



31 January 2024

Ref: DOIA 2324-0972

Stephen Prendergast

Email: fyi-request-25145-407dc14c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Stephen Prendergast

Thank you for your email of 12 December 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Information on the withdrawal of WHL from RAL bid.

On 8 September a Treasury email identified that Kānoa had advised there was only 1 viable commercial operator who are bidding for Turoa only.

This request is for key internal and external correspondence related to the withdrawal of WHL from the bidding process for Whakapapa Ski Field.

The Treasury email referred to in the scope of your request relates to the processes undertaken by Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited's (in liquidation/receivership) (RAL) Liquidator and Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit to identify suitable bids, which Cabinet considered in October 2023. No applicants withdrew from the bidding process and Cabinet considered several bids, including a bid from Whakapapa Holdings Limited. Of these, a viable bid for Tūroa ski field was identified and operations was identified and recommended for consideration.

MBIE is therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to extend the time limit. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Tane Dewes

Manager Operations Support and Improvement

Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

