

24 May 2013

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Dear Aaron

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 26 April 2013 to Nicola Boyes requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

1. A list of properties the agency has purchased along each section of the expressway and a break-down of what price they paid for each property (land and buildings)?
2. How much was NZTA's total purchasing budget for properties along each section? Does this differ from the agency's purchasing spend? If yes, by how much?
3. How much money has been spent on iwi consultation to date for the Waikato Expressway project?
4. What is the scope and purpose of the agency's consultation with iwi?

The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) is refusing part 1 of your request under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information about concluded property sales is or will soon be available via QV at www.qv.co.nz.

In relation to part 4 of your request, the NZTA does not pay to consult with iwi. The NZTA pays iwi for professional services provided to the project to ensure any potential issues or impacts are highlighted and appropriately mitigated, if required.

New Zealand has a unique cultural heritage. When we are planning, designating, designing and building transport infrastructure we need to be mindful that we celebrate that heritage and also mitigate for any potential issues or impacts our projects may have on that heritage.

Tangata whenua involvement in the Waikato Expressway has been to ensure the safety of all road users and the protection and restoration of the wider environment, waahi tapu and sites of significance.

The role of Tangata Whenua in the Waikato Expressway project is diverse and covers all elements of the project from the investigation and design phase, through consenting and on to construction. Environmental Impact Assessments for each section are provided ahead of construction and consenting which explore how key sites of significance need to be preserved, what measures the NZTA may need to explore in order to preserve the cultural and heritage elements of this project, and how all stakeholders can ensure the environment is preserved. Tangata Whenua services during the construction phases of the project include attending relevant project meetings for each section of the project.

This work has created efficiencies for the Waikato Expressway project. It assists in ensuring a smooth progression through the statutory process for designating and consenting sections of the expressway as any potential issues or impacts are identified ahead of that process and plans, including any required mitigation, are adopted to address these.

A good example of cost savings created through proactive engagement with iwi was their involvement in the urban design of the Taupiri Link, part of the Ngaruawahia Section, completed in November 2011. An alternative landscape design proposed by iwi led to a cost saving of approximately \$600,000 for the project and a design which is now iconic for the Taupiri community.

We have provided a response to each of your questions 2 to 4 for each section of the expressway below.

Rangiriri

The NZTA requires a total of 29 properties along the designated route for the Rangiriri section of the Waikato Expressway. In acquiring property to allow construction of the Rangiriri section the NZTA requires both full and partial property purchases along the designated route. To date there are 14 full purchases complete and 10 partial land purchases complete. There are five partial land purchases to complete.

The total purchasing budget for the Rangiriri section is \$6,767,683.00. The total amount paid for property purchase on the Rangiriri section to date is \$6,622,683.00. Any surplus property becomes part of Crown Land and will be dealt with as appropriate under the Public Works Act 1981. These surplus properties are forecast at \$2,180,000.00.

The NZTA has paid zero to consult with iwi. The NZTA has paid \$86,400 for professional services provided by iwi as part of the investigation and design phase of the Rangiriri section. This included completing an Environmental Assessment Report and the participation in workshops, meetings and site visits to develop that report and the associated mitigation package.

Huntly

The Huntly section of the Waikato Expressway is in the investigation and design stage. Funding for the project is expected to be committed by the NZTA in 2014. As such funding has not yet been confirmed for property purchase to progress on this section of the Expressway.

The NZTA requires a total of 23 properties along the designated route for the Huntly section of the Waikato Expressway. In acquiring property to allow construction of the Huntly section the NZTA requires both full and partial property purchases along the designated route. There is one full purchase complete and two partial land purchases complete. There are five total land purchases and 15 partial land purchases to complete along the designated route.

The total purchasing budget for the Huntly section is \$46,901,770.00. The total amount paid for property purchase on the Huntly section to date is \$9,029,769.00. Any surplus property becomes part of Crown Land and will be dealt with as appropriate under the Public Works Act 1981. These surplus properties are forecast at \$15,564,725.00.

The NZTA has paid zero to consult with iwi. The NZTA has paid \$267,800 to date for professional services provided by iwi on the Huntly section.

This has included the development of an Environmental Assessment Report and the participation in workshops, meetings and site visits associated with that.

This also covered the establishment of a Tangata Whenua Working Group for the project and the attendance at meetings including workshops and site visits associated with the development of the Kaitiaki Environment Assessment Report for the project.

Ngaruawahia

The NZTA requires a total of 49 properties along the designated route for the Rangiriri section of the Waikato Expressway. In acquiring property to allow construction of the Ngaruawahia section the NZTA requires both full and partial property purchases along the designated route. To date there are 24 full purchases complete and 25 partial land purchases complete.

The total purchasing budget for the Ngaruawahia section is \$47,848,813.00. The total amount paid for property purchase on the Ngaruawahia section to date is \$47,848,813.00. Any surplus property becomes part of Crown Land and will be dealt with as appropriate under the Public Works Act 1981. These surplus properties are forecast at \$17,801,000.00.

The NZTA has paid zero to consult with iwi. The NZTA has paid \$77,200 to date for professional services provided by iwi on the Ngaruawahia section. This has included the development of a Cultural Assessment Report and the participation in workshops, meetings and site visits associated with that. It has also covered iwi representative attendance at the monthly project meetings since during the construction of the project.

Te Rapa

The NZTA requires a total of 45 properties along the designated route for the Te Rapa section of the Waikato Expressway. In acquiring property to allow construction of the Te Rapa section the NZTA requires both full and partial property purchases along the designated route. To date there are 11 full purchases complete and 45 partial land purchases complete.

The total purchasing budget for the Te Rapa section is \$63,807,878.00. The total amount paid for property purchase on the Te Rapa section to date is \$63,807,878.00. Any surplus property becomes part of Crown Land and will be dealt with as appropriate under the Public Works Act 1981. These surplus properties are forecast at \$7,457,500.00.

The NZTA has paid zero to consult with iwi. The NZTA has paid \$2566 for professional services provided by iwi. This was specifically for the facilitation of consultation with the Tangata Whenua Working Group as part of the Te Rapa section.

There have been other costs incurred over the life of the project but these have been included as part of a professional services contract with Opus International Consultants and any specific work carried out by their iwi consultants cannot be broken out of the lump-sum contract.

Hamilton

The Hamilton section of the Waikato Expressway is in the investigation and design stage. Funding for the project is expected to be committed by the NZTA in 2014. As such funding has not yet been confirmed for property purchase to progress on this section of the Expressway.

The NZTA requires a total of 86 properties along the designated route for the Hamilton section of the Waikato Expressway. In acquiring property to allow construction of the Hamilton section the NZTA requires both full and partial property purchases along the designated route. There are 23 full purchases complete on the Hamilton section and five partial land purchases complete. There are 15 total land purchases and 43 partial land purchases to complete along the designated route.

The total purchasing budget for the Hamilton section is \$83,684,723.00. The total amount paid for property purchase to date on the Hamilton section is \$38,333,991.00. Any surplus property becomes part of Crown Land and will be dealt with as appropriate under the Public Works Act 1981. These surplus properties are forecast at \$18,477,156.00.

The NZTA has paid zero to consult with iwi. The NZTA has paid \$85,000 to iwi for professional services on the Hamilton section. This has included the development of a Tangata Whenua Environmental Affects Report and the participation in workshops, meetings and site visits as part of the development of that report.

This work is focussed on assessing the impacts of the project on areas of cultural heritage, including pa sites and other archaeological sites, as well as areas in and around the gully systems which were historically used for settlement and food production. The assessment ensures that the project adequately mitigates these affects.

Tamahere to Cambridge

The NZTA requires a total of 92 properties along the designated route for the Tamahere to Cambridge section of the Waikato Expressway. In acquiring property to allow construction of the Tamahere to Cambridge section the NZTA requires both full and partial property purchases along the designated route. To date there are 25 full purchases complete and 33 partial land purchases complete. There are 7 full purchases and 27 part purchases to complete.

The total purchasing budget for the Te Rapa section is \$50,300,000. The total amount paid for property purchase on the Te Rapa section to date is \$28,900,000. Any surplus property becomes part of Crown Land and will be dealt with as appropriate under the Public Works Act 1981. These surplus properties are forecast at \$15,300,000.

The NZTA has paid zero to consult with iwi. The NZTA has paid \$221,221.20 to date for professional services provided by iwi on the Tamahere- Cambridge section. This has included the development of an Environmental Assessment Report and the participation in workshops, meetings and site visits associated with that.

The Cambridge section of the project in particular traverses a historic pa site that was identified as part of the assessment during the investigation stage of the project. Work carried out has seen the alignment of the road designated to be constructed outside this pa site

Under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, you have the right to apply to an Ombudsman for an investigation and review of the decision to refuse part 1 of your request. The address is: Office of the Ombudsmen, PO Box 10152, Wellington

If you wish to discuss this reply with the NZTA, please contact Nicola Boyes, by email to nicola.boyes@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (07) 958 7220.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaye Clark', written in a cursive style.

Kaye Clark
State Highway Manager Hamilton