

17 February 2025

Stephen Prendergast

fyi-request-29631-03a6ecb0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Stephen

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (the Department), received on 20 December 2024, in which you asked for:

*'all the advice provided to the MoC or other ministers or departments on the process for the Concession decision for the Whakapapa Holdings application for Whakapapa Ski Field.'*

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

On 27 January 2025, we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 17 February 2025 due to consultations necessary to make a decision on the request.

We have determined the documents outlined in *Table 1 – Schedule of documents* are within the scope of your request.

I am releasing the relevant parts of the documents listed in Table 1, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons,
- 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,
- 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, and
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the 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 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



Stacey Wrenn  
Chief Advisor Regulatory Modernisation  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**Table 1 - Schedule of documents**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	4 November 2024	Email - Talking points for other Minister's Cabinet papers - ECO 6 November	Released in part.
1A	4 November 2024	Talking points for the Minister of Conservation at 6 November ECO Committee	Released in part.
2	8 November 2024	24-B-0574 - Email - Options relating to the sale of RAL's Whakapapa ski field	Released in part.
2A	8 November 2024	Attachment A: Talking points for Cabinet	Released in part.
3	14 November 2024	24-B-0586 – Memo - Next steps for Whakapapa ski field	Released in part.
3A	14 November 2024	Attachment A: Excerpt of previous advice on Cabinet paper (8 November 2024)	Released in part.
4	3 December 2024	24-B-0607 - Email advice - Options relating to the sale of RAL's Whakapapa ski field	Released in part.
5	3 December 2024	24-M-0149 - Meeting memo – Whakapapa ski field sale options	Released in part.
6	9 December 2024	24-K-0040 - Cabinet Paper Talking Points: Options relating to the sale of RAL's Whakapapa ski field	Released in part.