



22 August 2025

OIAD-1700

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

*Under the Official Information Act, I would like to request the following for the Lake Tarawera Sewerage Scheme in accordance with the Freshwater Improvement Fund Agreement; 1. Copies of the Annual Reports. 2. Copies of the Quarterly Reports. 3. Copy of the Audit Report The scope of the audit must include; • Compliance with the terms and schedules of this Deed (as may be varied during the term of the Deed) • Appropriate use of the Grant Funding and Project funding from other sources; and • Any other matters raised by the Ministry in relation to the proposed audit. 4. Copy of the Change Control Register. 5. Copy of the Change Request Forms.*

There are 19 documents in scope of your request. I am releasing 14 documents to you in full. I am also releasing five documents to you in part, with some information redacted as out of scope and some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of information in this request is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

The Audit Report that the Ministry requested follows the Review Guidance document that the Ministry provided Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC; Document 1). This document outlines the scope of the audit which notes the focus of the audit is Clause 2.6 (and its associated sub-clauses) under the Deed of Funding. This Audit Report covers the period of 1 November 2022 to 30 June 2024 and therefore does not cover the full cost of stage 1 as this work continued beyond 30 June 2024. We are also releasing the funding summaries we receive in our quarterly reports from RLC to provide you the most up-to-date costings of the project. We have reviewed and accepted the Audit Report, which was updated on 29 July (Document 16) based on your feedback about omission of the findings for 2.6i and 2.6j being a duplication.

In addition, per your supplementary request I have also included all quarterly and annual reports, the audit report (1 November 2022 – 30 June 2024), and the FY2024/25 Declaration of Compliance. The Ministry does not hold a change control register and I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist. We have, however, provided two change request documents and two variations to the deed of funding documents, as requested.

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 at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information shortly after the response has been sent on our website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests/>. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team at: [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



**Lorena Stephen**

General Manager – Partnerships and Investments  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao



### Document schedule

#	Date	Title	Decision	Grounds
1	March 2023	MFE_ Review Guidance for Recipients	Released in full	N/A
2	April 2023	Y1Q3 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A
3	June 2023	Y1Q4 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A
4	Oct 2023	Y2Q1 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A
5	19 Oct 2023	FIF1021 Change request 1 (extn to deed expiry date)	Released in part	9(2)(a)
6	Jan 2024	Y2Q2 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A
7	April 2024	Y2Q3 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A
8	28 May 2024	Deed 25760 Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Change Request 2 - Waive audit reporting	Released in part	9(2)(a)
9	26 June 2024	Variation 1 to Deed #25760 with RLC	Released in part	9(2)(a), out of scope
10	July 2024	Y2Q4 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A
11	Oct 2024	Y3Q1 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A
12	Jan 2025	Y3Q2 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A

#	Date	Title	Decision	Grounds
13	April 2025	Y3Q3 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A
14	June 2025 (updated July 2025)	Final report_Tarawera SS MFE (29 July)	Released in full	N/A
15	27 June 2025	Variation 2 to Deed #25760 with RLC	Released in part	9(2)(a)
16	July 2025	Y3Q4 - Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation and Treatment	Released in full	N/A
17	July 2025	Quarterly Payment Requests 2022-2025	Released in full	N/A
18	24 July 2025	Memo: Approval for the Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF) Audit Report for Rotorua Lakes Council's project entitled 'Lake Tarawera Sewerage Reticulation Scheme'.	Released in part	9(2)(a)
19	30 July 2025	FY2024-2025 Declaration of Compliance	Released in full	N/A