024	BRF-4215: Meeting with Coca-cola to discuss the option of a container return scheme	Title released
2.	11/04/2024	BRF-4444: Overview of work to date on the option of a container return scheme for New Zealand	Title released
3.	15/05/2024	Briefing note (BRF-4645) - Scope of reform of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and Litter Act 1979	Title released
4.	4/09/2024	Briefing note (BRF-5056) Waste legislation reform 1: briefings schedule, consultation approach and legislative principles	Title released
5.	9/12/2020	Briefing note (2020-B-07314) – Container Return Scheme - Overview and next steps	Proactively released 27/10/2023
6.	16/02/2021	Aide Memoire (2021-B-07615) – Slide pack for the Container Return Scheme (CRS) and Appendix 1 – Slide pack: Outlining the CRS co-design process, key design considerations and next steps	Proactively released 27/10/2023
7.	1/04/2021	Aide Memoire (2021-B-07767) – Slide pack for the Container Return Scheme: Scope of containers and Appendix 1 – Slide	Proactively released 27/10/2023

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions
		pack: Scope of containers	
8.	22/04/2021	Aide Memoire (2021-B-07754) – Slide pack for the Container Return Scheme: Driving recovery and Appendix 1 – Slide pack: Driving recovery	Proactively released 27/10/2023
9.	6/05/2021	Aide Memoire (2021-8-07928) – Slide pack for the Container Return Scheme: Options to increase away-from-home recovery of beverage containers and reduce litter and Appendix 1 – Slide pack: Options to increase away-from-home recovery of beverage containers and reduce litter.	Proactively released 27/10/2023
10.	23/06/2021	Briefing note (BRF-162) - The option of a beverage container return scheme to increase resource recovery and reduce litter in Aotearoa New Zealand	Proactively released 11/07/2023
11.	27/07/2021	Cabinet paper – The option of a beverage container return scheme to increase resource recovery and reduce litter in Aotearoa New Zealand	Proactively released 11/07/2023
12.	27/07/2021	Talking points (BRF-378) - Container Return Scheme - Proposed talking points	Proactively released 11/07/2023

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions
		for upcoming Cabinet Committee meeting	
13.	5/08/2021	Minute of decision (ENV-21-MIN-0039)	Proactively released 11/07/2023
14.	13/08/2021	Briefing note (BRF-202) - Driving recovery and proposed scope of containers within a New Zealand Container Return Scheme	Proactively released 11/07/2023
15.	22/09/2021	Cabinet paper – Driving recovery within a New Zealand Container Return Scheme	Proactively released 11/07/2023
16.	22/09/2021	Cabinet paper – Proposed scope of containers within a New Zealand Container Return Scheme	Proactively released 11/07/2023
17.	28/09/2021	Talking points (BRF-612)- Container Return Scheme - Proposed talking points for upcoming Cabinet Committee meeting	Proactively released 11/07/2023
18.	30/09/2021	Minute of decision (ENV-21-MIN-0048)	Proactively released 11/07/2023
19.	30/09/2021	Minute of decision (ENV-21-MIN-0049)	Proactively released 11/07/2023
20.	16/12/2021	Briefing note (BRF-586) - Seeking Cabinet approval to consult on a proposed container return scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand	Proactively released 11/07/2023
21.	10/02/2022	Cabinet paper – Public consultation on a container return	Proactively released 11/07/2023

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions
		scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand	
22.	16/02/2022	Talking points (BRF-1180) - Transforming recycling	Proactively released 11/07/2023
23.	17/02/2022	Minute of decision (ENV-22-MIN-0002)	Proactively released 11/07/2023
24.	7/03/2022	Interim regulatory impact statement: A beverage container scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand	Proactively released 1/11/2024
25.	10/03/2022	Event pack - (BRF-1290) - Transforming Recycling launch of public consultation	Proactively released 11/07/2023
26.	18/08/2022	Post-consultation briefing (BRF-1989) - Container Return Scheme - Consultation feedback and next steps	Proactively released 18/07/2023
27.	10/07/2022	Implementation agreement briefing (BRF-2080) - Agreement to implement a Container Return Scheme	Proactively released 18/07/2023
28.	17/11/2022	Cabinet paper – Agreement to implement a New Zealand Container Return Scheme	Proactively released 18/07/2023
29.	28/11/2022	Minute of decision (CAB-22-MIN-0539.01)	Proactively released 18/07/2023
30.	6/12/2022	Cost benefit analysis – A Container Return Scheme for New Zealand	Proactively released 18/07/2023

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions
31.	9/12/2022	Updated interim regulatory impact statement – A beverage container return scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand	Proactively released 18/07/2023