



9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Under the Official Information Act, 9(2)(a) Board would like to request **all information regarding the National Policy Statement on Significant Natural Areas (SNA).***

- *General information about the National Policy Statement and detailed work around the SNAs*
- *All information regarding mapping and to receive all of the SNAs identified in 9(2)(a) rohe, including drafts*
- *The records including emails, meeting minutes and record of conversation between MfE and within the 9(2)(a) rohe (Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council, Whangarei District Council and Northland Regional Council)*
- *Any records including emails, meeting minutes and records of conversation between MfE and the Department of Conservation in regards to National Policy Statement and SNAs*
- *Records of all meetings where SNAs were discussed, with particular interest regarding tangata whenua, mana whenua, Iwi and hapū or Maori advisory groups within MfE.*
- *Any other third parties who have contributed to the Significant Natural Areas including consultants and non-governmental organisations.*

As the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) has been under development since the start of 2017, there are thousands of documents in scope of your request.

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) contacted you via email on 25 June 2021 to refine and clarify the scope of your request. We asked for timeframes to refine the scope and to narrow down the number of requests. You responded on 5 July 2021 to clarify the following four points of your request:

- *General information about the National Policy Statement and detailed work around the SNAs between 2019 and 2021.*
- *Any records including emails, meeting minutes and records of conversation between MfE and the Department of Conservation in regards to National Policy Statement and SNAs between 2019 and 2021.*
- *Records of all hui which was held with iwi/Māori and advisors where SNAs were discussed, with particular interest regarding tangata whenua, mana whenua, Iwi and hapu or Māori advisory groups within MfE.*

- A list of consultants or non-government organisations who have contributed to the SNAs policy

A notification of extension was sent to you on 7 July 2021, to allow time to prepare the response for your request. Your request was extended by 15 working days.

For the first two points of your request (general information about the NPS and records of communication between the Ministry and the Department of Conservation), a search was conducted in our document management system to gather the potential number of documents which could be in scope. This search returned thousands of results in the form of emails, word documents and PDFs. As it would take a considerable amount of time and effort to collate the information needed, I am refusing the first two parts of your request under the following section of the Act:

- 18(f) – that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research

Information on the last two points of your request (information on hui and a list of consultants) have been provided below. There is some information within the last point of your request which has been 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 this information 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 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).

Yours sincerely



Hayden Johnston  
**Director - Water and Land Use Policy**

### Information on hui

Hui were held in late 2018 and early 2019, led by the Department of Conservation. They were primarily to talk about the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, but the NPSIB was also discussed. Iwi/hapū affiliations were not gathered.

Date	Location	Number in attendance
27-Nov 2018	Whangārei	Unknown
29-Nov 2018	Kaitia	7
30-Nov 2018	Kerikeri (Bay of Islands)	11
24-Jan 2019	Manawatū	2
31-Jan 2019	Whanganui	Unknown
7-Feb 2019	Motueka	Unknown
8-Feb 2019	Blenheim	Unknown
11-Feb 2019	Wairarapa	7
12-Feb 2019	East Coast (Gisborne)	9
20-Feb 2019	Hamilton	Unknown
25-Feb 2019	Taupō	Unknown
25-Feb 2019	Invercargill	Unknown
26-Feb 2019	Rotorua	Unknown
27-Feb 2019	Dunedin	Unknown
28-Feb 2019	Lyttleton	Unknown
2-Mar 2019	Napier	Unknown
7-Mar 2019	Whakatāne	Unknown
13-Mar 2019	Auckland	Unknown
17-Apr 2019	Taranaki	Unknown
1-May 2019	Manawatū	Unknown
2-May 2019	Whanganui	Unknown
28-May 2019	Chatham Islands	Unknown

There were also hui held in early 2020, led by the Ministry to discuss a number work programmes, including the NPSIB – iwi/hapū affiliations were not gathered at the time.

Date	Location	Number in attendance
12 February	Auckland	10
12 February	Dunedin	7
13 February	Gisborne	25
27 March	Hamilton	10
14 February	Napier	22
28 February	Nelson	6
17 February	New Plymouth	5
26 February	Rotorua	20
25 February	Taupō	9
10 February	Tauranga	10
19 February	Wellington	15
3 February	Whanganui	11
24 February	Whangarei	33

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Hui primarily regarding the geothermal provisions (but which discussed other aspects) of the NPSIB were held virtually:

	Date	Number in attendance
Ngāti Rangitīhi	12 October	1
Ngāti Whakaue,	23 October	3
Tuwharetoa mai kawerau ki te tai	28 October	2
Ngāti Tahu – Ngāti Whaoa	29 October	2
The Proprietors of Taheke 8C & Adjoining Blocks Incorporation	18 November	2
Further hui with Ngāti Whakaue	Unknown	2

Meetings held between officials and a tangata whenua advisory group were held in late 2020. Conversation was focused on te ao Māori and Māori land aspects of the NPSIB. They were held via zoom on 2 November and in person at Environment House on 1 December.

Information on the list of consultants or non-government organisations who have contributed to the SNAs policy

The public, NGO's and consultancies have provided feedback through submissions on the proposed NPSIB between November 2019 and March 2020. Over 7000 submissions were received during this time. You can find all submitters on this archived page of the Ministry's old website:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210302231207/https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/nps-indigenous-biodiversity>

The original draft NPSIB was created by a stakeholder-led 'Biodiversity Collaborative Group' – work occurred between March 2017 and October 2018. The link to the report can be found here:

[https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/biodiversity/report\\_of\\_the\\_biodiversity\\_collaborative\\_group.pdf](https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/biodiversity/report_of_the_biodiversity_collaborative_group.pdf)

Members of the Group included:

- Federated Farmers (trustee)
- Forest and Bird (trustee)
- Environmental Defence Society
- Forest Owners' Association

- a representative of the Iwi Chairs Forum through the Pou Taiao Iwi Advisors Group
- And representatives from infrastructure industries

A further list of advisors who helped the BCG create their initial draft NPSIB includes:

Policy advisors:

- Tim Sharp, Sharp Advice Ltd
- Gerard Willis, Enfocus Ltd
- Mark Tamura and Andrew Schollum, MartinJenkins (April 2017 – March 2018)

Ecological advice

- Mike Harding

Planning, policy and scientific advice

- Kate McArthur, Marie Brown and Fleur Maseyk – The Catalyst Group
- Fiona Carswell, Susan Walker, Susie Wiser, Suzie Greenhalgh, Beverley Clarkson, William Lee, Robert Holdaway, Holden Hohaia and members of their teams at Landcare Research Manaaki Whenua
- David Serjeant – Merestone Ltd
- Bruce Clarkson and Catherine Kirby – The University of Waikato
- Martin Neale – Puhoi Stour
- Tina Porou – Poipoia Ltd
- Dan Hikuroa – University of Auckland
- Warwick Scott – Lincoln University

Further people and organisations that gave freely of their knowledge, time and resources to assist the BCG, including those below:

- Brooke Cox – EDS
- Bernie Napp – Straterra
- Abbie Fowler – Genesis
- NZ Bat Conservation Network
- QEII National Trust and Nga Whenua Rahui
- Beef and Lamb NZ
- NZ Transport Authority

- Mark Bellingham – Environment Institute of Australia & NZ Inc
- Nicholas Singers – Ecological Solutions Ltd
- Jill and Richard Simpson
- Francis and Shireen Helps
- Te Manuka Tutahi marae
- John McLennan
- Te Kei Merito
- Judge Layne Harvey
- Brigette Palmer and the Ohope Scenic reserve guides
- Ian Tarei and the Omataroa reserve guides
- Craig Pauling – Boffa Miskell
- Arihia Tuoho
- Morgan Cox – Kiwi for Kiwis
- Rob Whitbourne – DOC
- Tim Senior – Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- Nardia Yozin, Nick Head, Norm Kelly and Andy Roberts – DOC
- Chris Keeling, Stefanie Rixecker and David Perenara-O'Connell – Environment Canterbury
- Kay Holder – Christchurch City Council
- Quinn Amoore – Taranaki Regional Council
- Liz Tutuhi and Patrick Whaley – Waikato Regional Council
- Tim Porteous and Jamie Steer – Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Jonathan Boow – Auckland Council
- Myfanwy Emeny – Wellington City Council
- Clare Wooding (LGNZ) and members of the TA Reference Group

Since the publication of the BCG's report, other consultants and NGO groups have made valuable contributions:

- 4Sight Consulting – created the draft Section 32 evaluation and Cost Benefit Analysis
- Market Economics – partnered with 4Sight Consulting in developing the Cost Benefit Analysis.
- s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] - tangata whenua advisory group
- s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] – tangata whenua advisory group
- s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] – tangata whenua advisory group
- Barker & Associates – planning advice.
- Carina Ltd – implementation planning

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