

26 March 2026

Andrew Ecclestone
fyi-request-33868-0c134c09@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-21289

Dear Andrew

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 26 February 2026 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will respond to each query in turn.

1. *Please provide me with an unredacted copy of the document entitled: 'Attachment 3 Petone to Grenada RoNS Investment Case'.*

The document you have requested is publicly available on the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) website at: <https://nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/petone-to-grenada/Petone-to-Grenada-Investment-Case-Aug-2025.pdf>. The information withheld from the published document continues to apply under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
- 9(2)(ba)(ii) – 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 otherwise to damage the public interest.
- 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.
- 9(2)(g)(i) - 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.
- 9(2)(j) – to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

2. *In the partially redacted document cited in (1) above, information is withheld in reliance on a number of OIA provisions including: 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(ba)(ii), 9(2)(j). For each instance of withholding, please provide me with details of:*
- a. *Whose commercial interests are being protected under each instance of withholding under 9(2)(b)(ii); and*

Information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act relates to detailed cost breakdowns of expected project elements, such as the project cashflow forecast, indicative estimates allocated to property, consultant, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) managed costs, physical works, escalation and admin expenses, anticipated construction contract types, and the recommended procurement approach.

Services to deliver these elements are yet to be procured. Releasing this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the agency's ability to carry out its commercial activity of procuring services and works through a competitive market process, by signalling internal cost expectations and parameters that tenderers could use to shape bids. It is in the public interest that competitive rates are able to be secured for these services when NZTA goes out to the open market for tender.

- b. *Who has provided information in confidence that is being withheld under each instance of 9(2)(ba)(ii); and*
- c. *What is the damage to the public interest envisaged by NZTA for each instance of information withheld under 9(2)(ba)(ii); and*

Information that is being withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) is information that will be provided to the NZTA Board when seeking approval for funding and to proceed to the next stage of the project, as well as in relation to tolling, as Board approval is required prior to seeking Ministerial approval to consult on tolling. There is a shared understanding between those who develop advice for funding approvals and the NZTA Board that advice is kept confidential until such time as it has been considered by the Board. It is in the wider public interest for the Board to have a period to consider the advice, in confidence, before it is disclosed publicly. The premature release of the advice will prejudice the ability of the Board to give undisturbed consideration to the advice and to any funding decisions.

- d. *Which persons or companies is NZTA negotiating with, or contemplating negotiating with, for each instance of information withheld under 9(2)(j).*

NZTA is yet to go out for public tender to procure services required to deliver the project, and is unable to confirm what companies it is anticipating negotiating with for these services. This will be subject to a tender process by which parties will submit an expression of interest outlining their experience and skills for required services.

3. *Please provide me with an unredacted copy of the document entitled: 'Petone to Grenada RoNZ Investment Case July 2025'.*

The document you have requested is publicly available on the NZTA website at: <https://nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/petone-to-grenada/petone-to-grenada-investment-case-main-report.pdf>. The information withheld from the published document continues to apply under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
 - 9(2)(ba)(ii) – 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 otherwise to damage the public interest.
 - 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.
 - 9(2)(g)(i) - 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.
 - 9(2)(h) – to maintain legal professional privilege
 - 9(2)(j) – to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
4. *In the partially redacted document cited in (3) above, information is withheld in reliance on a number of OIA provisions including: 9(2)(b)(ii) [pages 25, 28], 9(2)(ba)(ii) [pages 19, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30], and 9(2)(j) [pages 22, 23, 32]. For each instance of withholding, please provide me with details of:*
- a. *Whose commercial interests are being protected under each instance of withholding under 9(2)(b)(ii); and*
 - b. *Who has provided information in confidence that is being withheld under each instance of 9(2)(ba)(ii); and*
 - c. *What is the damage to the public interest envisaged by NZTA for each instance of information withheld under 9(2)(ba)(ii); and*
 - d. *Which persons or companies is NZTA negotiating with, or contemplating negotiating with, for each instance of information withheld under 9(2)(j).*

Please refer to my responses above.

5. *Page 35 of the document cited in (3) above has a subheading 'Mana Whenua'. One bullet point under this heading reads "Begin broader engagement early with relevant iwi entities and wider iwi membership". Please provide the names of mana whenua organisations or Rangatira that NZTA has met with, the dates of those meetings and copies of the notes or documents held by NZTA recording the discussion at those meetings.*

The project is in the process of establishing a Mana Whenua Steering Group to provide ongoing governance and advisory support to the project. Broader engagement with iwi has not yet commenced. I am therefore refusing your request for this information under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

6. *The dates of all meetings since 1 January 2016 between employees, contractors or board members of NZTA and directors, employees or representatives of Lincolnshire Farms.*

The Petone to Grenada project was previously considered by NZTA before being paused in 2018. The project was reintroduced as part of the Roads of National Significance (RoNS) programme and included in the Government Policy Statement on land transport (GPS) in June 2024. An email sweep

was undertaken to identify meetings that may have occurred during the previous consideration for the project.

This sweep identified one meeting that was held on 19 December 2017.

Since the project was re-introduced in June 2024, meetings have occurred with representatives of Lincolnshire Farms on the following dates:

- 2 April 2025
- 3 November 2025
- 23 February 2026
- 12 March 2026.

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 some information and partially refuse your request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at 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.

Yours sincerely

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

Josh Driscoll
Manager – Ministerial Services