



Ref: OIA 2024-034

Ben Watkins  
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03 September 2024

Tēnā koe Ben

Thank you for your request of 10 August 2024 seeking the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“Please provide any and all information known or held by your department in any and all formats, including, but not limited to, documents, draft documents, reports, memos, letters, notes, electronic communications, transcripts, visual presentations, photography, and video/audio recordings containing information pertaining to geo-engineering, weather modification and Solar Radiation Management/Mitigation (SRM) with particular emphasis on cloud seeding, marine cloud brightening/engineering/seedling and Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI).*

*Additionally, please provide any and all information known or held by your department in any and all formats, including, but not limited to, documents, draft documents, reports, memos, letters, notes, electronic communications, transcripts, visual presentations, photography, and video/audio recordings containing information pertaining to barium, nano aluminium-coated fibreglass (known as chaff), radioactive thorium, cadmium, chromium, copper sulphate, nickel, strontium, graphene, desiccated blood, mould spores, yellow fungal mycotoxins, ethylene dibromide and polymer fibres with relation to their uses, or potential uses, in geo-engineering, weather modification, Solar Radiation Management/Mitigation, cloud seeding and Stratospheric Aerosol Injection.*

*And Finally, please provide any and all information known or held by your department in any and all formats, including, but not limited to, documents, draft documents, reports, memos, letters, notes, electronic communications, transcripts, visual presentations, photography, and video/audio recordings containing information pertaining to any mention of smart particles, nano machines, nano aerosols, nano-particulates or nano-sized aluminium particles with relationship, if any, to geo-engineering, weather modification, Solar Radiation Management/Mitigation, cloud seeding and Stratospheric Aerosol Injection.”*

The Climate Change Commission has considered your request in accordance with the Act.

It may be helpful for you to know that with respect to the mitigation of climate change, the Commission is required (under the Climate Change Response Act 2002) to give advice relating to reductions in greenhouse



gas emissions. As a result, this is the focus of our analysis and advice to Government, and we do not proactively research nor advise on geoengineering techniques in our mandated work.

## Response

The information you seek is publicly available on our website.

In 2021 and 2022, the Commission responded to previous requests under the Act asking for very similar information, both of which are available on our website and can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

In addition to the information provided in these 2021 and 2022 requests, further information relating to the scope of your request can also be found on our website:

- There is a single-sentence reference to geo-engineering in the discussion document “Review of the 2050 Emissions Reduction Target”, available [here](#). It states, “*Other factors that can be unpredictable and difficult to assess include events like volcanic eruptions and geo-engineering activities*”. This statement was informed by the [IPCC AR6](#).
- There is also one reference to ‘inadvertent geo-engineering’ in the discussion document “Review of inclusion of emissions from international shipping and aviation in 2050 target”, available [here](#). It states “*The pollution from ships can also have an impact on marine clouds, increasing their droplet count and making them longer-lived and more reflective. This greater reflection has a net cooling effect*”. This statement was informed by the [IPCC AR3](#) and published scientific papers.
- Public submissions received by the Commission in relation to our draft advice cover a range of topics. The public submissions published on our website can be found [here](#).

As the information you have requested can be found in documents that are publicly available, we rely on section 18(d) of the Act to support our decision to not supply it to you directly.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Contact details for the Ombudsman can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Please note that the Commission proactively releases its responses to requests made under the Act. This is to help ensure others can also have access to this information. As such, this letter will shortly be published on our website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Nunns  
**General Manager, Strategic Operations**