

23 October 2024

Stephen Prendergast

fyi-request-28256-ffff910f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Stephen

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 31 August 2024, in which you asked for:

1. *“All correspondence between DOC and any party, from 1 May 2024, requesting information, guidance, advice or clarification on:
  - i. the transfer of the current RAL (Whakapapa) license to another party, or
  - ii. the issuing of a new licence/lease for the Whakapapa ski field.”*
2. *Please also provide all internal DOC correspondence on the task list and timeframe for either of those activities.*
3. *Please also supply all DOC briefings and updates to the MoC on Whakapapa Ski field from 1 May 2024.”*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

On 25 September 2024 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 18 October 2024 due to the large quantity of information sought and the consultation necessary.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *“All correspondence between DOC and any party, from 1 May 2024, requesting information, guidance, advice or clarification on:
  - i. the transfer of the current RAL (Whakapapa) license to another party, or
  - ii. the issuing of a new licence/lease for the Whakapapa ski field.”*

We do not hold any documents in relation to question 1(i) regarding the transfer of the current RAL (Whakapapa) licence to another party. This part of the request is therefore refused under section 18(e) as the information requested does not exist.

Information we hold regarding question 1 (ii) is listed in Table 1 below as items 1 to 45. We also note the following about the provision of this information:

- The attachment to item 17 has been withheld as it is a draft version of a briefing released as item 20.
- The attachment to item 34 Briefing Outcome of the Expression of Interest process to seek purchasers of RAL's Whakapapa ski field business and next steps has been withheld in full under sections 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(j), 9(2)(b)(ii).
- Item 40 attachment: Attachment: Whakapapa Ski field Concession expectations has been withheld in full under sections 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(j).
- Item 43 Email: Submission – Pure Turoa application 109883-SKI, attachments 1, 2, and 3 are declined under 18(d) as they are publicly available on the Department's website at:  
  
[Application by Pure Tūroa Limited to operate Tūroa Ski Area on Mt Ruapehu: Have your say \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)
- Item 43 Email: Submission – Pure Turoa application 109883-SKI, attachment 6 is withheld under 9(2)(ba)(i).

2. *"Please also provide all internal DOC correspondence on the task list and timeframe for either of those activities."*

These items are listed as items 1 to 9 in Table 2 below. We note the following about the provision of this information:

- The links for Item 2 – *"Email: RE: section 17ZG(2) memo – Whakapapa"* have not been included as they are out of scope of the request.
- The links and attachments for Item 7 – *"Email: RE: Whakapapa Ski field pre-application hui"* have not been included as they are out of scope of the request.

3. *Please also supply all DOC briefings and updates to the MoC on Whakapapa Ski field from 1 May 2024."*

These items are listed below as items 1 to 16 in Table 3 below.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information,
- sensitive information subject to a confidence, under section 9(2)(ba)(i) – where it could prejudice the supply of information,

- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,
- advice subject to legal privilege under section 9(2)(h) – to maintain legal professional privilege,
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice, and
- information that is out of scope of the request.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Phillippa Fox  
Director Regulatory Authorisations  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**Table 1 - Schedule of documents relating to a new concession**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	2 May 2024	Email - Re: Draft email advice to Minister Potaka about letters to iwi	Released in part
2	4 June 2024	Email to Ngā Tāngata Tiaki - Whakapapa Ski field	Released in part
3	4 June 2024	Attachment - Letter to Ngā Tāngata Tiaki	Released in part
4	4 June 2024	Email to Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust – Whakapapa Ski field	Released in part
5	4 June 2024	Attachment - Letter to Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust	Released in part
6	4 June 2024	Email to Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu – Whakapapa Ski field	Released in part
7	4 June 2024	Attachment - Letter to Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu	Released in part
8	4 June 2024	Email to Patutokotoko – Whakapapa Ski field	Released in part
9	4 June 2024	Attachment - Letter to Patutokotoko	Released in part
10	4 June 2024	Email to Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust – Whakapapa Ski field	Released in part
11	4 June 2024	Attachment - Letter to Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust	Released in part
12	4 June 2024	Email to Te Korowai o Wainuiārua – Whakapapa Ski field	Released in part
13	4 June 2024	Attachment - Letter to Te Korowai o Wainuiārua	Released in part
14	4 June 2024	Email to Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa Trust – Whakapapa Ski field	Released in part
15	4 June 2024	Attachment - Letter to Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa Trust	Released in part
16	6 May 2024	Email: FW: PTL / RAL	Released in part
17	9 May 2024	Email: Draft briefing: DRAFT 2 2324-3326 - Next steps on the commercial process to sell Ruapehu Alpine Lift Limited's (in liquidation and receivership)	Released in part
		Attachment: DRAFT 2 2324-3326 - Next steps on the commercial process to sell Ruapehu Alpine Lift Limited's (in liquidation and receivership)	Withheld as full version released as item 20
18	9 May 2024	Email: RE: Topics for Friday	Released in part
19	13 May 2024	Email: FW: Ruapehu Matters	Released in part

20	14 May 2024	Briefing: Next steps of the commercial process to sell Ruapehu Alpine Lift Limited's (in liquidation and Receivership) (RAL) Whakapapa business	Released in part
21	15 May 2024	Letter to Te Korowai o Wainuiārua	Released in part
22	15 May 2024	Letter to Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust	Released in part
23	15 May 2024	Letter to Ngā Tāngata Tiaki	Released in part
24	15 May 2024	Letter to Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu	Released in part
25	15 May 2024	Letter to Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust	Released in part
26	15 May 2024	Letter to Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa Trust	Released in part
27	20 May 2024	Email: RAL/TNP: Letters from MOC/MFTOWN	Released in part
28	5 June 2024	Email: RE: Whakapapa ski field [Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust]	Released in part
29	10 June 2024	Email: FW: Whakapapa ski field [Te Korowai o Wainuiārua Trust]	Released in part
30	10 June 2024	Email: Fwd: [Redacted] Expression of Interest fo Whakapapa	Released in part
31	11 June 2024	Email: FW: Whakapapa ski field [Te Korowai o Wainuiārua Trust]	Released in part
32	19 June 2024	Email: RE: Draft timeline – next steps on RAL/Whakapapa	Released in part
33	20 June 2024	Email: Re: RAL Whakapapa concession – a question from MOF [COP Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> please]	Released in part
34	24 June 2024	Email: FW: 2324-3868: Outcome of the Expression of Interest process to seek purchasers of RAL's Whakapapa ski field business and next steps	Released in part
		Attachment: Briefing Outcome of the Expression of Interest process to seek purchasers of RAL's Whakapapa ski field business and next steps	withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(j), 9(2)(b)(ii)
35	12 July 2024	Email: RE: Request for more information about [Redacted]	Released in part
36	29 July 2024	Email: FW: Whakapapa application for new licence	Released in part
37	8 September 2016	Attachment: Cultural Impact Assessment	Released in part

38	30 July 2024	Email: CIA for Whakapapa Ski Area	Released in part
39	31 July 2024	FW: Ecological Effects Assessment – Whakapapa Ski field	Released in part
40	23 August 2024	Email: FW: Korero Arahi	Released in part
	23 August 2024	Attachment: Whakapapa Ski field Concession expectations	Withheld in full under 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(j)
41	4 June 2024	Email: Submission – Pure Turoa application 109883-SKI	Released in part
	2014	Attachment 1: Taiao Management Plan	Declined under18(d)
	2018	Attachment 2: Te Mana Paenga	Declined under18(d)
	9 February 2024	Attachment 3: Pure-turoa-submission-form	Declined under18(d)
42	2 April 2024	Attachment 4: Pure Turoa concession	Released in part
43	28 March 2024	Attachment 5: PTL – Feedback – Ngāti Rangī	Released in part
		Attachment 6: 656-109883-SKI Pure Turoa Limited – Lease and Licence – DRAFT for consultation (Ngati Rangī comments).docx	Withheld in full under 9(2)(ba)(i)
44	19 June 2024	Email: RE: Draft briefing; 2324-3868: Outcome of the Expression of Interest process to seek purchasers of RAL’s Whakapapa ski filed business and next steps	Released in part

**Table 2 - Schedule of documents relating to the Department tasks and timeframes**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	30 May 2024	Email: RE: Whakapapa	Released in part
2	17 June 2024	Email: RE: section 17ZG(2) memo – Whakapapa	Released in part
3	29 July 2024	Email: Whakapapa Concession Taskforce	Released in part
4	13 August 2024	Email: Draft Indicative timeline for Whakapapa ski field	Released in part
5	13 August 2024	Timeline Whakapapa Concession	Released in part
6	14 August 2024	Email: RE: Whakapapa Ski field pre-application hui	Released in part
7	15 August 2024	Email: RE: Whakapapa Ski field pre-application hui	Released in part
8	31 August 2024	Microsoft Planner Board tasks - detail	Released in part

9	31 August 2024	Microsoft Planner Board tasks - consolidated	Released in part
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**Table 3 - Schedule of documents relating to updates to the Minister of Conservation**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	3 May 2024	Email: Advice about letters to iwi re Whakapapa	Released in part
2	7 May 2024	Email: FW: re Ruapehu Alpine Lifts	Released in part
3	15 May 2024	Status report item – Update on Tongariro regulatory matters	Released in part
4	21 May 2024	Email: FW: Next Steps of the commercial process to sell Ruapehu Alpine Lift Limited's (in liquidation and Receivership) Whakapapa business	Released in part
5	4 June 2024	Status report item – Whakapapa ski field	Released in part
6	18 June 2024	Status report item – Update on engagement with iwi and hapū about Whakapapa ski field	Released in part
7	19 June 2024	Email: RE: 24-M-0064 – Tūwharetoa meeting	Released in part
8	19 June 2024	Meeting Memo: Meeting with representatives of Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu	Released in part
9	1 July 2024	CORM-1319: Letter response to Te Runanganui o Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro	Released in part
10	11 July 2024	Meeting Memo: Meeting with iwi representatives about Whakapapa ski field	Released in part
11	15 July 2024	Departmental Memo: Supporting Memo for Ref: CORM-1382	Released in part
12	16 August 2024	Meeting Memo: Meetings with iwi with an interest in Tongariro National Park	Released in part
13	22 August 2024	Meeting Memo: Tongariro ski field discussions with iwi	Released in part
14	Undated	Invitation Evaluation – Minister of Conservation	Released in part
15	15 July 2024	CORM-1382: Letter response to Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa	Released in part