

12 November 2021

Luke
fyi-request-17170-135ed355@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-8924

Dear Luke

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 13 October 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

How many km's of track have been laid from the proposed Auckland Light Rail track campaigned on by Labour in the 2017 election?

How many km's remain to be laid by the end of 2021 to reach the four year target reported in the linked article?

What plans have been progressed for light rail from the North Shore to Auckland?

How much has been spent (broken down by yearly quarter) on the proposed Auckland light rail project?

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is responding to this request as the agency subject to the Act, while the Auckland Light Rail Establishment Unit resides within Waka Kotahi and operates independently.

In response to your first two questions, no kilometres of light rail track has yet been laid. On 29 October 2021, the Minister of Transport, Hon Michael Wood, released the Auckland Light Rail Establishment Unit's Independent Chair Summary Report (Summary Report). It provides an overview of the Indicative Business Case which is currently being considered by the Government. Cabinet is expected to make further decisions on the project by the end of this year.

The currently planning and delivery timeline is 3-4 years for the Detailed Business Case and consenting, followed by a construction timeframe of 6-8 years, depending on the option chosen.

You can read the Summary Report on the project website at: www.lightrail.co.nz/light-rail/resources.

Regarding question three of your request, while the scope of the current work programme does not include planning for a connection to the North Shore, all three options proposed by the City Centre to Māngere (CC2M) project are designed to integrate with future connections to the North Shore and Northwest.

In relation to question 4 seeking expenditure information, the costs for the various phases of work are not held in a quarterly format. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information is not held by Waka Kotahi and I have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

However, information on the costs incurred from 2017 to present has recently been made public by Minister Wood in response to a Written Parliamentary Question and can be found at: www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_40763_2021/40763-2021-hon-david-bennett-to-the-minister-of-transport.

Final costs for this stage of the Establishment Unit's work will be available once all accounts are received.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse part of your request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard May". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Richard May

Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief Executive (on behalf of the Establishment Unit)