



## Office of Hon Paula Bennett

MP for Upper Harbour

Minister of Local Government

Minister for Social Housing

Minister of State Services

Associate Minister of Finance

Associate Minister of Tourism

Ref: MinOIA 2016/30

Alex Harris

Email: [fyi-request-3999-a3a1e464@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-3999-a3a1e464@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Alex Harris

### **Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) Request: State Services Commission's (SSC) Report on Environmental Protection Authority Board Fees**

Thank you for your email of 13 May 2016 in which you request a copy of SSC's report entitled Environmental Protection Authority Board – Exceptional Fees for Members, which is dated 8 March 2016.

This report is attached as requested. Some information in this document is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

I have considered whether there is a public interest in the information that outweighs the reasons for withholding it and do not consider there is.

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

Yours sincerely

Hon Paula Bennett  
**Minister of State Services**



## SSC Report: Environmental Protection Authority Board – Exceptional Fees for Members

Date:	8 March 2016	SSC report no:	MoSS3/16-4097
Contact:	Joan Foster, Senior Advisor	Telephone:	495 6570

**Proposal:** Hon Dr Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment (the Minister), is seeking your support for an exception to the Cabinet Fees Framework (the Framework) to pay exceptional fees to three members of the Environmental Protection Authority Board (the Board) when they are reappointed with effect from 1 July 2016.

### Key points:

- The Board is classified as a Group 3a, Level 4 body under the Framework. The applicable annual fee range is \$12,000 to \$16,960 for members.
- The Minister intends to reappoint Gillian Wratt, Tim Lusk and Nicki Crauford as members of the Board when their current terms end. The Minister proposes that all three members continue to receive annual fees of ~~9(2)(a)~~. This level of fee is consistent with fees paid to the other members of the Board.
- In August 2012, the former Minister of State Services agreed to support exceptional annual fees of ~~9(2)(a)~~ for one new member of the Board based on the Minister's advice that the applicable fee range was insufficient to secure the skills and expertise required for the Board. Subsequent appointments to the Board have been made at this fee level.
- The Framework provides for minor/technical exceptions to be agreed by the Minister of State Services and the responsible Minister without referral to the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH).
- In our view, as this exception is cost neutral and was agreed by APH when the original appointments were made, it can be treated as a minor/technical exception.
- We recommend, therefore, that you agree to the Minister's proposal to continue to pay Gillian Wratt, Tim Lusk and Nicki Crauford exceptional annual fees of ~~9(2)(a)~~ when they are reappointed, without referral to APH.

Key risks: n/a

Costs: n/a

Timing: n/a

Comments:

Agreed / Not agreed

Minister's signature:

Date: