



17 April 2024

9(2)a

Dear 9(2)a

Thank you for your email of 4 March 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could I please request the cabinet paper titled "Replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020, and addressing its implementation in the interim" as noted in Reply 943 (2024) to parliamentary written questions, and all other documents, advice or materials produced by the Ministry that relate to the titled document.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified three documents in scope of your request.

The document titled *BRF-4013 Talking points for Cabinet discussion replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020* is being released to you in full.

The document titled *CAB-23-MIN-0486 Replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and Addressing its Implementation in the Interim* is being released to you in full.

The document titled *CAB-377 Replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020, and addressing its implementation in the interim* is being released to you in part with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege

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

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.

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

Fiona Newlove

Acting General Manager – Natural Environment Policy
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao