



OIAD-181

Chris Johnston
fyi-request-17224-3dea2051@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chris Johnston

Thank you for your email of 16 December 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1) *Could you please provide any records mentioning the following authors David Coe, Walter Fabinski, or Gerhard Wiegler ... or their paper "The Impact of CO₂, H₂O and Other "Greenhouse Gases" on Equilibrium Earth Temperatures", that can be found at this link: <https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ijaos.org%2Farticle%2F298%2F10.11648.j.ijaos.20210502.12&data=04%7C01%7C0IA%40mfe.govt.nz%7C718eb0875a204b12b34008d9c0097e4c%7C761dd003d4ff40498a728549b20fcb1%7C0%7C0%7C637751969272320130%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=tabKyr2ghY1S1kUhC01LFqzAZ%2BgjG5%2BJeuSQ5W4Kk4%3D&reserved=0>*

2) *I note the following conclusion in the abstract: "Climate sensitivity to future increases in CO₂ concentration is calculated to be 0.50K, including the positive feedback effects of H₂O, while climate sensitivities to CH₄ and N₂O are almost undetectable at 0.06K and 0.08K respectively. This result strongly suggests that increasing levels of CO₂ will not lead to significant changes in earth temperature and that increases in CH₄ and N₂O will have very little discernible impact." ... where K = the temperature difference in Kelvin.*

a) *What is the MfE's view of this paper's method and conclusion.*

b) *Has this paper affected the MfE's policy?*

c) *Has an internal or external expert review been sought about this paper (paid or unpaid) by any person within the MfE?*

Firstly, I acknowledge and apologise for the delay in processing this response as identified in your correspondence with the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry). It appears your initial request of 17 October 2021 made through the FYI website was not received by the Ministry. We have identified the cause to be a technical issue and are actively working to resolve it.

In response to your request, I can advise that the Ministry does not hold and is not aware of any records mentioning the aforementioned authors or their paper titled 'The Impact of CO₂, H₂O and Other "Greenhouse Gases" on Equilibrium Earth Temperatures' (the paper).

Therefore, I am refusing part one of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

In response to part two of your request, the Ministry has not reviewed the paper, therefore it has not affected the Ministry's policy, nor has an internal or external review been sought about this paper by the Ministry. I am refusing part two of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the Ministry does not hold this information.

I understand you have submitted a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to the delay in responding to your request. You also have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision on 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. Publishing OIA responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the Act's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

This document has been electronically signed by Katherine Wilson

Katherine Wilson
Director - Climate Adaptation and Evidence