

19 March 2026

Nigel Gray  
fyi-request-33803-015de5da@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-21219

Dear Nigel

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

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2026 requesting information between 1 January 2021 to present regarding the forestry industry and its external influence over public communications and decision making under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have responded to each part of your request in turn below.

*1. Briefings and Key Messages*

*Copies of any briefings, talking points, or key-message documents prepared for senior leadership or elected officials that relate to:*

*forestry slash events*

*erosion or sedimentation linked to forestry public communications about forestry impacts*

Please find information in scope of this part of your request released to you within the following documents:

- Attachment 1 - Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Weekly report update
- Attachment 2 - Support material for interview regarding Ministerial Inquiry into land uses associated with forestry activities
- Attachment 3 - Excerpt from May 2023 Board paper

Certain information has been withheld within Attachment 2 under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty and section 9(2)(h) of the Act to maintain legal professional privilege.

*2. Communications Strategy and Perception Management Copies of any communications plans or strategy documents that include reference to:*

*“stakeholder messaging”*

*“public perception”*

*“communications risks”*

*“industry engagement”*

*...where these terms relate to forestry or forestry-related environmental impacts.*

While 'Forestry' is commonly stated as a stakeholder group for Communications and Engagement plans which NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) prepares for its' projects, no relevant documents were located in scope of your request.

As such, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(e) that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

*3. External Input Into Public Statements (Refined Clause) Copies of any final versions of public statements (including press releases, website updates, advisories, or social media posts) relating to forestry that were reviewed, edited, or approved by any external party.*

*For each such document, please also provide:*

*a) the name of the external party involved b) the nature of their input (e.g., review, edits, approval) c) the date on which their input occurred This request does not seek drafts, internal discussions, or emails — only the final published versions and the record of external input.*

It is not uncommon for NZTA to consult and inform other parties where our work and related communications affects them. However, in terms of forestry related communications, input, review or approval from external parties has not occurred during the timeframe requested for press releases, website updates or advisories.

One item we could locate which fits within the scope of your request is for social media posts. Please find details below:

- **External party involved:** Transport Rebuild East Coast Alliance
- **Nature of their input:** Drafting the story and approving a final version for publication
- **Date on which their input occurred:** 8 April 2025 (sent draft to NZTA's social media team), and 10 April 2025 (reviewed return draft from NZTA's social media team and approved NZTA's draft for publication)
- **Link to post:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/nztahbg/posts/pfbid02yZk1o6gfNzcNqcy9nnE2Vtwcqy2VYy2cc3yugA7XQ71iqtU9Y1Tmr1D3CK62QfwMI>

*4. Meetings With Forestry-Sector Representatives A list of all meetings held since 1 January 2021 between your agency and:*

*forestry industry representatives*

*forestry lobby groups*

*PR or communications firms acting for forestry interests the Forest Owners Association Te Uru Rākau / NZ Forest Service For each meeting, please provide:*

*date*

*attendees*

*subject or purpose of the meeting*

*I am not requesting minutes or detailed notes — only the meeting list.*

We have located some information in scope of this part of your request, which has been released to you in **Attachment 4 - Meetings with Forestry Industry**.

Due to the broad nature of our work, this may not be a full record of all meetings from 1 January 2021 to present, as in order to try and locate further information would require substantial collation or research.

I note that NZTA did seek to refine the scope of your request, however you were unable to narrow the scope. As such, information beyond that provided in the attached is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the remaining information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

*5. Conflict-of-Interest Declarations*

*Copies of any conflict-of-interest declarations made by staff involved in:*

*forestry-related policy*

*forestry compliance or enforcement*

*environmental monitoring relating to forestry forestry-related public communications...*

We have searched our staff conflicts of interest and identified one staff member who has recorded two conflicts of interest relating to the forestry industry. One conflict being friendship with the owners of a commercial logging company, and the other through a family member working for a log transport operation.

These interests are managed by way of the staff member taking no part in the regulation of or compliance activity relating to those companies. The staff member is not involved in any policy work relating to forestry or slash.

In addition and for completeness, NZTA has a staff representative on the Log Transport Safety Council (<https://logtruck.co.nz/>). This does not create a conflict of interest that requires managing.

Please note, a copy of the declaration mentioned above, has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons and section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

As such, rather than releasing the document itself, we have provided you with a summary of the relevant information. This is allowed under section 16(1)(e) of the Act, where the information requested by any person is comprised in a document, that information may be made available by giving an excerpt or summary of the contents.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold and refuse some information from this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

In line with NZTA policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Driscoll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

**Josh Driscoll**  
Manager Ministerial Services