



9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 04 May 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. This letter relates to the Ministry's interpretation of the meaning of "urban environment" as defined in the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020.*
- 2. The agenda of the joint committee of Tasman District and Nelson City Councils (linked below) refers to advice provided by the Ministry on the interpretation of the terms "urban environment" and the National Policy Statement for Urban Development.*
- 3. Can you please provide me with a copy of the advice referred to in that agenda.*
- 4. Has the Ministry prepared any guidance documentation on how the term "urban environment" should be interpreted? If not, is the Ministry intending to prepare such guidance documentation?*
- 5. Has the Ministry provided any advice to the Marlborough District Council on how "urban environment" should be interpreted in the NPSUD?*
- 6. Is the Ministry's position that the meaning of urban environment (as defined in the NPSUD) includes any urban area that serves a housing and labour market of at least 10,000 people even if that area itself has fewer than 10,000 people.*

In response to part three of your request, a range of National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD) guidance is available to councils and can be found on the Ministry for the Environment's (the Ministry) website: environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/national-policy-statements/national-policy-statement-urban-development/.

In response to part four of your request, interpretation guidance can be found in Part 1: Preliminary Provisions of the NPS-UD on the Ministry's website: environment.govt.nz/publications/national-policy-statement-on-urban-development-2020/.

The Ministry is not intending to provide further guidance on how the term 'urban environment' should be interpreted but councils are free to contact the Ministry if they have any questions.

In response to part five of your request, no further guidance has been provided to Marlborough District Council on how “urban environment” should be interpreted in the NPS-UD 2020.

In response to part six of your request, the Ministry’s position of how urban environment is defined can be found within the NPS-UD which states that an urban environment means any area of land (regardless of size, and irrespective of local authority or statistical boundaries) that:

- a. is, or is intended to be, predominantly urban in character; and
- b. is, or is intended to be, part of a housing and labour market of at least 10,000 people.

I hope this information is useful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response 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.

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.

Yours faithfully



Lesley Baddon
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