

OIA-2644

17 March 2017

David Fisher
NZ Herald
david.fisher@nzherald.co.nz

Dear David

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your emails of 2 November 2016 requesting the following information in relation to the "10 Northland Bridges" under the Official Information Act 1982:

- 'Copies of information (reports) on the 10 Northland bridges which resulted from the initial investigations" outlined in the link below;
- A list of the names of any further reports which have been done on the proposed bridge projects;
- The amount of funding aligned against each of the 10 bridges and the date on which the funding was approved;
- A start and finish date on each of the bridge projects;
- Any and all communications and other information between NZTA and government Ministers in 2016.

To avoid any confusion, the 10 bridges are those identified at this link –
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/matakohe-bridges/Northland-Bridges.pdf>

In relation to previous Official Information Act requests that the NZ Transport Agency has received, you also requested:

- Information sought from NZTA on the bridge issue;
- Copies of responses.

As you have referred to the pdf document online, post the announcement of 9 March 2015 as above, we have considered the scope of this part of your request to fall within the date range of 9 March 2015 – 2 November 2016.

Please find attached eleven documents that fall within the scope of the first part of your request as follows:

1. SH12 Matakohe Single Lane Bridges – Single Stage Business Case – Version A, June 2016
2. SH10 Taipa Single Lane Bridge – Single Stage Business Case – Version A, June 2016

3. Ministerial Briefing Note: BRI-0698 – Accelerated Regional Roding Programme and Northland bridges update, 25 February 2016
4. Ministerial Briefing Note: BRI-0722 – Northland Bridges – investigation underway, 24 March 2016
5. Ministerial Briefing Note: BRI-0753 – Northland bridges and Accelerated Regional Roding Programme update, 5 May 2016
6. Ministerial Briefing Note: BRI-0816 – Northland Transport update, 17 August 2016
7. Ministerial Request Note: MIN-1625 – Northland Bridges update 26 January 2016
8. Ministerial Request Note: MIN-1648 – Northland Bridges Programme update 16 February 2016
9. Ministerial Request Note: Extract from MIN-1683 Key Projects in Regions 2016 dated 09.03.16
10. Ministerial Request Note: MIN-2023 Northland Bridges Project Calendar – March 2016
11. Northland One Lane Bridges Replacement Report dated May 2015

Please note that information out of the scope of your request has been redacted from these documents.

The Transport Agency Board has supported a package of funding, which includes four of the Northland Bridges currently included in the 2015–18 Regional Land Transport Programme.

Funding for the implementation (design and construction) of three of the four Northland bridges has been approved as part of the package:

- \$26.6 million Matakoho bridges (Hardys and Anderson)
- \$14.1 million Taipa bridge

A further Business Case for the Kaeo Bridge is in progress. It is anticipated that this project will be included subject to Transport Agency Board approval in March 2017.

Economic assessments for the remaining six bridges have not yet been undertaken. The programme business cases for the Northland state highway network, which are being completed over the next 9 months, will guide the future development of the other projects.

Construction on the bridges will commence once the necessary land and consents have been secured. It is anticipated that construction for the first four bridges could commence as follows:

- 2017 Matakoho bridges (Hardys and Anderson)
- 2017 Taipa bridge
- 2018 Kaeo bridge

There are 10 Official Information Act requests that have been received and responded to by the NZ Transport Agency, between 2 March 2015 and 2 November 2016, in relation to the Northland bridges. We have set these out in the attached table and attached the responses.

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 accept our sincere apologies for the significant delay in providing this response and documents to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B Gliddon', with a stylized, cursive script.

Brett Gliddon
Highway Manager Auckland & Northland