



2 April 2024

OIAD-994

9(2)a

Tēnā koe 9(2)a

Thank you for your clarification email of 25 March 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) confirming your request is for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*All reports, submissions, aide memoires, and analysis sent, held, or received by [MfE] in relation to The Fast Track Approvals Bill.*

The Fast Track Approvals Bill (the Bill) aims to make it easier for New Zealand to build the infrastructure and major projects we need to get the country moving. The Bill is now being considered by the Environment Committee after being introduced to Parliament on 7 March 2024.

The Bill is currently open for public submissions to the Environment Committee. Public submissions will be accepted until 11.59pm on Friday 19 April 2024. More information about the Bill and the process to make a submission is available on the Parliament website at: [parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCENV\\_SCF\\_083F0A7B-F182-41D5-0897-08DC3E31559C/fast-track-approvals-bill](https://parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCENV_SCF_083F0A7B-F182-41D5-0897-08DC3E31559C/fast-track-approvals-bill).

In response to your request for submissions, the Ministry has not and will not receive any formal submissions on the Bill directly. Therefore, this part of your request is being refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by, or more closely related to the functions of, another department.

The Ministry for the Environment is currently undertaking a proactive release process to publish the advice and documents we hold relating to the Bill on our website. Once published, this information will be available at: [environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/](https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/). Therefore, the Ministry must refuse your request for *reports, aide memoires and analysis* under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you have requested is soon to be made publicly available.

We have identified one additional briefing that is not included in the proactive release process and is in scope of your request. This briefing is being withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

**Ilana Miller,**  
Programme Director  
Partnership, Investments and Enablement  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao