



23 April 2026

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0030119-Louise

Louise

Email: fyi-request-34254-7605a68b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Louise

Thank you for your email of 26 March 2026 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I am seeking all documents, reports, plans, letters, ministerial advice, and responses relating to the research and development of a circular economy plan for NZ.*

*Following this research, commissioned and undertaken,  
<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mbie.govt.nz%2Fbusiness-and-employment%2Feconomic-growth%2Fcircular-economy-and-bioeconomy&data=05%7C02%7CMinisterialServices%40mbie.govt.nz%7C4f9f3db6e8564345b68308de8ab922c2%7C78b2bd11e42b47eab0112e04c3af5ec1%7C0%7C0%7C639100724967432068%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmllkFoiLFoiIjoiTWVpbiIsIlR5Ijo1Q3d%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LHK9S2Ug792rNF9NeLE4aLP77iiFbCt5yFPUsRhOOXs%3D&reserved=0>*

*What was developed by MBIE, shared with the government, their response and any plans developed?*

Please find attached the documents relevant to your request. Documents one, two and three reflect MBIE's advice to the Minister for Economic Development regarding the future of work on the Circular and Bioeconomy Strategy. The context for this work and the Government's response is outlined below.

MBIE's Circular Economy and Bioeconomy work programme began in early 2023 as part of New Zealand's first Emissions Reduction Plan, under the previous Government. Its initial steps were a range of research projects, to then inform a Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Strategy. In late 2023, decisions were being made about the Government's wider climate change programme and its priorities. Fiscal savings options were being explored and at this time a decision was made not to complete the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Strategy.

As part of Budget 2024, funding was returned and the Circular and Bioeconomy Strategy was discontinued. When considering fiscal saving requirements and a shift in government priorities, the plan to look at a small number of circular and bioeconomy initiatives by the end of July 2024 did not proceed and no new actions were recommended.

As you are aware, the reports from the research projects on Circular Economy and Bioeconomy are published for ongoing use by MBIE and others. MBIE has no plans to resume work on the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Strategy but the Ministry is continuing work on opportunities in the

bioeconomy, including through the focus of the new Public Research Organisation, the New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science.

Document four is a summary of MBIE's work on the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy that was shared within MBIE.

No	Document Type	Date	Title	Withholding grounds
01	Briefing	13 December 2023	2324-0756 Economic Development Portfolio - Climate change work programme	18(d)
02	Briefing	17 January 2024	2324-1498 Economic Development Portfolio Priorities and Fiscal Savings	18(d)
03	Briefing	17 July 2024	2324-3887 Completion of Circular Economy and Bioeconomy work programme	9(2)(a)
04	PowerPoint slides	24 September 2024	Circular economy + Bioeconomy Insights from MBIE research	N/A

I am refusing Briefing 2324-0756 and Briefing 2324-1498 under section 18(d) of the Act because the information requested is publicly available. They have been proactively released at the links below. Note that the relevant sections of Briefing 2324-0756 are rec e, paragraphs 53-73, and Annex Two.

- <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/29396-2324-0756-economic-development-portfolio-climate-change-work-programme-pdf>
- <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/29416-2324-1498-economic-development-portfolio-priorities-and-fiscal-savings-pdf>

Some information has been withheld from Briefing 2324-3887 under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact [OIA@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@mbie.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information on how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



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