

File No: P/019/PR007/001/001

6 May 2010

Keith Ng
ForYourInformation
request-request-11-150aac9b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Keith Ng

Thank you for your email of 23 March 2010 regarding the value of Crown mining royalties in which you requested, under section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- "1) Estimates of the value of royalties from expected mining operations in the affected area.*
- 2) Estimates of the net revenue impact of the proposal.*
- 3) Correspondence within the ministry about the availability of cost estimates for this proposal.*
- 4) Correspondence between the ministry and the Energy and Resources Minister about the availability of cost estimates for this proposal."*

I will answer your questions in turn.

Question 1: Estimates of the value of royalties from expected mining operations in the affected area

A draft spreadsheet held by the Ministry, *Total royalty forecast (Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act)*, includes information about potential mining operations in areas being considered for removal from Schedule 4.

This document has been withheld in order 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 Department or organisation in the course of their duty [section 9(2)(g)(i)].

I am satisfied, in terms of section 9(1) of the OIA that, in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information referred to above is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Questions 2-4:

- 2) Estimates of the net revenue impact of the proposal.**
- 3) Correspondence within the ministry about the availability of cost estimates for this proposal.**

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4) Correspondence between the ministry and the Energy and Resources Minister about the availability of cost estimates for this proposal."

Estimates of mineral values are contained with the discussion paper and the material available on the Ministry's website www.med.govt.nz/schedule4, including specialist reports relating to particular areas.

The Ministry does not hold any other papers which provide information of the type you seek.

You have the right by way of complaint under section 28(3) of the OIA to an Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of my refusals to release the information referred to above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn van Leuven
Manager
Fuels & Crown Resources Group
Energy and Communications Branch