

11 August 2022

Jack Gibbons
fyi-request-19864-3b838673@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-10505

Dear Jack

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 9 July 2022 requesting information about the State Highway 1 (SH1) Waikato Expressway's 110kmh speed limit under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will address each of your queries in turn.

1) The Economic Evaluation / Business Case.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency undertakes a benefit cost analysis as part of the wider Speed and Infrastructure Programme, but not of speed reviews on their own. The Speed and Infrastructure Programme is not required to have individual project Benefit Cost Ratios, as the Programme is principle based and seeks to implement a balanced response to the risk in the transport system. Assurance of value for money is provided by the use of standard safety interventions and the programme-level economic assessment that demonstrates value for money.

As such, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

2) The Environmental Impact Review (including co2e and other pollutant gas predictions).

Please refer to Attachment 1.

To provide further context, Waka Kotahi has information in the enclosed document on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission estimates for the 110km/h speed limit based on available traffic modelling data for 2031 and 2041 for vehicles using the Tamahere to Hampton Downs section of the Waikato Expressway.

The findings show that if we assume an increase in average fleet speed of 10km/h to 110km/h, this will result in a predicted increase of 4.34 percent and 3.77 percent in GHG emissions for years 2031 and 2041 when compared to 100km/h.

The main reason for the predicted increase in GHG emissions is due to light vehicles (for example, passenger vehicles) driving at 110km/h and operating beyond their optimal fuel efficiency of around 75km/h. The reduction between 2041 when compared to 2031 is due to expected improvement in average fleet emissions over time.

Waka Kotahi uses the Vehicle Emissions Prediction Model (VEPM) to estimate fleet average emissions from vehicles in the fleet, based on their average speed and typical road, traffic and operating conditions, such as weather. There are limitations of this approach given the complexity of calculating real world fuel consumption of vehicles as discussed above.

Further information on the model can be found here: www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/highways-information-portal/technical-disciplines/air-quality-climate/planning-and-assessment/vehicle-emissions-prediction-model/.

3) The Road Safety Audit (including for walking and cycling).

Please refer to Attachments 2 to 7.

Certain information in Attachments 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of non-Waka Kotahi natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to partially withhold this information. 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 the Speed and Infrastructure Programme team, by email to sip@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kinvig', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mark Kinvig
National Manager Infrastructure Delivery

OIA-10505 Document Schedule

REF	Document name	Date	Information being withheld/reason for withholding
1.	WEX Greenhouse Gas Emission Change Rev 2 (100110km)	2 September 2021	Staff phone numbers are withheld under s9(2)(a) to protect their privacy.
2.	RSA SH1 WEX Detailed Design - Designer, Safety Eng, Client response	7 October 2016	Third party names and contact details are withheld under s9(2)(a) to protect their privacy.
3.	WEX 110 Hampton Downs - Design RSA - Designer, RSE, Client Response	29 September 2021	Third party names and contact details are withheld under s9(2)(a) to protect their privacy.
4.	WEX 110 Ohinewai - Design RSA and Memo - Designer, RSE, Client Response	30 November 2020	N/A
5.	WEX 110 Ohinewai - Post Construction RSA - Designer Response	26 May 2022	Third party names and contact details are withheld under s9(2)(a) to protect their privacy.
6.	WEX 110 Ngāruawāhia - RSA	2 March 2022	Third party names and contact details are withheld under s9(2)(a) to protect their privacy.
7.	WEX 110 Tamahere - Design RSA - Designer, RSE, Client Response	26 October 2021	Third party names and contact details are withheld under s9(2)(a) to protect their privacy.