

17 February 2025

Mr Chick  
fyi-request-29621-69d4e1f5@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-17267

Dear Mr Chick

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 19 December 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*With regards to State Highway 1 reopening through Mangamuka Gorge, what are all cultural costs associated with this process?*

*For clarity, I'm wanting to know all cultural costs involved in every aspect of the rebuild, from consultation and planning, through the rebuild, and right up until the reopening and blessing of the road.*

For context, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi is required to meet its legal obligations under relevant legislation and rules (including the Land Transport Management Act 2003, Land Transport Rules, Resource Management Act 1991 and Takutai Moana Act 2011). For instance, the Land Transport Management Act 2003 sets out specific requirements to facilitate contribution of Māori to land transport decision-making processes, as well as to separately consult and engage with Māori. The Resource Management Act 1991 requires the principles of te Tiriti to be taken into account when exercising powers under the Act, as well as specific provisions relating to Māori that must be considered in the Act's processes.

Whilst we do not have a specific code that directly identify "cultural costs", we have interpreted your request as meaning any costs associated with mana whenua engagement, monitoring, and artworks as part of delivering the SH1 Mangamuka Gorge project. As this is all incorporated into one cost, I am unable to provide you with specific "cultural costs".

As at 21 January 2025, \$1,703,344, or less than 0.8 per cent of the total project cost, has been spent on hapū engagement, cultural monitors, setting traps for predators and monitoring of said traps, and meetings with local hapū. Work is still underway, including on the cultural artworks and therefore a final cost is not yet available. However, we expect costs to remain under 1 per cent of the total cost.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Ministerial Services by email at [official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Wiles', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W'.

**Peter Wiles**

National Manager Infrastructure Delivery