



24 November 2025

OIAD-1804

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 24 October 2025 making the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

On the 12 October the Government announced decisions regarding New Zealand's 2050 climate change targets which included:

- *Reset the target for reductions required in biogenic methane emissions by 2050 to 14 – 24 per cent below 2017 levels.*
- *Retain the current net zero 2050 target for long-lived gases.*
- *Defer decisions to set the fourth emissions budget and consider whether to reset the first three emissions budgets to 31 December 2027.*

Could I please have copies of any advice (including draft advice) regarding these decisions.

Could I also please have any cabinet papers (including draft papers) regarding these decisions.

I have identified 14 documents in scope of your request, as listed in the document schedule below.

I am releasing 11 documents to you in part, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(a) to not prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
- 6(b)(i) to not prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government.
- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(b)(ii) to protect information where the making available of the information would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
- 9(2)(d) to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand.
- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.
- 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.
- 9(2)(j) to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.
- 18(d) as the information will soon be publicly available.

Information refused under section 18(d) of the Act will be made publicly available by 31 December 2025.

I am withholding one document in full 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 am withholding two documents in full under section 9(2)(h) of the Act to maintain legal professional privilege.

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.

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.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



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

Document schedule

#	Date	Code	Title	Decision	Grounds	Notes
1	26/02/2025	BRF-5775	Responding to the Climate Change Commission's advice on the 2050 target and emissions budget	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h)	Appendix 1 withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.
2	14/03/2025	BRF-5923	2050 target options and initial analysis	Released in part	6(a), 6(b)(i), 9(2)(a), 9(2)(d), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h), 9(2)(j)	
3	30/05/2025	BRF-6017	Final policy decisions on the 2050 target	Released in part	6(b)(i), 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(d), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h), 9(2)(j)	Appendix 1 withheld in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act. Appendix 7 withheld in full under section 9(2)(h) of the Act.
4	6/06/2025	BRF-6320	Further 2050 target advice: policy impacts	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(g)(i)	Appendix 1 withheld in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.
5	10/07/2025	BRF-5983	Draft Cabinet paper: Resetting the 2050 domestic emissions reduction target	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)	
6	16-07-25		Draft Cabinet paper (incorporating MCC comments)	Released in part	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(h)	
7	29-07-25		Draft methane paper 27 July	Withheld in full	9(2)(h)	
8	22/08/2025	BRF-6279	2050 target – additional legislative changes and implications of decisions	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)	Appendices 1 & 2 withheld in full under section 9(2)(h) of the Act.
9	28/08/2025	BRF-6741	Options to maintain the currency of ERP2	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h)	
10	02-09-25		Methane-science-and-target-review draft Cabinet Paper - 2 Sept agency fact check	Withheld in full	9(2)(h)	
11	18/09/2025	BRF-6389	Policy decisions on including international shipping and aviation emissions in the 2050 target	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h), 9(2)(j)	
12	22/09/2025	CAB-592	Updating the 2050 Domestic Climate Change Emissions Target	Released in part	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(d), 9(2)(h), 18(d)	Appendix 5 will be made publicly available on the Ministry for the Environment's website by 31 December 2025 at: https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/ccr-amendment-bill/ .
13	25/09/2025	BRF-6866	2040 Review of the biogenic methane target	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)	
14	22/10/2025	BRF-6684	Responding to the Climate Change Commission's 2050 target review	Withheld in full	9(2)(f)(iv)	