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Thank you for your email of 26 July 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- a copy of the information on which the Minister made his decision, and how it fulfils the section 18 criteria;
- a copy of the application made under section 20 of the Fast Track Act; and
- a copy of the Minister's decision under section 24.

As the Fast Track Act refers only to resource consent applications and notices of requirement, we anticipate that the material will address how a private plan change 'fits' within the structure of the Act.

In line with section 25 of the COVID-19 (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act), the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) will soon proactively release all application briefings to the Minister for the Environment and cabinet papers.

This material is expected to be published on the Ministry's website in the next five to eight working weeks.

Therefore, your request has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information will soon be publicly available.

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, under this Act.

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 its 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 sincerely

Electronically approved by Sara Clarke

Sara Clarke
Director – Delivery and Oversight

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982