

19 September 2014

Catherine Hutton
Journalist
Radio New Zealand
Catherine.Hutton@radionz.co.nz

Dear Catherine

Official Information Act Request: Basin Bridge project

Thank you for your letter of 8 August 2014 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

1. How much did the New Zealand Transport Agency (Transport Agency) spend on in-house legal advice preparing for, and appearing at, the Board of Inquiry into the Basin Bridge proposal?

The Transport Agency does not collect this type of information.

2. How much did the Transport Agency spend on external legal advice preparing for, and appearing at, the Board of Inquiry into the Basin Bridge proposal?

The Transport Agency made a decision to proceed with the Basin Bridge proposal on 12 June 2012.

Costs for legal counsel preparing for, and appearing, at the Board of Inquiry for the period June 2012 to June 2014 (inclusive) are approximately \$2.3 million. This allows for time and inputs associated for all aspects of the Basin Bridge proposal.

3. How much did the Transport Agency spend on in-house engineering advice preparing for, and appearing at, the Board of Inquiry into the Basin Bridge proposal?

The Transport Agency does not collect information in this way. In any event the Board of Inquiry process requires independent experts to provide evidence on technical matters. Accordingly the Transport Agency, as applicant, is not normally able to use in-house experts to provide independent expert opinion in accordance with the Environment Court Code of Conduct.

4. How much did the Transport Agency spend on external engineering advice preparing for, and appearing at, the Board of Inquiry into the Basin Bridge proposal?

I take your question to be about the engineering costs for preparing and presenting the RMA applications for the Basin Bridge proposal. Unfortunately, it is not possible to separate out engineering costs from the overall project investigation activities, all of which form part of the process of preparing for and appearing at the Board of Inquiry. The overall investigation activities entailed inputs from multiple disciplines including architects, landscape designers, social experts, archaeologists, heritage experts, commercial valuations, ophthalmology, crime prevention experts and RMA planners.

5. How much did the Transport Agency spend on communications and media advice for the Basin Bridge project?

The Transport Agency uses internal staff and resources to provide communications and media advice and it does not collect this type of cost information.

6. What does the Transport Agency estimate was the total cost of preparing its case for the Board of Inquiry into the Basin Bridge Proposal?

The cost for the Transport Agency to prepare the case for the consideration of the Board of Inquiry for the Basin Bridge proposal was \$3.4 million. This expenditure includes the costs for investigating alternative options in 2012 and 2013 with Wellington City Council.

7. Copies of emails and memos from and to staff relating to the Transport Agency's position and reaction to the interim decision of the Board of Inquiry.

Internal communications on the Transport Agency's position and reaction to the interim decision is provided on the attached emails. Certain information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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(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 withhold this information. The address is:

Office of the Ombudsmen
PO Box 10152
Wellington

Please feel free to contact Anthony Frith on 04 894 5251 or anthony.frith@nzta.govt to arrange a meeting time or if you have any questions about this letter.

Yours sincerely



Rod James
State Highway Manager
NZ Transport Agency

From: Anthony Frith
Sent: Tuesday, 22 July 2014 2:39 p.m.
To: Geoff Dangerfield
Subject: RE: Basin statement for approval

Thanks Geoff. Attributed to you or Rod James?

From: Geoff Dangerfield
Sent: Tuesday, 22 July 2014 2:38 p.m.
To: Anthony Frith
Cc: Bryan Patchett; Andrew Knackstedt
Subject: RE: Basin statement for approval

yes

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

From: Anthony Frith
Sent: Tuesday, 22 July 2014 2:21 p.m.
To: Geoff Dangerfield
Cc: Bryan Patchett; Andrew Knackstedt
Subject: Basin statement for approval

Geoff – given today's decision, can you let me know if you are comfortable with the below holding statement for coming days, and whether you would like it attributed to you or Rod:

"The NZ Transport Agency notes the Board of Inquiry's draft decision on the Basin Bridge resource consent application. We will be taking the time to closely consider this decision before determining next steps."

Anthony Frith / Media Manager – Central Region
NZ Transport Agency – Strategy, Communications and Performance Group
DDI 64 4 894 5251 / M 64 27 213 7617
E anthony.frith@nzta.govt.nz / w nzta.govt.nz
Central Office / Level 9, 20 Ballance Street,
PO Box 5084, Wellington 6145, New Zealand

For travel information: Follow us on Twitter [@NZTAWGTN](https://twitter.com/NZTAWGTN); sign up to email alerts at [On The Move](#); or check our [live traffic cameras](#).

To provide feedback on our customer service or something you've noticed on the highways please email info@nzta.govt.nz



Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Anthony Frith
Sent: Tuesday, 22 July 2014 3:16 p.m.
To: Geoff Dangerfield
Cc: Bryan Patchett; David Crowe; Andrew Knackstedt; Jenny Chetwynd
Subject: FW: Basin Reserve email to staff

Geoff – this is what has been sent by Rod to HNO staff in Central, you are welcome to amend as desired and send to all staff.

Don't hesitate to touch base if I can assist in any way.

Hi All;

As you will probably be aware we were expecting the decision from the Board of Inquiry today on the Basin Reserve Bridge.

Unfortunately the decision has not gone in our favour and has been declined by the Board on a combination of alternatives and heritage issues.

We will be reviewing the detailed decision over the next few days to decide on our next steps.

This is a very disappointing outcome for the team involved who have put a huge effort into this application and hearing process.

Regards

Rod James
Highway Manager Wellington
DDI 64 4 890 4757
E rod.james@nzta.govt.nz

NZ Transport Agency
Level 9, PSIS House
20 Ballance Street
PO Box 5084, Lambton Quay
Wellington 6145
New Zealand
T: 64 4 894 5200
F: 64 4 894 3305
www.nzta.govt.nz

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

From: Geoff Dangerfield
Sent: Tuesday, 22 July 2014 4:00 p.m.
To: NZTA All Staff
Subject: Message from Geoff Dangerfield...

Good afternoon all,

As many of you will be aware the Board of Inquiry on the Basin Reserve Bridge has reported back this afternoon.

Their decision declines consent for the project, based on the Board Members' judgement of proposed alternatives and heritage issues.

The team from Central Region HNO worked tirelessly on the application and the Board of Inquiry process. I would like to thank them all for their efforts.

The Agency will be reviewing the decision over the next few days to identify how to best move forward for Wellington and the Northern Corridor to ensure we can continue to meet the transport needs of the Capital and the country as a whole.

Regards,
Geoff

Geoff Dangerfield / Chief Executive

DDI 64 4 894 6499 / M 64 [REDACTED]
E geoff.dangerfield@nzta.govt.nz / w nzta.govt.nz

National Office / Victoria Arcade, 50 Victoria Street,
Private Bag 6995, Wellington 6141, New Zealand

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



