



24 November 2025

OIAD-1805

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

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

On the 12 October the Government announced a decision not to proceed with future agricultural emissions pricing, which included the following statement:

no tax on agricultural methane emissions as this would risk closing down farms and send jobs and production overseas. Reductions in methane to meet the targets will be achieved in partnership and through industry leadership and processor incentives following the lead of companies like Fonterra and Silver Fern Farms.

Could I please have copies of any advice (including draft advice) regarding this decision. Could I also please have any cabinet papers (including draft papers) regarding this decision.

I have identified 12 documents in scope of your request, as listed in the document schedule below.

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

- 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)(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.
- 18(d) as the information will soon be publicly available.

I am releasing three of these ten documents to you as excerpts as per section 16(1)(e) of the Act, as some appendices of these documents are out of scope of the request.

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	Link/Notes
1	06/06/25	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.
2	10/07/25	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)	
3	16-07-25		Draft Cabinet paper (incorporating MCC comments)	Released in part	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(h)	
4	29-07-25		Draft methane paper 27 July	Withheld in full	9(2)(h)	
5	22/08/25	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.
6	28/08/25	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)	
7	02-09-25		Methane-science-and-target-review draft Cabinet Paper - 2 Sept agency fact check	Withheld in full	9(2)(h)	
8	08/09/25	BRF-6730	Cabinet material for 2025 adaptive management assessment and Government response to Climate Change Commission's annual monitoring report	Released in part as an excerpt	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h) 16(1)(e)	Some appendices not included as they are out of scope.
9	22/09/25	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/ .
10	29/09/25	BRF-6873	2025 adaptive management assessment and Government response to the Climate Change Commission's emissions reduction monitoring report – approval to lodge Cabinet paper	Released in part as an excerpt	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h) 16(1)(e)	Some appendices not included as they are out of scope.
11	08/10/25	CAB-571	2025 adaptative management assessment of progress towards the second emissions budget and Government Response to Climate Change Commission's Emissions Monitoring Report	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)	
12	13/10/25	BRF-6920	Draft discussion document to support consultation on the ERP2 amendment	Released in part as an excerpt	9(2)(h), 16(1)(e)	Appendix 1 is out of scope of the request.